



Established in 1906

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday:
4:00 pm Vigil

Sunday:
9:00 am
11:00 am en Español

Mon, Tues, Thurs:
8:00 am

Wednesday 6:00 pm Español &
Friday 6:00 pm

RECONCILIATION

Saturday:
8:30 am to 9:30 am

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 5:30 pm
(closed 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm)

Friday:
8:30 am - 12:00 noon

Rev. Victor C. Yakubu
Parochial Administrator

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Julius Kayiwa
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Francis Staab
Parish Deacon

Parish Secretary
Amelia Kent

Parish Manager
Donna Wicker

Hispanic Community
Oralia Cano

Facility Manager
Steve Couch

St. Mary Roman Catholic Church
Iglesia Católica Romana de Santa María



302 E. Spring Street, Kingman, AZ 86401
Office: (928) 377-3435 / www.stmarykingman.com

SUNDAY, June 26th, 2022



13th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

[Jesus] answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." - Lk 9:60

Jesús le replicó: "Deja que los muertos entierren a sus muertos. Tú ve y anuncia el Reino de Dios". - Lc 9, 60

Parish Mission Statement:

We the people of St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, Called by God,
Approach the Father in Word and Sacrament, Live relationship with Jesus in Catholic
Community, Seek the Called in the Love of the Holy Spirit

MASS INTENTIONS, DAILY GOSPEL**Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time****June 26, 2022**

Year C

Sat. June 25	Lk 9:51-62	4:00 p.m.	+	Seigworth Family (Chris Seigworth)
Sun. June 26 <i>Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Lk.9:51-62	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.		People of the Parish Mimi Timko (Carol Spawn)
Mon. June 27 <i>St. Cyril of Alexandria</i>	Mt. 8:18-22	8:00 a.m.	+	Alvaro Cobian (Rebeca Cobian)
Tues. June 28 <i>St. Irenaeus, Bishop & Martyr</i>	Mt. 8:23-27	8:00 a.m.		Mr. & Mrs. N.B. Camacho (Anonymous)
Wed. June 29 <i>St. Peter and Paul Apostles</i>	Mt. 16:13-19	6:00 p.m.		Christopher Spawn (Carol Spawn)
Thurs. June 30 <i>The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church</i>	Lk. 9:1-8	8:00 a.m.	+	Natalia Cerezo (Maria Agduyeng)
Fri. July 1 <i>St. Junipero Seirra, Priest</i>	Mt. 9:9-13	6:00 p.m.		St. Mary Staff (Carol Spawn)
Sat. July 2 <i>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	Lk. 10:1-12, 17-20	4:00 p.m.	+	Mary Simental (Toni Penfold)
Sun. July 3 <i>Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	Lk. 10:1-12, 17-20	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.		People of the Parish Rita Ferdon & Family (Jan Brooks)

Reflection for Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year C
Living the Gospel in a Secular World
Douglas Sousa, STL

How do I fit the practice of my faith into the demands of everyday life?

Putting our faith into action is the challenge of every believer. We are pulled between making time for prayer and good works on the one hand and raising a family and holding down a job on the other. It is difficult to pray the rosary or study the Bible when supper needs to be prepared, the kids need a ride to soccer practice or when we have to work overtime on a project. It is difficult to keep our minds focused on the kingdom of God when so many other demands are made on our time and energy.

Nonetheless, Jesus calls us to love him no matter what the circumstances of our life may be. We are to give ourselves totally in his service whether we are a priest or parking lot attendant, nun, or nurse.

This Sunday's readings give us some important clues on how to balance the practice of our faith with the demands of life in the 21st century.

In the second reading, Saint Paul reminds us to "serve one another through love." Love is the calling of every Christian. It makes everything we do pleasing to God. By adding a little love, we can take whatever we're doing and make it an opportunity to serve Jesus. When we offer our thoughts, words, and actions up to God in love, then the demands of job and family no longer get in the way of our life of faith, but actually help us to grow closer to God and others. They become opportunities for prayer as we draw on the power of his Spirit to enable us to love as he does.



The gospel reading gives us another clue. Jesus tells one of the men who wishes to follow him, "The Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Jesus had no permanent place in this world. It is a reminder to us that we have no permanent home here either. Our final destination is heaven. We are not meant to get too comfortable here on earth. Whether we have been blessed with abundance or

are struggling to get by, our homes and possessions are not ours to keep. Remembering that helps keep our work in perspective. We are called to something greater than the status and prestige that money promises.

Finally, we must be always ready to serve the needy around us. In today's gospel, two of the people who approach Jesus have excuses for not following him. But Jesus did not have time to wait around for them. It was "now or never." How many times have we used the demands of family life or of our job as an excuse not to practice charity? Jesus tells us very plainly that when we fail to feed the hungry or give drink to the thirsty, it is really him whom we are ignoring. Are our heads buried so deeply in the details of our everyday lives that we miss Jesus when he passes by? If we are to become holy in the 21st century we must not let our busy schedules be an excuse for not doing good.

We do not have to give up on the hope of becoming saints because we have jobs and families. By offering our work up to God in love, by not valuing the accumulation of wealth too highly and by not allowing our busy lives to be an excuse to overlook the needs of others, we can discover a sure path to holiness in our everyday lives.

Douglas Sousa, S.T.L.

Sharing our Gifts

What We Gave Back to God

June 19, 2022

Attendance 488

Needed to meet weekly expenses	\$ 8,000.00
Plate Collection	\$ 6,164.66
Online Giving	\$ 1,090.58
Building Fund	\$ 744.60

May 2022

Monthly Operating Expense	\$31,685.36
Monthly Plate Collection	\$35,644.11
Deficit or Gain	+\$ 3,958.75

Our Daily Bread

Thank you for your continued support of Our Daily Bread ministry. We have made and distributed 8,583 sandwiches year to date, and 313,880 since inception (September 2013).

WE ARE IN NEED OF MONEY DONATIONS, FOR LICENSE, APRONS, HAIRNETS. You may drop your donation off at the Parish Center.

WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TWO MONDAYS PER MONTH 9:00AM TO 11:30AM

If you are interested, please contact David Hunter at 714-726-6130.

Thank you, once again!

Donate your Change

Be sure to pick up a special offering box or can at the back of the church. Write that it's for the building fund, your name and phone number on it before you turn it in.

All monies will go toward future building improvement projects in the parish campus.

Brick Garden

We are continuing to take brick orders. This is a wonderful way to pay honor to someone you love or to be remembered as part of St. Mary history for years to come. Bricks are \$50 for a 4x8 and \$100 for a 8x8. Call the Parish Office for an order form or to place your order.

The brick garden is growing — don't miss the opportunity to be a part of it.

Featured Advertiser



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Thanks to our advertisers we receive our bulletins—free of charge.

Show your appreciation by patronizing their business and mentioning their bulletin ads.

Parish News and Events

Parish Events This Week

Sunday, June 26

CERS 11:45am Rm. 5,6,7

Monday, June 27

ODB 9:00am Kitchen

Tuesday, June 28

Wednesday, June 29

Rosary 10:00am Rm. 5,6,7
CERS 6:00pm Rm. 5,6,7

Thursday, June 30

Friday, July 1

CERS 6:00pm Rm. 5,6,7

Saturday, July 2



Gift Shop

Hours of Operation

**Saturdays,
Before & After Mass**

**Sundays,
Before & After Masses**

We have medals, bibles, rosaries, Chapel veils, prayer cards, missals, large print bibles, religious candles, various statues.

Come soon to the Gift Shop for the best selection.

*****Altar Flowers****

Parishioners now have the opportunity to contribute to the Altar Flowers “in memory” or “in honor” of a loved one.

Donation is \$50.00. There are two bouquets for the altar. It is your choice of donating for one or two.

The names will be published in the bulletin.



**St. Mary
Community**

We are in the process of putting together an updated History of St Mary and need your help. Please submit any photos, stories, or memories you may have of your time here at St. Mary.

You can either bring them to Donna in the Parish Office or email them to donna.mariew@yahoo.com



During the month of May, St. Mary Conference assisted 474 people in our Client Services with such things as food, clothing, laundry, propane, gasoline, and more. Sales of donated goods in our Thrift Store and Warehouse support these efforts along with the many hours put in by our dedicated volunteers.

We invite you to share in this ministry of experiencing God in serving people living in poverty. Stop by the Store at 218 Beale St. or call 928-753-4399 for more information.

Events & News



Please pray for all who are sick or infirmed:



Carl Cena, Lori Davies, Robert Comstock, Linda Pinnick, Carol Kreft, Diane Schatz, Stella Dombrowski, Ray Martin, Rita Cownie, Mark Kucharek, Fr. Charlie Urnick, Orelia Cano, James Cleary, Angie Huizenga, Sandra Lyons, James Driscoll, Michael Barrett, Diane Seiler, Joan Anamassi, Frankie Daiber, Fermin Esquibel, Joseph Matthews, Richard Potts, Mary Woodward, Toni Grzechowika, Ron Tuohey Sr., Don Hall, Danny Weatherwax, Richard Fernandez, Anthony Fernandez, Susan & Steve Richards, Ventura Villalobos, Jaime Fernandez, Susan Regino, Ellsie Taylor, Ryan Smith, Olivia Sanchez, Ann Peterson, Helena Hall, Gabriel Esquivel, Teresita Mocato, Aurora Marchece, Caitlin Amburgue, Peyton Mann, Jaime O'Niell, Art Penfold, Jerrod Wetzal, Teresa Stafford, Jacque Sweetman, Fernando Galvan Jr, Gary Gallant, Rocco DiConza, Rick Maiero, Alex Freiday, Neal Kinsinger, Jimmy Gifford, Nora Wisely, Mike DeGraff, Marietta Green, Yolanda Gallegos, Brad Glowacki, Jan Brooks, Rita Middendorf, Ann Collins, Dale & Alan Rodberg

Names Will Only be Posted for 4 Months



Please pray for all those who have died, especially;

Gaynelle McCasland, Mary Guित्रon, Manuela Bañuelos Maria Smedley



First Saturday Devotion

Saturday, August 6, 2022

11:00am to 12noon Chapel

Altar Flowers



Thank you, to the Hispanic Community for the beautiful flowers

Fr. Victor wants to extend an invitation to the parish community to make donations for altar flowers.

Come to Adoration

Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and rest.

Mk 6:31 Look to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before Him endured the cross disregarding its shame, and has taken

His seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

(Hebrews 12:2) The idea of fixing our eyes on Jesus is so simple that even a young child can understand it. As you kneel or sit before the Lord, call to mind your favorite images of Jesus-- with His Blessed Mother, the wedding feast at Cana, the Transfiguration, feeding the 5,000 people or perhaps healing the hemorrhaging woman. Many people hold two images of Jesus dear to their hearts: The crucified Christ and the Lord seated at the right hand of His Father in glory. When we begin to fix our eyes on one of these images and focus our attention on Jesus in the Sacrament, a couple of things begin to happen.

- 1. The distractions of normal life, with all of its responsibilities, problems, and demands, fade away.
2. We begin to feel as if we have entered into heaven. We feel as if we too are "seated" with Jesus "in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 2:6) We get a taste of what it will be like when there will be no more suffering or pain, when we will reunited with all of our loved ones, and when every hope and dream of ours will finally be fulfilled. If you are new and would like to adore Our Lord in the Chapel, please come to the Parish Office to sign in.

We cordially invite all parishioners to join us for Adoration and Benediction every Sunday afternoon at 4:00pm. Don't miss this opportunity to be with Our Lord Face to face.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2022

- Sunday:** 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21/Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Gal 5:1, 13-18/Lk 9:51-62
- Monday:** Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23/Mt 8:18-22
- Tuesday:** Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27
- Wednesday:** *Vigil:* Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal 1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
- Thursday:** Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8
- Friday:** Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131/Mt 9:9-13
- Saturday:** Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17
- Next Sunday:** Is 66:10-14c/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 [1]/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

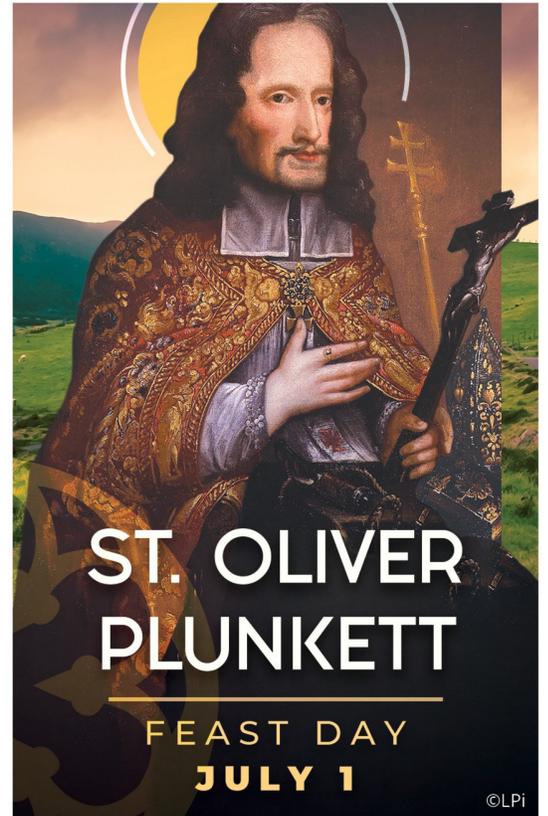
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2022

- Sunday:** 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles
- Thursday:** The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
- Friday:** St. Junipero Serra, Priest
- Next Sunday:** 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time; St. Thomas, Apostle

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

God calls us in the midst of ordinary things. Often only looking for God in the dramatic, spectacular, the ritual or the sacred places, we miss that He is walking beside us. Every moment of every day, in every circumstance and experience, God is calling to us, "Follow me." Sometimes, we are too distracted to hear this call. Other times, we would rather ignore it or pretend it wasn't heard. God, however, is very persistent. Whether we fine tune our hearing to receive this invitation now or when we close our eyes in death, we need to make a choice. The choice involves leaving some things behind and moving forward, taking risks. Choosing to keep focused and single-minded, the lens we then use to see our world and one another is God's, not our own. Life is no longer about what is important or matters to me but what matters to God. We acquire a new filter and are asked to use that filter to make choices, establish priorities, and determine what direction we will take, and how to love. Once we accept God's invitation, we cannot keep looking back to what was left behind, only forward to the surprises yet to come.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

Saint Oliver Plunkett was the last Roman Catholic Martyr to die in England. He was canonized in 1975, the first new Irish saint in almost 700 years.

Oliver was born in Loughcrew, Oldcastle, County Meath in November 1625, the son of the Baron of Loughcrew. As a young man, he wanted to become a priest, but it was illegal to travel to the continent to enter seminary. Even so, he undertook the dangerous journey with four other young men and a Papal Envoy. They were pursued by English privateers, storms at sea, and robbers on land. However, Oliver entered Rome in 1647, and was admitted to the Irish College. He was an excellent student and was ordained on January 1, 1654. Oliver remained in Rome, studied law and served as chaplain at Spienza University, ministered at Santo Spirito hospital, and cared for the poor and ill. By 1657 he was a professor of Theology and later of Apologetics or Controversies at Propaganda College.

The 1650s were a difficult time in for Catholics in Ireland, the majority of population, as Cromwell passed many penal laws against them, and the practice of Catholicism was banned. During this time Oliver was appointed by Irish bishops to be their agent in Rome. Following the Restoration of Monarchy, Pope Clement IX appointed Oliver Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland 1669. Oliver returned to a country where the Catholic Church was in disarray and divided. He had to travel largely incognito and perform his duties in makeshift locations. He is credited with unifying the Church and in traveling across the eleven dioceses under his purview, confirming thousands, and ordaining several priests.

In 1673 persecution of Catholics was again on the rise and bishops were banned. Oliver went into hiding, but in 1679 he was arrested and charged with treason. He was hanged, drawn, and quartered at Tyburn in July 1681. Before his death he publicly forgave those responsible.

Parish News

REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

In order to baptize your child in our parish, the following documents are required before you begin the process.

- 1. Must be registered parishioner
2. Must have child's birth certificate
3. Godparents must be a practicing Catholic, in good standing. This means they have received Confirmation (certificate is required). If they are married, a copy of their Catholic marriage is required. A letter of good standing and proof of completion of a baptismal preparation is required for both parents and Godparents These forms will be included in packet.



Preparation takes time. Please contact Donna Wicker at (928) 377-3435 ext 2 to receive all necessary forms and information.

I can not set a date for baptism unless all requirements are met.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING ????

Surely some of you have been thinking and praying about joining the Choir?! Surely you can see and hear the need for help?! If you think you might have anything to add to the effort, no matter how large or small, if you feel called at all, please step forward. You are needed and wanted. If you play an instrument of any kind, even if you're a novice, come see how we can team up to make our music ministry better! You don't have to participate every Mass or even every week. Pray about it. Is God Calling You ??? Is this the call? It's a wonderful, spirit filled, and fun Ministry. Pray about it some more and check it out! Feel free to check with any of us after Mass, call the office, reach out in any way for more information. You could even just join us for practice on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm in the Church. Everyone is WELCOME !!!

Rosary Group

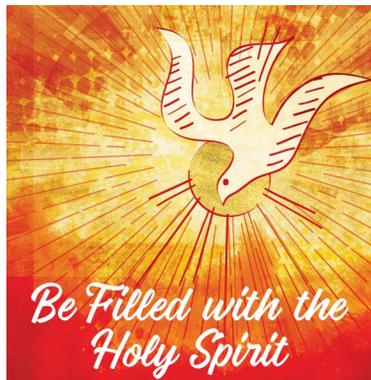
Wednesdays at 10:00am in Parish Center: Room 5,6,7



If you are unable to attend the Wednesday rosary, but would like to be included in prayer, please leave your prayer petition on the clipboards in the Gift store. God Bless

Congratulations to all those who received Confirmation

- Jorge Banuelos
Sophia Castillo
Presley cobb
David Dinglasan
Samantha Figueroa
Vianney Gonzalez
Lizzette Guevara
Penelope Kennelly
Jocelyn Lozano
Michelle Tirado
Nathan Zorn



- Ashton Gatineau
Kimberly Lozano
Yareli Lozano
Mariana Martinez
Chelsea NguyenAtanacio Nunez-Aguilar
Miguel Nunea-Aguilar
Aurora Palmer
Keille Serrano
Ashley Urtiz
Tiffany Goff

Certificates are available in the parish office

The 12 Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary

Faithful Catholics consecrate to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in a spirit of reparation, the First Friday of each month. Jesus himself made the following promises to St. Margaret Mary in favor of those who practice and promote this devotion.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their families and will unite families that are divided.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death
5. I will bestow the blessings of Heaven on all their enterprises
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection
9. I will bless every place in which an Image of my Heart shall be exposed and honored and will imprint My love on the hearts of those who would wear this image on their person. I will also destroy in them all disordered movements.
10. I will give the priests who are animated by a tender devotion to my Divine Heart the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be effaced
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in my disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments. My divine Heart shall be the safe refuge in this last moment.



Celebrating of the Feast of the Sacred Heart

The devotions attached to these promises are:

- Receiving Communion frequently
- First Fridays: going to Confession and receiving the Eucharist on the first Friday of each month for nine consecutive months. Many parishes will offer public First Friday devotions; if they do, you must perform First Fridays publicly. If it isn't so offered in your parish, you can do this privately, going to Confession, receiving the Eucharist, and offering your prayers for the intention of the Holy Father.
- Holy Hour: Eucharistic Adoration for one hour on Thursdays ("Could you not watch one hour with me?"). Holy Hour can be made alone or as part of a group with formal prayers.

Parish News and Events

Servicios de Consejería



Caridades Católicas ofrece Servicios de Consejería/Asesoramiento a bajo costo...

para individuos, familias, parejas, niños y adolescentes para tratar una variedad de problemas, entre los que se incluyen, pero no limitado a: Abuso, trauma, pena y pérdida, depresión, comunicación y mucho más. Los servicios se brindan en varios sitios a lo largo del valle. Tarifas en una escala móvil, según los ingresos y el tamaño de la familia, y ahora brindamos asesoramiento a través de algunos planes de AHCCCS.

Para programar una cita llame al 602-749.4405.

**El Señor oye el clamor de los pobres.
Job 34:20-28**

Para aprender más sobre este programa o donar hacia esta causa, llame al 602-285-1999 y visítenos en www.catholiccharitiesaz.org



Hope is a FREE emotional support bot providing encouragement and strategies to manage everyday stress and anxiety.

Text "HI" to Hope at 1-202-949-7249 and get instant support
Start Code: CCCSAZ



Catholic Charities offers the service through a partnership between Catholic Charities USA and X2AI

Counseling Services



Catholic Charities provides low cost Counseling Services...

for individuals, families, couples, children and adolescents to deal with a variety of issues, including, but not limited to: Abuse, trauma, grief and loss, depression, communication and more! Services are provided at multiple sites throughout the valley. Fees on a sliding scale, based on income and family size, and we are now providing counseling through some AHCCCS plans.

To set an appointment call 602.749.4405.

**The Lord hears the cry of the poor.
Job 34:20-28**

To learn more about this program or to donate to this cause, call 602-285-1999 and visit us at www.catholiccharitiesaz.org

Catholic Charities

1594 N. Oatman Road
Bullhead City, AZ

(928) 758-4872

(928) 708-7295

Hours of operation
12noon to 5:00pm



Knights of Columbus

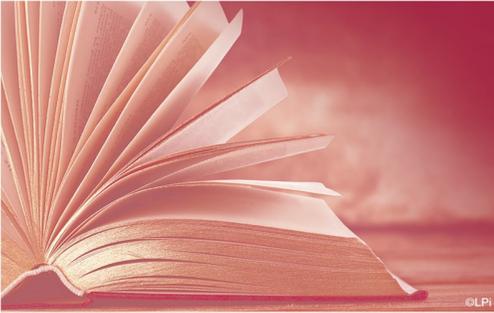
Together we're empowering Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work, and in the community. We are inviting all Catholic men age 18 and over to consider joining us. The Knights are known as "the strong right arm of the Catholic Church" and were founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. We have recently been described as "good men at work doing Godly things; this is what the world needs". Our mission is to live up to that! Where there's a need there's a Knight! Our Council has been growing and becoming more vibrant and will continue that growth only with YOU! Surely you see us in action around the Parish. If you have ever thought about joining us, stop thinking, PRAY and JOIN! You can join for free online at www.kofc.org and Click on JOIN. When prompted put in Council # 3145. The Knights meet the first Thursday of every month at 6pm and would love to meet you! If you are a Knight new to Kingman, please consider transferring your membership to our Council. If you are a Knight visiting our area and happen to be here on a meeting night, feel free to join us as well. For more information please talk to any Knight after Mass, stop by our table in the vestibule, email steve.couch51@gmail.com, call or text 402-415-1296 or call 928-377-3435 ext. 4.

Campus Corner

Peace Be With You! Thanks for helping to keep our Campus beautiful and safe. Covid continues to raise its ugly head around our Campus, Town, and Country. Please continue to use hand sanitizers, keep safe distance as much as possible, and consider wearing a face covering. We are sanitizing the Church, Chapel and Parish Center regularly.

Lots of Spring projects around campus, inside and outside. If you'd like to add your assistance in any way around Campus, please call the office at 928-377-3435 extension 4, or call 402-415-1296, or email at scouch@stmarykingman.com. There's always something that can use an extra pair of hands and ideas. As always, if you see something that needs attention or if you need assistance with anything let us know. Food For Thought: The Heat is on! Stay COOL and Pray for RAIN!! Keep Smiling and Praying! Peace And May God Bless Us All!

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant. (1 Kgs 19:21)



PSALM

You are my inheritance, O Lord. (Ps 16)



SECOND READING

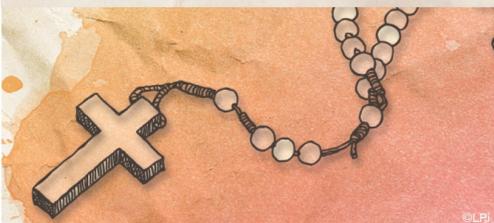
For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. (Gal 5:13)



GOSPEL

As they were proceeding on their journey someone said to him,
"I will follow you wherever you go."
(Lk 9:57)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

And to another he said, "Follow me." In every moment of every day, in every circumstance and experience, God is calling us. We can easily get distracted and not hear it or simply ignore it, pretending it wasn't even heard. When we do hear it and favorably respond, there are some conditions that must be met. Jesus makes it clear that once we say yes to his invitation, we must stay focused and forge ahead. We cannot keep looking behind or worry about unfinished business. There are some tasks, and discipleship is one, that require our full devotion.

There are many "masters" vying for our attention. We need something or someone to give us direction. Human nature requires it. Our motives and actions reveal what has our allegiance. It is tempting to give ourselves to masters that lure us with intriguing promises. When given the choice between a "master" that promises worldly success, abundant wealth, status, privilege, and security versus a "master" that asks for self-sacrifice, hardship, suffering, ridicule, and death, to whom do we go? While the promise of immediate pleasure is enticing, there is always a catch. For all that secular masters can promise, they always keep us looking behind, checking on ourselves, second guessing choices, calculating options, and being slaves to excessive worry. Our guard can never come down. Only one master really promises life: Jesus Christ. Hearing his call, we either trust him or we don't.

Saying yes to following Christ does come with a risk. But it also comes with the brightness of future hopes and dreams. There is no need to keep looking behind. Sins are forgiven and regrets serve no effective purpose. God is not there. He's moved beyond all that stuff. God is in the today and the tomorrow and what he can continually do with our daily affirmation to follow Him. All we need to do is be obedient. St. Gianna Molla is credited with saying, "The stillness of prayer is the most essential condition for fruitful action. Before all else, the disciple kneels down." Begin with prayer. We will not only hear God's call but find the courage to trust that He will guide us where we need to be. God uses us in the most ordinary of ways through the simple daily expression of our lives.



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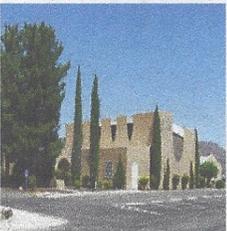


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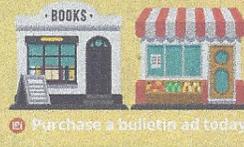

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