

Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



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Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,
Administrador Parroquial

Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial

Confesión el Sábado:
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María—3:20pm

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.

Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María— 9:40am

Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

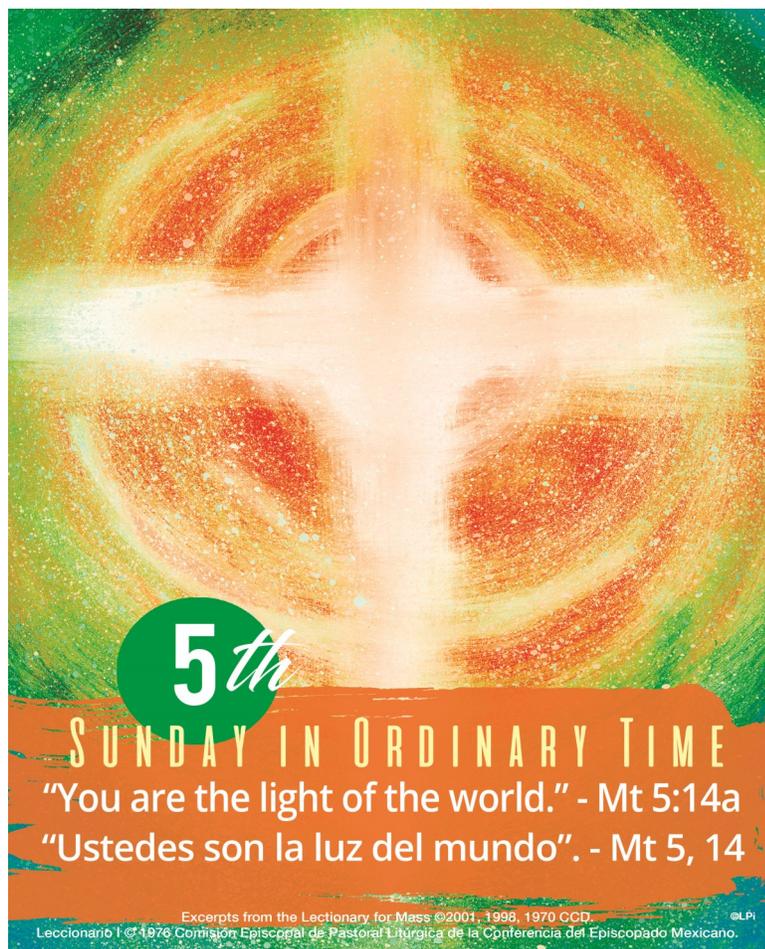
Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Lunes: Adoración 7:00am y Misa a las 7:30am

Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz con
Adoración

Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am
Misa en Honor de Virgen María



February 5th, 2023

Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar

Confession on Saturday:

By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary - 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Monday: 7:00am Adoration & Mass 7:30am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

Friday: At 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with
Adoration

Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass
In Honor of the Virgin Mary

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Year A
Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time – February 5, 2023
Fr. Brent Bowen

This past Thanksgiving I had the chance to prepare a meal for my Dominican community. I was in charge of the main event: the turkey. Fortunately, cooking is one of my favorite hobbies, so in preparation for the big day, I compiled a list of recipes that got good reviews online. While each of the recipes themselves were unique, they had one thing in common: nearly all of them called for a liberal use of salt for seasoning. I discovered that when one brines (salts) the turkey a day in advance, the end product is indeed better.

In today's Gospel, Christ calls us "the salt of the earth." Salt is not only good for preserving foods, but as I discovered at Thanksgiving, it also has the ability to bring out their complex flavors, sometimes in ways that we had never known before. How can we apply this insight to our lives?

On the day of his election to the papacy, Pope Benedict XVI said something that I will always remember:

If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. Only in this friendship do we experience beauty and liberation.

When we first encounter Jesus, we may begin to contemplate what it may be like to follow him. In following Jesus, will I risk giving up my personality, my life goals, my friendships? What will it mean for my reputation? Will following Jesus mean giving up things that I treasure? In calling his disciples the "salt of the earth," Jesus invites us to witness, by both word and example, the joy of living with Christ, bringing the Good News of Jesus to every aspect of human life and society.

So often, our task in witnessing to Christ before others is to show, as Pope Benedict said, that a life in following Jesus is not bland, boring, or without adventure. On the contrary! When we make the decision to follow the Lord Jesus as His disciple, it is then that we are able to see God at work in every area of our life. When we "salt" our families, our careers, and all our personal ambitions, the "flavor" of life is enhanced.

That is not to say that a life of discipleship is always easy. Jesus also calls us "the light of the world." At our baptism, we (or our parents and godparents on our behalf) received a candle lit from the paschal candle. The priest says, "Receive the light of Christ . . . this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly so that . . . enlightened by Christ, [you] may walk always as children of the light and, persevering in the faith, may run to meet the Lord when he comes with all the Saints in the heavenly court."

It can be easy to recognize God's presence in brightness, when things are going well in our lives: when our families are flourishing, our careers provide fulfillment, and our relationships provide friendship and intimacy. But what about in the darkness, in the times when things are not going well? How could God possibly be present when we experience the loss of loved ones, divorce, or furlough? Our faith teaches us that God is present through it all, but sometimes we only recognize Him in hindsight. As "the light of the world," Jesus commissions us to bring the light, to be instruments of His grace to all the dark corners, but also to allow our brothers and sisters in Christ to be that light for us when we find ourselves in darkness.

The laity, in particular, play an important role in bringing the light of Christ to our world. Empowered by the sacrament of Baptism, the laity are called to sanctify the world through engaging in the ordinary concerns of life. Each Catholic can prayerfully ask the question, "God, how are you calling me to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world in my spheres of influence?" If we are faithful, God will gradually reveal his purposes to us. May each of us have the grace to ask and the courage to respond when we hear God's response.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your wound shall quickly be healed. (Is 58:8)

Psalm:

The just man is a light in darkness to the upright. (Ps 112)
Or Alleluia.

Second Reading:

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
proclaiming the mystery of God,
I did not come with sublimity of words or of wisdom.
For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 2:1-2)

Gospel:

"You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket."
(Mt 5:14-15)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We can't be afraid to season our lives with the truth,
even if we face a world of picky eaters. Christians,
don't be afraid of flavor!

Or

It's hard to shine the light of truth in a world that so
often prefers darkness. But God has built his city on
a hill, not a valley. His glory, by definition, exists to be
proclaimed, as salt exists to give flavor.

Observances for the week of February 5, 2023

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- Wednesday:** St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
- Friday:** St. Scholastica, Virgin
- Saturday:** Our Lady of Lourdes
- Next Sunday:** 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day



Saint of the week

Venerable Father Mazzuchelli was one of the first Catholic missionaries to the Great Lakes region traveling the vast area via horseback, canoes, and on foot. He worked alongside new immigrant settlers and native tribes to establish over 24 Catholic communities.

Prayer

Prayer for the Beatification of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli

Lord Jesus, you called your servant, Samuel, even in early youth, to leave home and all for a Dominican life of charity in preaching your holy gospel. You gave him abundant graces of Eucharistic love, devotion to your holy Mother of Sorrows, and a consuming zeal for souls. Grant, we beseech you, that his fervent love and labors for you may become more widely known, to a fruitful increase of your Mystical Body, to his exaltation and to our own constant growth in devoted love of you who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God, world without end. Amen.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

If ...

It's a surprising little word — if. For such a short word, it holds an abundance of excuses.

Personally, I could buy a new car if I had a dollar for every time I used the word “if” to explain away my own flaws. “If I wasn’t so tired. If we had more money. If the kids weren’t always on my last nerve. If I had more talent. If life wasn’t so hard.”

If, if, if.

I don’t always feel like being the salt of the earth. Can’t someone else season the dish? Sometimes it’s more than I want to give, more than I want to do, more than I want to be. Sharing my bread, sheltering the oppressed, clothing the naked, and accompanying my neighbor — doing these things in the literal or figurative sense can be completely exhausting. Mediocrity is so easy. It’s so comfortable.

But *if*. It looms again, that short but powerful word.

“If” can be deep with excuses, but it can also be wide with possibility. If I bring it all to God. If I stop relying on my own abilities. If I prayed more than I talked. If I make my heart firm. If my faith does not rest on human wisdom.

If not me, who? If not now, when?

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.” — Matthew 5:14

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the “Miraculous Medal” and why is it called that?

Answer:

The medal of the Immaculate Conception that has come to be called simply the “Miraculous Medal” dates back to an apparition of Mary to Saint Catherine Laboure, who was then a novice sister with the Daughters of Charity. On November 27, 1830, Our Lady appeared to her standing on a globe, with shafts of light streaming from her hands and the words, “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee,” surrounding the image. In the same vision, Catherine saw a capital “M” with a cross above it and below two hearts. Catherine seemed to hear a voice telling her to have what she saw struck as a medal and a promise that those who wore the medal would have the protection and intercession of the Mother of God. The first 1,500 of medals were distributed in 1832. Many miraculous favors were attributed to the use of the medal.

Saint Catherine’s “Miraculous Medal” is among the recognizable and popular symbols of modern Catholicism. Reflecting on its widespread use, the 2001 Vatican document, “Directory on Popular Piety and Liturgy,” observes that the medal “recalls the mystery of Redemption, the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary. It signifies the mediatory role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mystery of the Church, the relationship between Heaven and earth, this life and eternal life.”

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 5, 2023

- Sunday:** Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16
- Monday:** Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56
- Tuesday:** Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13
- Wednesday:** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1 2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
- Thursday:** Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30
- Friday:** Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 Mk 7:31-37
- Saturday:** Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
- Next Sunday:** Sir 15:15-20/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34 (1b)/1 Cor 2:6 10/Mt 5:17-37 or 5:20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I recently decided to learn to cook. As I sit at the feet of various YouTube cooking masters, I notice how much of cooking is adding ingredients that don't provide any more nourishment, like herbs and other seasonings. But man! They make all the difference because they make the meal delightful to eat and share.

Jesus calls his disciples “salt of the world.” No one eats just salt. So, Christians are not meant to replace or do away with the world. They are meant to be agents of preservation and glorification. Notice how often these days the Church seeks to preserve what is threatened: the goodness of marital and family love, the desires of young people for greatness, the value of honest work, healthy economics, and altruistic political engagement, the dignity of the poor and vulnerable. Over and over, we say to a world who wants to throw things out, “It’s worth saving! We’ll preserve it! We’ll show you it’s wonderful.” If we can’t engage the world like that, Jesus says we are the ones who get thrown out, because salt alone is worthless.

Jesus only asks us to do for others what he does for us. He is the “salt” of everything in our lives. Is there something in your life starting to rot a bit? Something tasting bland and boring? Let Jesus salt it and see if you like it better.

— *Father John Muir*

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