



Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 7, 2022

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Wis 18:6-9

Heb 11:1-2, 8-19

Lk 12:32-48

Live By Faith

The story of Abraham is one of extraordinary blessing. However, his story is also one of extraordinary faith. At major points of his life, Abraham had no idea what was in store for him or his family. He was directed to leave his home and become a wandering herder. He was an immigrant in a foreign land, bereft of social support structures. He was promised descendants but waited many years for that promise to be realized. Once he had an heir, he was then told to sacrifice that son of promise without any assurances of a favorable future.

Time and again, Abraham was asked to live by faith. The phrase "seeing is believing" is misleading. It is really an expression of skepticism that means, "I won't believe it unless I see it." However, true belief means that we accept something even though we don't see it, don't understand it. That is a very difficult way for most of us to live. Yet live like this we must, whether

we are believers or unbelievers, because so much of life is beyond our control or understanding.

So how do we learn to live by faith? We have something that Abraham did not have. We have his story to encourage us. In that story we see that again and again he stepped forward in faith, and God brought things together. If God did this in Abraham's life, surely God can and will do it in ours. We must only live by faith.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- * Do you always need certainty before you act? Has that always worked?
- * Be grateful for the times when you stepped forward in faith and God brought things together.

So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.

HEBREWS 11:12



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance



www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us

Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTIONS...

MINISTRIES

AUGUST 6/7th - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Willie Forbes
10:00AM Lector: LaVerne Lau EM: Christine DaCosta
Collection: The Almeidas

AUGUST 13/14th - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Cannonier EM: Peter Marsh
10:00AM Lector: Emma Leitch EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: The DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS

AUGUST 6/7th - NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Josephine Clinton +
10:00AM St. Michael's Parishioners

AUGUST 13/14th - TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Adelina & Jose DeFrias
Mary & Benjamin Botelho
10:00AM St. Michael's Parishioners

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.—Fri. | St. Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.—Fri.
St. Patrick's - 8:00^{AM} Mon.—Fri.

ST. THERESA'S & ST. ANTHONY'S
Masses are live streamed via the Diocesan Website
and their Facebook Page



STEWARDSHIP

Collection: \$749.00

\$2300/week or \$9200/month in the collection
is needed to break even each month.

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS FOR YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTION

are welcomed. Consider making a weekly,
monthly or quarterly transaction.

**When making your online transaction, be sure to include
your name and "collection" as your memo
on your banking transaction."**

**ST. MICHAEL'S uses your regular collection contributions
to support the day-to-day operations of our Parish.**

**Thank you to those parishioners who continue to
answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.**

Online donations can be made to St. Michael's Church's
BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

Word of Life ... Intercessions for Life

May the Lord generously provide for the needs of all mothers
as they dedicate themselves to caring for their children;
We pray to the Lord

“We thank you, heroic mothers, for your invincible love!
We thank you for your intrepid trust in God and in his love.
We thank you for the sacrifice of your life”
(EV 86).

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae* © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
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Dear Padre,

**When I was young, we never had eucharistic
devotions. Why are they so popular now?**

Prior to the Second Vatican Council, many Catholics
found solid food for their spiritual lives in eucharistic
devotions, which include visiting the Blessed Sacrament
(eucharistic adoration), attending Forty Hours devotion,
and assisting at benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

However, as the modern liturgical movement began picking
up steam, scholars and theologians began questioning the
amount of energy and attention
going toward eucharistic
devotion. They urged us to focus
our spirituality more clearly
on the Mass—the action of the
sacred liturgy and the Eucharist
itself—and to understand that
all eucharistic devotions outside
of the sacred liturgy are meant
to direct us back to the action
of the Mass, the eucharistic
sacrifice, and its high point of
Communion.



The drop-off in eucharistic
devotions after Vatican II can be positively understood
as an attempt to take the insights of liturgical reform
seriously and develop a more liturgical piety. At the same
time, the resurgence of eucharistic adoration is a worthy
retrieval of a beloved practice that both scholars and the
faithful understand as complementing a full, conscious,
and active participation in the sacred liturgy that is the
“source and summit” of our lives.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

WORD FROM Pope Francis



We do well to spend time in adoration
before the Eucharist....Let us allow Jesus
the Living Bread to heal us of our self-
absorption, open our hearts to self-giving,
liberate us from our rigidity and self-
concern, free us from the paralyzing slavery
of defending our image, and inspire us to
follow him wherever he would lead us.

HOMILY, BUDAPEST, SEPTEMBER 12, 2021



SUNDAY READINGS – nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Wisdom 18:6-9

The night of the passover was known beforehand to our fathers,
that, with sure knowledge of the oaths in which they put their faith,
they might have courage.
Your people awaited the salvation of the just
and the destruction of their foes.

For when you punished our adversaries,
in this you glorified us whom you had summoned.
For in secret the holy children of the good were offering sacrifice
and putting into effect with one accord the divine institution.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-22

R. Blessed the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Exult, you just, in the Lord;
praise from the upright is fitting.
Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance. **(R)**
See, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
and preserve them in spite of famine. **(R)**

Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
who have put our hope in you. **(R)**

SECOND READING – Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19

Brothers and sisters: Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. Because of it the ancients were well attested.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; he went out, not knowing where he was to go. By faith he sojourned in the promised land as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs of the same promise; for he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and maker is God. By faith he received power to generate, even though he was past the normal age—and Sarah herself was sterile—for he thought that the one who had made the promise was trustworthy. So it was that there came forth from one man, himself as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sands on the seashore.

All these died in faith. They did not receive what had been promised but saw it and greeted it from afar and acknowledged themselves to be strangers and aliens on earth, for those who speak thus show that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land from which they had come, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better homeland, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was ready to offer his only son, of whom it was said, “Through Isaac descendants shall bear your name.” He reasoned that God was able to raise even from the dead, and he received Isaac back as a symbol.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Mt 24:42a, 44

Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Luke 12:32-48

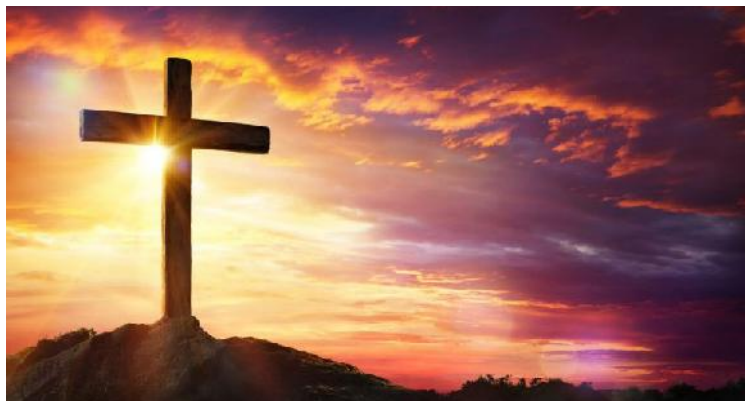
Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

“Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, the master will put the servant in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’ and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish the servant severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master’s will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”

Reflecting on the gift of faith

Archbishop José H. Gomez | New World of Faith



Our faith in Jesus Christ is a beautiful treasure and a precious gift. But we need to always remember that our faith is a gift. We received it.

That means none of us came to our faith alone. None of us knows the love of Jesus Christ because we thought it up by ourselves. We know Jesus and we became children of God because someone else knew him first and told us about him. Because someone else had faith before us.

This is the beauty of the family of the Church. This is the mystery of the Communion of Saints. St. Paul said, “We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.”

This tells us something more about our faith. Faith is a gift that God gives to each one — but this gift can only reach us through the witness of others.

So faith never starts with us. Faith begins with God and his love for us. Faith begins with God’s call for each one of us to share in his love, to live in his love.

God’s call comes to us from Jesus. How often in the Gospel we hear Jesus saying to people, “Come and see.” We come to know God and his love for us by believing in Jesus and giving our lives to him — by following him, by coming and seeing.

The first Christians spoke of faith and Baptism as “light” and “enlightenment.” They spoke of having the eyes of their hearts opened by the light of Christ. Think of all the Gospel stories about the eyes of the blind being opened. Think of all the Easter stories: “And their eyes were opened and they recognized him.”

These stories are all meant to point us to the meaning of our faith. Faith is seeing our lives and our world with new eyes. Faith is recognizing Jesus Christ as the light of our world and the light of our lives. And again, faith means being a witness.

What is a witness, anyway? A witness is someone who has seen something and then goes and tells others about what he has seen.

Our faith makes us missionaries. The treasure we have received, we are called to share. What we have seen and experienced of God’s love — the joy of knowing Jesus and his salvation — compels us to bear witness, to tell others and to call them to join us in being children of God in his family, the Church.

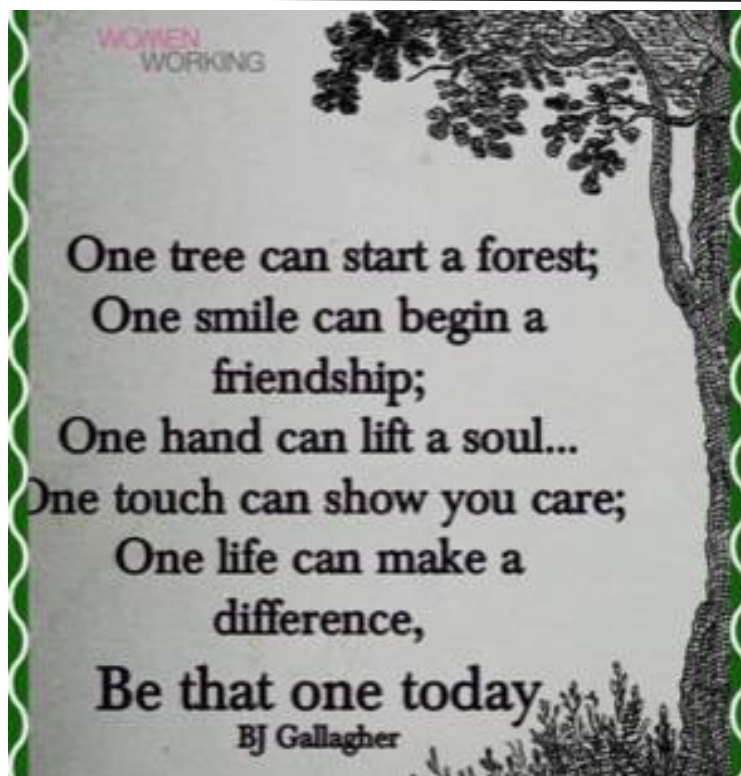
I am reflecting on these things because our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI has proclaimed a special “Year of Faith.” It will begin on Oct. 11, 2012, the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, and will continue until Nov. 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Faith is a gift that God gives to each one — but this gift can only reach us through the witness of others.

He has also called a special meeting of the world’s bishops, the Synod of Bishops, for Oct. 2012 to consider “The New Evangelization and the Transmission of the Christian Faith.”

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. PATRICK’S welcomes everyone each Wednesday morning at 10:00am to recite the Holy Rosary.



The Holy Father is calling us to really reflect on the gift of faith and our duty to communicate the faith to the men and women of our time.

This is a beautiful opportunity for us — as individuals and as a Church — to dedicate ourselves to growing in our knowledge of our faith and our desire to share our faith with others.

Pope Benedict has written a beautiful apostolic letter, *Porta Fidei* (“The Door of Faith”). I urge everyone to read it. It is available on the Vatican’s website and I will link to it on my Facebook page.

We need to “rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith,” the Pope tells us.

He writes: “Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of love received and when it is communicated as an experience of grace and joy. It makes us fruitful, because it expands our hearts in hope and enables us to bear life-giving witness. ... Believers, so Saint Augustine tells us, ‘strengthen themselves by believing.’ ... Only through believing, then, does faith grow and become stronger; there is no other possibility for possessing certitude with regard to one’s life apart from self-abandonment, in a continuous crescendo, into the hands of a love that seems to grow constantly because it has its origin in God.”

As we pray for one another this week, let us ask in a special way for an increase in the gift of faith — for ourselves and for every person in our great Archdiocese.

We have a year to prepare for this Year of Faith. So let’s begin praying and thinking about how we can make this special time of grace fruitful in our lives and in the lives of our Church.

And let us entrust ourselves more completely to Mary, the Mother of God, who was “blessed because she believed.”

Follow Archbishop Gomez at: www.facebook.com/ArchbishopGomez.