

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 4, 2024

O come, let us worship God!



Masses For The Week

Sun 04 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

08:00 am +Margarito & Virginia Nieto (Patricia Adami)

+Roberto Nieto (Patricia Adami)

For the Health of Irene C. Moreno (M/M Cassiano)

Thr 08 St Jerome Emiliani; St Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

12:05 pm +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandy Leyendecker)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job asks, "Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?" We, too, often wonder if we will "see happiness again." Jesus responds, "Let us go to the nearby villages." The presence of Jesus is the antidote for our "months of misery." When "the night drags on" and we are filled with restlessness, Jesus Christ allows us to arise with hope. The gracious God "rebuilds Jerusalem"—and our lives. To the weak he became weak to win over the weak. As Christ preaches, "he calls each by name."

The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning in Memory of
+Diana G. Reese (Celia Crowder)

Good News!

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Job 7:1-4, 6-7 / 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23 /

Mark 1:29-39

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At some point in one's faith journey, every believer asks: If God is good and loving, why is there evil in the world? Why is there war? Why do children die prematurely? Why do pandemics rage? The biblical story of Job seeks to speak to that question, though it never really answers it.

God and the satan (the name he is called in the Book of Job) are discussing Job and what a fine man he is. The satan suggests Job is a good man only because everything is going well for him. God then tells the satan that he may do whatever he wishes to test Job but may not harm him. By a series of catastrophes, then, Job loses his flocks, his camels, and even his sons and daughters. It is at this point that we hear today's first Scripture reading—Job's lament of misery and hopelessness.

Though Job's friends suspect that the cause of all that has befallen him must be due to some grave sin on his part, Job denies this accusation and continues believing in the goodness of God, never wavering in his faith. Though frustrated by what life has brought, Job never blames God or asks God to fix his life. God is God, concludes Job, whether we understand the ways of life or not. To seek any more is to seek to be God. He continues to trust in God and admits that the ways of God are incapable of being understood. This becomes Job's only answer to the question about the "why" of evil. ●

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CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL CAMPAIGN 2024



Your generous gift helps our people throughout our diocese in areas such as Seminary Support, Adult Faith Formation and Family Life. The 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal

Campaign – "Offering Hope, Extending Compassion" invites you to follow Jesus' example. Please complete your pledge form and put it in your collection box at your parish. Your contribution is tax deductible. Visit www.dioceseoflaredo.org/csa or text "GIVE" to 956-305-2140 for credit or debit card donations. Together, we will reach our **\$2,996.00** goal!

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Olga Gonzalez, Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Mario Garcia, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, and Rodrigo Medina.

SPECIAL COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY

A special collection will be taken up on Ash Wednesday, February 14, for the **Catholic Church in Eastern Europe**. Funds for this collection are used for 1,000 projects in 22 countries to support religious and moral education, religious communication through mass media, restoration of churches, seminaries and convents, and the revitalization of Catholics. We are asked to assist with our generous donations. Thank you for your kindness.



2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

THE EUCHARIST: A SACRED BOND OF UNITY

MARCH 2ND, 2024

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE \$30 per person
\$35 after Feb 26th (and on-site)
\$25 students (with proof of valid school ID)

Registration form
with check payable to:
Diocese of Laredo
1901 Corpus Christi St
Laredo, TX 78043
or register online by visiting:
www.dioceseoflaredo.org



Do all that you do
for the sake of the gospel
in hopes of having
a share in its blessings

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Last Sunday's Collection

Envelopes: \$ 1,255.00

Loose: \$ 82.00

Children's Envelopes: \$ 1.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,338.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 3,152.43

Dear Padre

February 4, 2024

In the Our Father, we pray, "thy kingdom come." Will God's kingdom come only at the end of the world?

God's kingdom will come in its fullness only at Jesus' Second Coming, but the kingdom came into the world with Jesus' first coming as a man. That means we are in God's kingdom right now, but not in its fullness.

In the Scriptures, we read that John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the messiah or if they need to wait for another. Jesus responds, "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Luke 7:22). These are all signs of the kingdom of God.

In the meantime, we don't have to just wait for God's kingdom to come in its fullness. We can make God's kingdom more of a reality on earth by visiting the sick, caring for the poor, and being kind to others. Loving your spouse is a sign of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is among us, not completely but partially, and we can make it more of a reality in the good that we do for each other.

Jesus' Second Coming will be at the end of time, an event Jesus himself did not know the time of: "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32). ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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Praise the Lord
for he is good;
he heals the
brokenhearted
and binds up
their wounds.

He sustains
the lowly;
the wicked
he casts to
the ground.

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