

Dear Padre,

Sometimes I become pretty disgusted with my life and myself. I wonder if anyone really loves me. Is there any way I can know that God loves me?

Every human person is made in the image of God. This means that your life is infinitely precious in God's eyes. God values and loves you beyond anything you could ever imagine.

God has also placed into our hearts a yearning for love and happiness that cannot be satisfied by anything less than God. True love will not be found in riches or well-being, in fame or power. True happiness will be found in God alone, the source of all life and all love.

In New Testament times, many people believed that wealth and success were signs of favor and love from God. If disaster struck, you would assume that God was angry with you, or that you had done something wrong. Ill-fortune was a "sign" that God's love had been withdrawn from you.

Jesus turned this sort of thinking on its head. Jesus taught that God truly loves all people, including those who are down on their luck. God's love is not based on wealth, fortune, or success. Rather, God loves you because you are God's own creation, God's child, and heir to God's own kingdom.

You might find it helpful to talk over those feelings of self-disgust with a spiritual director or a confessor. Meanwhile, take comfort in the words of Isaiah: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine (Isaiah 43:1). ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> Gn 1:1–19 Mk 6:53–56	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 1:20–2:4 Mk 7:1–13	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 2:5–9, 15–17 Mk 7:14–23	February 9 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 2:18–25 Mk 7:24–30	February 10 <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> Gn 3:1–8 Mk 7:31–37	February 11 <i>Weekday</i> Gn 3:9–24 Mk 8:1–10	February 12 <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Sir 15:15–20 1 Cor 2:6–10 Mt 5:17–37 or 5:20–22, 27–28, 33–34, 37

Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit ScrupulousAnonymous.org.



CREATIVA IMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Isaiah 58:7–10 / 1 Corinthians 2:1–5 / Matthew 5:13–16



No More Than Enough

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“You are the salt of the earth.” Prior to industrialization, salt was a highly valued commodity. In the Middle Ages, a ton of salt sold for thirty-three gold ducats. Much earlier, Roman soldiers were often paid in salt. Hence our word *salary*. “You are the light of the world.” Like salt, light also is a valuable and necessary part of life. Without light, living plants die and human beings grow depressed.

Curiously, we only become aware of salt and light when they are absent. Food tends to be less tasty and bland without salt. And without light in the room we stumble and trip. Yet too much salt ruins food, while too much light blinds us, like when we drive facing headlights at night or stare at the sun. As valuable as salt and light are, both are at their best when unnoticed.

I offer these realities as images for persons of faith. Too much of “us” in the mix and we become the center of life, our egos blinding others to the workings of God. Yet absent, a world without persons of faith grows flat for lack of values and wisdom.

Likewise, the Church. Whenever the Church draws attention to itself, whenever it is clothed with pomp and majesty, God recedes to the background. Without the Church's wisdom, however, a world hungry for meaning grows lost; charity is forgotten. We are called to be salt and light, no more than enough. ●



Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

MATTHEW 5:16

Reflect

How do I keep a balance between too much of me in the picture and too little?



CNS PHOTO / VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

God changes the world by transforming our hearts, and this he cannot do without us. The Lord wants us to open the door of our hearts in order to enter into our lives....For when God finds an open and trusting heart, he can work wonders there.

HOMILY BAKU, AZERBAIJAN, OCTOBER 2, 2016



Rectory & Parish Office
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860
Mailing Address: PO Box 983
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Email: saintanthonylakin@gmail.com

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
(Green) 02/04/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger
Reader: Karen Burden
E.O.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter
02/05/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Kirbe Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller, Volunteer
Reader: Fred Jones

E.O. HC: Toby & Jessica Luhman- Fuller
6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Green
02/11/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Lucy Gannett, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett
Reader: Tom Bachman
E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden
02/12/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.
Servers: Kingston Guerrero, Cade & Jace Berning
Reader: Kyle Berning
E.O. HC: Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Feb. 4	4:00 p.m.	Carter Brown
Sunday, Feb. 5	9:00 p.m.	Sp.Int. –Healing J& MM
Monday, Feb. 6	8:30 p.m.	Carol Meier +
Tuesday, Feb. 7	8:30 a.m.	Jerry Burden +
Thursday, Feb. 9	8:30 a.m.	Charles & Eileen Hoff +
Friday, Feb. 10	8:30 a.m.	S.Int. Burden Family
Saturday, Feb. 11	4:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving for moisture
Sunday, Feb. 12	9:00 a.m.	Chuck Sullivan

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.
Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.
Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.
Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright

“You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste” (Matthew 5:13-16)

Friends, the Gospel passage this Sunday is a well-known one taken from the Sermon on the Mount. Those verses are only a few lines after the Beatitudes. And by using images of salt and light Jesus is trying to make sure his listeners understand the profound impact they can have on the world for good or bad.

Are we precious in God’s eyes? Is each of us “essential” in our own individual way, each of us called to add an essential ingredient to the world that maybe only we can add --- acts of love that God is counting on us to provide? And can we strive to make our unique contribution, our unique impact a positive one, a life-giving one, a God-centered one?

And so, today’s lesson is a simple one. Let’s not simply look at whether we know all the right things or said enough prayers or attended enough Masses or fasted when we were supposed to. Rather, let’s look at the most important evidence --- the evidence that can seal the case one way or another- Do I do what God wants me to do? Or do I simply “believe” the things I’m supposed to believe? One of those things is true evidence of what really matters, and the other isn’t necessarily evidence of much. Which am I? Which are you? Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for January 29, 2023: Envelopes: \$510; Loose: \$351; Online Giving: \$424.29; Total 1285.29
Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under - 475.88

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$21,867.63 *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, February 11 and Tuesday, February 14. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. And “Thank You” ahead of time.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK Lord Jesus, you came so that everyone could be part of your Father’s kingdom. We want to spread the gospel, to reveal God’s love and mercy, but it’s hard for us to be salt and light. We don’t always know what to do. We don’t want to embarrass ourselves or make people angry. Sometimes we’re just too tired. Help us, O Lord. When we lose our taste for the gospel, season us with wisdom and hope. When we hide our faith or let our light grow dim, brighten us with your love again. Make us eager, courageous, and radiant. We ask this in your holy name. Amen

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 5:13-16)

Forming followers Two Sundays ago we heard that Jesus started his public ministry by teaching, proclaiming God’s kingdom, and healing. In chapters 5-7 Matthew gives us some of the content of Jesus’ teaching. Jesus wants his followers to be part of his ministry, so he calls them salt and light. Note that you is in the plural form. Only together are we salt and light. You, the individual, can’t season and brighten the world all by yourself. People need the support and guidance of others in order to continue Jesus’ work in the world.

Salt People used salt to add flavor to food and to preserve meat, which was helpful in a world without refrigerators. Salt was sold in combination with other minerals because people hadn’t yet learned how to refine it. When the minerals were boiled, the salt was absorbed into the food. The other minerals were discarded. Jesus’ followers must preserve their eagerness to share the good news with others, even when the world persecutes them (vv.11-12). If they lose their zest for the gospel, they become useless. They no longer help others learn about and welcome God’s kingdom.

Light Jesus clarifies how his followers are a light for others. • A city built on a high hill glimmered in the night from the lamps lit by its many citizens. It was easy to spot against the otherwise dark landscape. • In Jesus’ day most people lived in houses that had only one or two rooms. Given the absence of electricity and artificial light, people placed a lamp on a stand in the middle of the room in order to maximize visibility.

Season & illuminate This passage itself doesn’t clarify how exactly we are to be salt and light, but the surrounding passages in Matthew’s Gospel do. We hear about managing our anger and sexual desires, keeping our word, and loving our enemies. In these ways and more we participate in Jesus’ ministry to bring people into God’s kingdom. (our-sundayreadings.wordpress.com)

UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING (Isaiah 58:7-10)

Wishing for the good old days In 587 BC the Babylonians destroyed Jerusalem and the temple. When the Persians defeated the Babylonians about fifty years later, they allowed the Israelites to rebuild. God’s people then expected to become as strong a nation as they once had been. They were disappointed: their rebuilt temple was much smaller, and life in the city was hard.

Upholding the whole law As the Jews rebuilt their lives in Jerusalem, some obeyed only parts of God’s law, like fasting and bringing sacrifices to the temple. They didn’t help those in need. Yet in the law God gave to Moses at Sinai, he didn’t only command certain rituals, he also commanded care for the poor and oppressed (vv.6-7). Also, given their past losses and trauma, God’s people should especially try to take care of those in need. If God’s people obey the entire law, then when they call for help, God will come to their aid (v.9a). • The dark days will give way to the brightness of joy and success (8a, 10b) • God will heal the lingering pain, guilt, and sorrow from the Babylonian invasion (8b) • God will march behind his people, giving them protection (8c)

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION Little Light of Mine

“Have you ever driven at night and realized you were driving without your head lights on? Or perhaps you notice someone else driving without their lights on. You might think to yourself, “I sure hope that driver turns their lights on so other drivers can see them.” Or when you realize your lights are off, “oh my, I can’t believe I’ve been driving all this time with my lights off!” Either way, fellow travelers need the light of the other for the sake of the other. Its similar in the Stewardship way of life! We all have lights, some choose to leave them off, some don’t know how to turn the light on, and others might be shining so bright they bring darkness to its knees. We need your light! Let it shine. You know why, as Jesus said in today’s Gospel, “your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Let it shine! (catholicdioceseofwichita.org)

La Pequeñita Luz

¿Alguna vez, al manejar de noche, te diste cuenta de que estabas manejando sin las luces encendidas? O puede que veas a otra persona manejando sin las luces encendidas. Quizás pienses: “Espero que ese conductor encienda las luces para que los demás puedan verlo”. O cuando te das cuenta de que tus luces están apagadas, ” ¡Madre mía, no me puedo creer que haya estado manejando todo este tiempo con las luces apagadas!” De todos modos, los viajeros necesitan la luz de los demás por el bien de los demás. Lo mismo sucede en la forma de vivir de Stewardship. Todos tenemos luces. Algunos optan por dejarlas apagadas, otros no saben cómo encenderlas, y otros brillan tanto que vencen por completo a la oscuridad. ¡Necesitamos tu luz! Déjala brillar. Ya sabes por qué, como dijo Jesús en el Evangelio de hoy: “Que... brille la luz de ustedes ante los hombres, para que viendo las buenas obras que ustedes hacen, den gloria a su Padre, que está en los cielos.” ¡Que brille!

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS NEEDS YOU!

SIGN UP FOR NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS Individual registration for the National Eucharistic Congress in July 2024 has been extended to February 2023. If you are interested in learning more about the Congress and possibly being part of a diocesan delegation to the July 17-21, 2024 Congress in Indianapolis, please contact Father Tim S. Hickey as soon as possible at tshickey@icloud.com or at 203-996-7854 (text/voice). This is not a commitment to attend but only an expression of your interest in the Congress. Please be sure to include the number of tickets you are interested in and your parish.

Q: I don't understand why Judas' betrayal of Jesus is so important. Surely the Chief Priests and others who wanted him dead knew who he was and could have found him without Judas. And didn't Peter also betray Jesus by denying him three times? Was his betrayal less harmful than Judas'?

A: Practically the Temple leaders could have found and arrested Jesus when he was out in public but, as Scripture says, they feared the crowds who might riot upon such an act (e.g. Matt 21:46). To find Jesus at a more private moment would surely have required more "inside knowledge," which Judas could provide. Theologically, no one could lay a hand on Jesus until his "hour" had come. He was always able, until he freely chose to lay down his life, to evade their attempts at arrest (e.g. Jn 8:20). This may also have caused the Temple leaders to conclude they needed inside information. And while God could have allowed another way for Jesus to be turned over, Judas fulfills Scripture, which says: Even my close friend, who ate my bread, has turned against me (Ps. 41:9). Betrayal and denial are fundamentally different. Through betrayal Judas handed Jesus over. Denial, while surely sinful, is to deny association with Jesus, and does not amount to handing him over. Thus it is less harmful to Jesus than what Judas did.

Q: My best friend (since Kindergarten) is renewing her marriage vows. I stood up for her when she was married in the Church 10 years ago and she's asked me to do the same this time around--except that she has since left the Catholic Church and this ceremony is taking place in a Methodist church. Am I permitted to witness the renewal of her vows? It breaks my heart that she no longer believes in much of the teaching of the Church but she appears to be still searching for spiritual fulfillment.

A: There are cases when a Catholic ought not be present at a wedding, or wedding related ceremony. For example, when a Catholic is marrying outside the Church without permission, or, when one of the parties is unqualified to enter the marriage (e.g. when one or both have been married before and there are no annulments). In such cases, Catholics, even family members, ought not attend such ceremonies. However in the case you describe, there are no canonical issues involved. In the first place, this is not actually a wedding, or the celebration of a sacrament per se, just a renewal of vows for an anniversary. Secondly, even if this were an actual marriage, and presuming both were free to marry, it would seem, from what you sadly state, she has left the Catholic Church by formal act. Thus she is not obliged to follow all the Catholic norms for weddings, such as having her marriage witnessed by a Catholic priest or deacon. Thus, we are left with a prudential judgment on your part. Usually in such cases we ought to do what will best keep the relationship strong, and the lines of communication open. This will likely help a possible return to the Church. To unnecessarily defer from attending might cause hurt or alienation and make your friend's return to the Church even less likely. Your attendance at this renewal of vows, even standing for her as one of the "wedding party" does not, of itself, affirm her decision to leave the Church. Rather, it would seem, it is an affirmation of ten years of marriage, which is certainly something worth celebrating. (Msgr. Charles Pope-- Our Sunday Visitor)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lord, hold the center together

Author and black Catholic educator Therese Wilson Favors wrote some rousing words for today's observance, the National Day of Prayer for the African American Family: "At times when the strain of life is heaviest within our families, 'holding-on power' is needed. Perseverance is the glue squeezed out from the soul and spoken in prayer at the midnight hour. Perseverance is the spiritual machine needed to break down the mountain and push through from weakness to strength. Lord, let me hold on just a little bit longer." Pray for black families and all families vulnerable to social forces that embattle them. (Preparetheword)

QUINTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Señor, mantén el centro unido

La escritora y educadora católica negra Therese Wilson Favors escribió unas palabras motivadoras para la celebración de hoy, Día Nacional de Oración por la Familia Afroamericana: "En los momentos en que la vida se vuelve más ardua en el seno de nuestras familias, es necesario 'poder aguantar.' La perseverancia es el adhesivo que se desprende del alma y se pronuncia en la oración a medianoche. La perseverancia es la herramienta espiritual necesaria para derribar la montaña y pasar de la debilidad a la fortaleza. Señor, permíteme resistir sólo un poco más." Reza por las familias negras y por todas las familias vulnerables a las fuerzas sociales que las acosan.