

Holy Spirit Habits ~ Faithfulness

Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain. ~ 1 Corinthians 15:58

Prayer ~ Lectio Divina

“Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and hope of finally embracing you.” – St. Thomas Aquinas

This month we look at cultivating friendship with Christ by praying with the scriptures using the method of Lectio Divina. In his letter to the Romans, Paul tells us, “The word is near to you, in your mouth and in your heart.” Lectio Divina is a great way to experience this reality and to grow your relationship with God. Lectio Divina employs 5 steps: 1. Reading a scripture passage, 2. Meditation 3. Prayer, 4. Contemplation, and 5. Action.

Starting in April St. Matthew is offering 2 studies using the lectio process; Philippians and Evangelization from the Augustine Institute on FORMED. More information on these studies can be found in the back of church or at Formed.org.

To hear more on the steps of Lectio Divina go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hhwRcg1mHec&t=189s>

Grace ~ Holy Orders

“The priesthood is the love of the heart of Jesus. When you see a priest, think of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
– St. John Vianney

The last couple months we have considered the graces found in the sacrament of matrimony, the foundational vocation. This month and next we ponder the graces found in and through the call and sacrament of Holy Orders. It is because men have the courage to say “yes” to the Lord’s call to follow him, we have the graces found in the sacraments. This month let us pray for men to hear and answer this call, particularly as we will celebrate the Holy Thursday liturgy, commemorating the institution of the Priesthood and the supreme gift of the Eucharist.

Is there a young man in your life who might be hearing this call and ready do answer “I will follow”?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckOHVJStTq4>

Community ~ The Sanctus

“By faithfulness we are collected and wound up into unity within ourselves.” – St. Augustine of Hippo

After the altar has been prepared and the Eucharistic prayer has begun, you’ll notice our altar servers process out with candles and surround the altar and we sing the Sanctus. The Sanctus is a scriptural prayer that is referenced in both the Old Testament (Isaiah 6:3) and New Testament (Revelation 4:8). Both passages describe visions of the divine throne room and give us the words of the Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus): the hymn of praise sung by the angels as they eternally worship God. We mystically enter the Divine throne room and join in worship. It is no surprise that at this point in the Mass we fall to our knees in reverence, acknowledging that God himself, in His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity is in our presence.

Service ~ The role of Lector

“Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.” – St. Teresa of Calcutta

Are you hearing a call to serve the St. Matthew community as a lector? Each week through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Lector does not merely read the scriptures of the day to us but instead lends their voice to proclaim The Word so that the Lord can speak to the assembly gathered at Mass. We are all familiar with the phrase “The Word of the Lord” as it is pronounced at the end of the first and second readings. The Latin translation of these words are “Verbum Domini.” The choice of the word Verbum indicates to us that the words that we have just heard is The Word, that is alive and goes forth to speak to His children.

Hear more about this liturgical role from Edward Sri at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y7a9eZizprE>

And if you are being called to serve as a lector please contact Ezra Escudero at escudero7@yahoo.com.