

ST. DENIS Parish

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LOVE GOD

LOVE OTHERS

TRAIN DISCIPLES

Eucharistic Celebrations:

Sunday, August 30th - 9:00 am - Deceased members of Louis & Laurianne deRocquigny family (Margaret deRocquigny & family)

Friday, Sept. 4th - 9:00 am - Adoration and reconciliation

Mass - 10:00 am - René Dedieu (funeral offering)

Sunday, Sept. 6th - 9:00 am - Thérèse Furet (Henriette Joly)

Sanctuary Lamp – this week: Helen Poirier, André Lambert

<u>God's Share:</u> Aug. 16^{th} - \$388.00 (16) + \$0.00 (loose) + \$55.00 (DD) = **\$443.00** Aug. 23^{rd} - \$240.00 (13) + \$0.00 (loose) + \$35.00 (DD) = **\$275.00**

Ministries.August 30thSeptember 6thSeptember 13thReaders:Judith RobidouxMona SouqueAnnette BernardCounters:Annette & prtnr.VolunteersDenise & prtnr.

Readings for Sunday: September 6, 2020

Jeremiah 20, 7-9 Romans 12, 1-2 Ps 62 (63) 2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Matthew 16, 21-27

Stewardship - August 30, 2020 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" (Matthew 16:26)

St. Francis of Assisi once said, "Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else." We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent, and treasure to gain more of the world's riches. We need to set our priorities based on God's values and not the values of the material world.

August 30, 2020

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Prayer Intention for August, 2020

The Maritime World – We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

Let us pray for our pastor, Fr. Peter.

Let us pray for all the members of our parishes who are sick and for our deceased faithful.

NEW: From now on, upon arrival, attendees must write their name and phone number on the "contact tracing form".

Weekday Mass:

In St. Claude: at 9 AM (Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday) * Thursday afternoon: Eucharistic Adoration and Confession from 3PM to 4PM.

In St. Denis: Friday morning, 9AM – 10AM: Eucharistic Adoration and Confession; 10 AM: Holy Mass

Saturday Evening: 7:30PM Holy Rosary; 8 PM: Mass in English in St. Claude Church.

Sunday Mass:

+ In St. Denis: at 9:00 Am: Bilingual Mass in the church.

+ In St. Claude: at 11:00 Am: Mass in French in the church.

St-Claude Parish Office:

The new hours for the parish office will now be on Friday from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Some important notes during the time of the Covid-19 pandemic:

- If you do not feel healthy or you do not feel comfortable, please stay home.
- I had prepared facemasks for you. For the common good of all, I ask you to sanitize hands, wear a mask and practice social distancing (2 meters or 6 feet apart) when attending the Mass.
- If possible, could you please bring your own disinfecting wipes to clean your place and surrounding. It helps!
- We had also prepared disinfecting wipes and garbage bins at the back of the church. We look for volunteers to clean the surfaces, the doorknobs before and after each liturgical celebration.

Brothers and sisters, we are blessed that we are safe so far in St. Claude and St. Denis-Haywood. We are complying with all safety measures to prevent the future outbreak of the Covid-19 in our community and for the common good of all. I appreciate your cooperation and your sacrifices!

Fr. Peter Le

Loving Our Neighbor

Community is essential to us as Christians. We are the Body of Christ, and we know that when two or more gather in Jesus' name, he is present with us. So, it may be a bit harder for us to handle the "social distancing" happening in many communities. Our call to community is not only in the context of our church but also in our neighborhood community. How do we literally love our neighbor? How can we be witnesses on our streets? One way is to regularly check in on your neighbors who may be vulnerable and isolated. Offer to deliver groceries or other items for them or to run other errands so they will not have to risk infection by leaving their home. Be a positive, calming influence in any online neighborhood communities. Don't spread rumors or hysteria but find ways to support each other through the crisis.

Living the Virtues

Ultimately, as with life in general, we are called to live out the four cardinal virtues:

- **Prudence** Carefully discern the best course of action, not just for ourselves, but for the good of all. Ask: What action does God want me to take?
- **Justice** Seek fairness for everyone, especially those who need it most. Ask: Who is not getting the help that they need?
- **Temperance** Find a healthy balance between self care and care for others. Ask: Do I err toward selfishness or an unhealthy co-dependence?
- **Fortitude** Persevere in times of trial and difficulty. Ask: Do I have the courage to do the right thing even when the going gets tough?

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Marriage Tip:

The key to a happy marriage is putting God first. Don't let the distractions of everyday life distract you from prayer.

Reflections:

"No one is more patient than God the Father; no one understands and knows how to wait as much as he does." – Pope Francis, May 2, 2014 (from a tweet)

Saint Francis de Sales said, "Have patience with all things, but first of all with yourself." In what ways and in what situations do I need to be patient and place my trust in God?

Are we too busy to be prophets?

The beautiful month of August is over! Our laid-back summer lives are heading for a change. In autumn, we are back to our regular routines. Will we have the courage to resume our life journey with all the attention it deserves? As believers, this is also the time to embrace Jesus' invitation to follow in his footsteps. In the eyes of our world, this may appear as a loss of available time and an increase in commitment. Despite this reaction, Jesus' proposal is never a loss but a gain: for whoever wants to save their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it (Mt 16:25).



Why does this choice appear so daunting? Taking Jesus' words to heart enables us to take a critical look at our own lives to the point where even our children and grandchildren can notice the difference. They may expect us to criticize, admonish or even tease them about their life choices which can, in varying degrees, deviate from Christian moral standards. We won't necessarily approve of all their lifestyle choices. *The more things change, the more they remain the same.* As the senior generation, like the prophets of old, we express our opinions. We speak up, testify and at times complain as a gulf separates our enthusiasm from today's common practices.

It's not an easy task to assume the responsibilities of prophets as spokespersons for God. This has never been described as an easy choice throughout the history of God's people. The first reading (Jer 20: 7-9) reports the disillusioned words of the prophet Jeremiah. One sentence refers to the great divine enticement. The rest of the text describes the *day-long* mockery by everyone. This prophet fully describes his relationship with the Lord. Jeremiah deals with constant and unpleasant circumstances. No matter how distracting his life was, he always came back to the Lord's Word. He described his body as being constantly burned by an internal fire that is impossible to control. My questions are the following: Is it worth maintaining this divine fire? Is too much expected?

In the second reading, St. Paul urges the Christians of Rome to present their whole bodies as a living and holy sacrifice. St. Paul warns them: *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God.* This does not mean a rejection of what the present times propose. It means being open, aware and making good choices. This is an infinitely more positive approach which allows us to discover what pleases God perfectly. Jesus himself once reproached St. Peter for thoughts that were not God's, but those of men. This is quite a challenge for people who decide to follow in Jesus' footsteps as there is often a gap between the issues they face and what God presents as another point of view. This is what Jesus meant when he invited us to take up his cross and follow him. Jesus admitted that following in his footsteps will often seem to be controversial and tiring! There are no holidays or days off for today's prophets. We have been God's spokespersons since our Baptism!

Alain Faucher, priest
Translated by Honore Kerwin Borrelli