

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

This past week has continued to bring news from our nation and around the world of the plight of so many suffering people. From wildfires in the west, to flooding in Appalachia, to the ongoing torment of the war in Ukraine, it seems like so many stand in need of our prayers and our practical support, when and where we are able to give it.

I remember reading an author once who said that in previous generations, people didn't go to church to be made to feel good about themselves, they went to church to have their misery explained to them. There's no doubt that the *less* we suffer, or the less we take the time to find any *meaning* in our suffering, the less we will be inclined to practice any faith.

The author of the Letter to the Hebrews today tells us that "faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." Faith pertains to that which is hoped for but eludes the comfort of our steady grasp. When our hands are full of comforts and distractions and there is something right in front of us to keep us occupied, then faith seems useless. Faith, for many past generations, and especially for those who suffer and refuse to give in to the temptation of meaninglessness, was the opportunity to look beyond their present state and see in the future the fulfillment of some promise that would give meaning and value to the present.

I also read recently a news article which indicated that the apparent "crisis of faith" in the West isn't really a crisis of faith *per se*, but a crisis of religious affiliation and traditional religious observance. People still seem to believe in God; they still seem to believe in an afterlife; they still seem to think that their actions in this life have some transcendent meaning. But they no longer affiliate along clear denominational lines as generations of the past. They no longer engage in religious practices or observances as regularly as generations of the past did. But it doesn't mean there isn't still an openness to faith.

Maybe one thing we could do this week is take a few minutes to consider someone in our own lives that fits into that category. Maybe they are open to faith or are at a point in their lives when they are asking "big questions," even though they're not traditionally religious. Maybe you could pray for the courage to share with them how your religious observance as a Mass-goer gives shape and depth to your own faith. And if the Holy Spirit gives you the nudge, maybe you could—non-threateningly yet enthusiastically—invite them to join you here at Saint Alexander for Mass!

Until next week,

F. Joe



221 Main Street, Warren, RI 02885
401.245.6369
www.saintalexanders.com
parishoffice@saintalexanders.com



Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.
Administrator, Saint Alexander
Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9am
Saint Alexander

Saturday Vigil at 4pm
(Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)
Saint Mary of the Bay

Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm
Saint Mary of the Bay

Monday-Friday 8am
Saint Mary of the Bay

Holy Days as Announced



TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee
John Saviano, Trustee
Patricia Dugan, Auditor
John Flynn, Auditor

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

August 14, 2022

9am: The Deceased Members of the Felag Family

"Thus he made atonement for the dead..." (2 Macc 12:46a). If you would like to have Mass offered for a deceased loved one (or for another intention), please call the parish office at 401-245-6369 or email parishoffice@saintalexanders.com.

∞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ∞

Saint Dominic was born in 1170 in Caleruega, Castile, Spain. His mother, Blessed Jane of Aza, who had difficulty conceiving before he was born, dreamt that a dog with a torch in its mouth leapt from her womb and set the world on fire. Dominic (*Domini* = Lord, *Canis* = Dog) fulfilled his vocation as a "dog of the Lord," barking truth ferociously at the heresy of Albigenism and spreading the fire of the Gospel across the world. His order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) carry on his mission to this day.



SAINT
DOMINIC

AUGUST 8



∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 [12b]/
Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 / Lk 12:32-48

From today's First Reading:

For when you punished our adversaries, in this you glorified us whom you had summoned. (Wis 18:8)

Consider: **Our wisdom writer speaks of the importance of trust in God's divine providence. How do you know that God has provided for you?**

From today's Second Reading:

For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. (Heb 11:10)

Consider: **The author of Hebrews defines faith as "the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." He then sites Abraham as the model of faith in terms of his obedience, trust, and courage. When have you had to completely trust in the Lord?**

From today's Gospel:

"You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come." (Lk 12:40)

Consider: **In today's Gospel reading, Jesus teaches the disciples about being vigilant and faithful with the gifts God has given us as we await the end times and return of Jesus. How well do you think you are stewarding the gifts God has given you?**

