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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

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

As students, teachers and staff make their way (perhaps reluctantly!) back to school in the coming weeks, we wish them well and assure them of our prayers. It's fitting that the author of our first reading today from Sirach reminds us to embrace humility, since humility is required in the process of learning. To be able to be taught or instructed in anything requires enough humility to know what one doesn't know and to see in another—like a teacher—the possession of something not yet had by oneself. It's good advice, not only for students as they head off to another year of school, but for every disciple.

Each and every one of us must allow Christ to be our teacher, and that requires humbly acknowledging what we lack and the areas in which we need to grow. When it comes to the gospel, we're all students! We need to approach the teaching of Christ and the Church with a humble willingness to be formed by it, even when it is challenging or counter-cultural.

We all have memories of the excitement of learning, or of the particular impression made by a captivating teacher. Perhaps this week we could call those memories to mind and try to apply that same degree of excitement to being formed in the gospel! Christ is the best teacher we could ever have and seeking his instruction is always in season. There are no vacations or breaks from our Christian call. We can all be students again if we entrust ourselves to the transformative power of Christ's teaching.

And similar to the earthly teachers we admired or imitated in our own lives, Jesus is the best exemplar of how to live and how to love. We believe that, through the power of God's grace, the more closely we follow his teaching, the more and more we become conformed to him and thus become more and more our truest selves. Now those are lessons with eternal significance!

Until next week,

F. Joe

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

September 4, 2022

9am: Barbara & John Karcz
Requested by Barbara Krzyzck

"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. Please also note that the 2023 Mass Book is now open for bookings.

∞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ∞



ST. GREGORY
THE GREAT

Saint Gregory the Great lived in a most turbulent time. There were devastating episodes of plague, the sacking of Rome and the breakdown of strong Roman rule, invasions by Lombards and Franks, floods, and a widening gap between imperial Byzantium and the Roman Church.

Born around 540 into a noble Roman family, Saint Gregory was probably trained in law, and started his public service as a Prefect of Rome. However, upon the death of his father, he converted his family home to monastery, where he resided as a monk. He built six more monasteries in Sicily and one in Rome.

Often called the father of the medieval papacy and Apostle of the English, Saint Gregory was proclaimed Pope by acclamation in 590. Although he was reluctant to assume this post, preferring the cloistered life, his accomplishments were many. He was an extremely capable manager of Church estates and tenants and is known for his reform of the liturgy. He was instrumental in the consolidation of papal power and led the fight against the many heresies promoted by small Christian groups at the time. Through his prolific correspondence he oversaw monastic life, curtailing the power of grasping bishops, correcting abuses, and enforcing discipline. He was particularly concerned with the conversion of England, sending 40 monks from his monastery including Saint Augustine of Canterbury to evangelize there.

Saint Gregory died in 604 and was sainted immediately. He is one of four key doctors of the Western Church, including Saints Augustine, Ambrose, and Jerome.

∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11/
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14

From today's First Reading:

Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God. (Sir 7:18)

Consider: **Sirach speaks of humility as a virtue to embrace. Why do you think Jewish wisdom tradition often saw humility as an admirable human trait?**

From today's Second Reading:

You have approached Mount Zion and the city of the living God. (Heb 12:22)

Consider: **Hebrews speaks of the sacrificial blood of Jesus providing us with unprecedented direct access to God. How do you share this good news with others?**

From today's Gospel:

"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." (Lk 14:11)

Consider: **Jesus spoke to the "leading Pharisees" about the importance of humility and to freely give to those on the margins with no expectation of repayment. When have you done so in your life?**

RESURRECTION

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"For you will be repaid
at the resurrection of
the righteous."

LUKE 14:14