

# THIRTEENTH WEEK OF JUNE 28, 2020

FOR YOUR PRAYER & REFLECTION: THE READINGS FOR THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY 2 KINGS 4:8-11,14-16a; ROMANS 6:3-4,8-11; MATTHEW 10:37-42

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there."



Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight. Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son." The Word of the Lord.

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. The Word of the Lord.

Jesus said to his apostles: "Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple— amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward. The Gospel of the Lord.

## REFLECTION ON THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gathered here at God's invitation, we are disciples awaiting a word from God. The readings today will explain more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus: We are to love Christ above all and take up our cross. Yet we do not do this alone. We have our community of faith to support us, even if it is only with a cup of cold water. Let us pray that our sense of discipleship will be strengthened and deepened even as we pray for one another and continued to be joined in Spiritual Communion for one more week.

Today's Gospel culminates the missionary discourse from which we heard a passage last week. Matthew wants to make clear to the followers of Jesus that the cross is central to discipleship. For a community such as Matthew's that had already experienced persecution, this teaching was critically important. Related to this sense of solidarity between disciple and Master was the notion that one honors the presence of the Master in the disciple. This viewpoint was common in the culture of the time, but Matthew gives it theological weight by tying in the notion of reward for those who honor one of Christ's disciples. The simplest act of practical kindness, "a cup of cold water" given to a disciple, is a cause for a reward. The first reading from the Second Book of Kings prepares us for this idea of a reward for one who honors a disciple. The woman who has prepared a place for Elisha to stay whenever he passes through is rewarded by Elisha's promise of a baby son. The Christian idea that Jesus is present in his disciples is also seen in the Letter of Paul to the Romans. Paul evokes the experience of Baptism and links it to Jesus' experience of going down into the earth in his tomb, only to rise up out of the earth "in newness of life". The point emphasizes the solidarity that exists between Master and disciples. Our love of Jesus, above all, gives us as Christians a different perspective in which we see everyone as someone's daughter or son. Then this allows us to see all people as brothers and sisters.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BELOVED SICK:** Luke Peterson, Ralph Valenti, Theresa Gonzalez, Natalie Delgado, Salvatore Pandolfo, Arthur Malagoli, Thomas Messina, Mary Ann DeForca, Maureen Rivera, Anthony Calabrese, Fred Lesto, Joseph Perrelli, Jean Bevacqua, George Cagno, Ariana Mainer, Julia Bruzzese, Frank DiBari, Rose Dee, Consiglia Bertolino, Carmine Barone, George Constantin, Isabel Ayala, Frances Cantone, Venancio Rosado, Vito Pisano, Theresa Mierzejewski, Quintin Leone, Rose Scianno, Gloria Freda, Jean Hoskey, Isabelle Grenier, Helen Scalia, Diana Torres, Rosemarie Roccotagliata, Joseph Trovato, Ann Esposito, James Toner, Nancy Young, Joseph Sanfratello

**FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED:** *Calogero Bertolino*

A Mass is offered every day by Fr. Guy & Fr. Clement for the following intentions:

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY: The People of the Parish, Christoforo & Gaetano Boriello, Esther Bruno, Madeline & Joseph Porcaro, Rosario Scro, End to the Coronavirus

THIRTEENTH WEEK OT: Father's Day Intentions, Mauro Monaco

BREAD & WINE: For the Health and Safety of the People of the Parish

- **MASS ON YOU TUBE SUNDAY AT 12:00 PM SFC Dyker Heights**
- **DAILY MASS AT 8:30 AM WEARING A MASK REQUIRED & SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES APPLY**
- **SUNDAY MASS BEGINS THIS SATURDAY, JULY 4TH & SUNDAY, JULY 5TH WEARING A MASK REQUIRED & SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES APPLY**
- **THE PARISH OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED. IF YOU NEED TO SPEAK WITH A PRIEST PLEASE CALL THE PARISH NUMBER 718-236-9165. IF NO ONE IS AVAILABLE YOU CAN RECORD YOUR MESSAGE AND YOUR CALL WILL BE RETURNED OR EMAIL: [sfcabrini1963@gmail.com](mailto:sfcabrini1963@gmail.com)**
- **PARISH WEBSITE: [www.stfrancescabrini-brooklyn.org](http://www.stfrancescabrini-brooklyn.org)**  
**FACEBOOK PAGE: St. Frances Cabrini Dyker Heights & YOU TUBE: SFC Dyker Heights**
- **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAMs) will not be meeting this Monday**
- **ON LINE GIVING IS NOW AVAILABLE GO TO: [givecentral.org/sfcbrooklyn](http://givecentral.org/sfcbrooklyn)**  
**DIRECT DEPOSIT IN OUR PARISH ACCOUNT AT APPLE BANK**

### **THE FEAST OF THE APOSTLES PETER & PAUL**

On June 29th the Church celebrates the Feast Day of Sts. Peter & Paul. As early as the year 258, there is evidence of an already lengthy tradition of celebrating the solemnities of both Saints on the same day. Together, the two saints are the founders of the See of Rome, through their preaching, ministry and martyrdom there.



PETER who was named Simon, was a fisherman of Galilee and was introduced to the Lord Jesus by his brother Andrew, also a fisherman. Jesus gave him the name Cephas (Petrus in Latin), which means 'Rock,' because he was to become the rock upon which Christ would build His Church. Peter was a bold follower of the Lord. He was the first to recognize that Jesus was "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and eagerly pledged his fidelity until death. In his boldness, he also made many mistakes, however, such as losing faith when walking on water with Christ and betraying the Lord on the night of His passion. Yet despite his human weaknesses, Peter was chosen to shepherd God's flock. The Acts of the Apostles illustrates his role as head of the Church after the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ. Peter led the Apostles as the first Pope and ensured that the disciples kept the true faith. Peter spent his last years in Rome, leading the Church through persecution and eventually being martyred in the year 64. He was crucified upside-down at his own request, because he claimed he was not worthy to die as his Lord. He was buried on Vatican Hill, and St. Peter's Basilica is built over his tomb.

PAUL was the Apostle of the Gentiles. His letters are included in the writings of the New Testament, and through them we learn much about his life and the faith of the early Church. Before receiving the name Paul, he was Saul, a Jewish Pharisee who zealously persecuted Christians in Jerusalem. Scripture records that Saul was present at the martyrdom of St. Stephen. Saul's conversion took place as he was on his way to Damascus to persecute the Christian community there. As he was traveling along the road, he was suddenly surrounded by a great light from heaven. He was blinded and fell off his horse. He then heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He answered: "Who are you, Lord?" Christ said: "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." Saul continued to Damascus, where he was baptized and his sight was restored. He now used his Roman name Paul and spent the remainder of his life preaching the Gospel tirelessly to the Gentiles of the Mediterranean world. Paul was imprisoned and taken to Rome, where he was beheaded in the year 67. He is buried in Rome in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching and their confession of faith."

## READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

MONDAY: *PETER & PAUL, APOSTLES Acts 12:1-11; 2 Timothy 4:6-8,17-18; Matthew 16:13-19*

TUESDAY: *Martyrs of the Church of Rome Amos 3:1-8;4:11-12; Matthew 8:23-27*

WEDNESDAY: *Junipera Sera, Priest Amos 5:14-15,21-24; Matthew 8:28-34*

THURSDAY: *Amos 7:10-17; Matthew 9:1-8*

FRIDAY: *THOMAS, APOSTLE Ephesians 2:19-22; John 20:24-29*

SATURDAY: *BVM on Saturday (Independence Day) Amos 9:11-15,; Matthew 9:14-17*



### A SUMMER BLESSING for our children & families

*May our loving God watch over you and keep alive in your heart  
all that you have learned this year.*

*Keep your mind on God. Remember to pray often and to celebrate your faith,  
at home as a family and at Mass with your faith family.*

*Keep your faith in God. Let all the joys of summer remind you of God's goodness.  
Never forget that God is always with you, no matter what.*

*May the God of all creation, who comes to us in Jesus,  
and lives among us in the Holy Spirit,  
keep you safe, happy and holy this summer and always. Amen.*

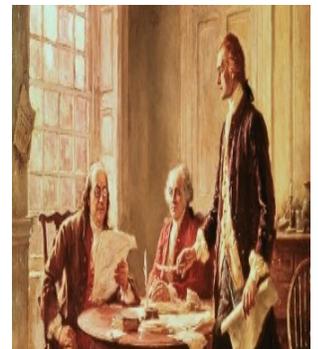
Fourth of July, Independence Day, has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1870 and a paid holiday since 1941, but the tradition of Independence Day celebrations goes back to the 18th century and the American Revolution (1775-83). In June 1776, representatives of the 13 colonies then fighting in the revolutionary struggle weighed a resolution that would declare their independence from Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of independence, and two days later its delegates adopted the Declaration of Independence, a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson. From 1776 until the present day, July 4th has been celebrated as the birth of American independence.



On June 7, 1776, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House, now Independence Hall, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies independence. Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee: Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain. On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for independence. On that day, John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be

*celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival"* and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other." On July 4th, the Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence which had been written largely by Jefferson. Though the vote for actual independence took place on July 2nd, from then on the 4th became the day celebrated as the birth of American independence.

Philadelphia held the first annual commemoration of independence on July 4, 1777, while Congress was still occupied with the ongoing war. George Washington issued double rations of rum to all his soldiers to mark the anniversary of independence in 1778 and in 1781 several months before the key American victory at Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday. After the Revolutionary War, Americans continued to commemorate Independence Day every year, in celebrations that allowed the new nation's emerging political leaders to address citizens and create a feeling of unity. By the last decade of the 18th century, the two major political parties—Federalists and Democratic-Republicans—that had arisen began holding separate Independence Day celebrations in many large cities. The tradition of patriotic celebrations became even more widespread after the War of 1812. Independence Day remains an important national holiday and a symbol of patriotism.



*Remember God's Blessings  
this  
Independence Day*

