



Year of St. Paul

Weekly Bulletin Inserts

2nd Sunday of Ordinary Time: 1 Cor. 6:13c-15a, 17-20

- In today's second reading St. Paul reminds us that we were "bought with a price." St. Paul is playing here upon the image of a slave being purchased by a new master. In his day, once the purchase price was agreed upon, the slave belonged to the buyer. What price did Christ pay for us? His very life. Considering Paul's use of marital imagery in this passage, it is also possible that the "price" refers to Jesus' death being a dowry paid in advance of us being united to Him by grace.

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time: 1 Cor. 7:29-31

- By pointing out that "this world is passing away" in today's second reading, St. Paul is recalling for us the words of Christ in Lk. 20:34-36 which remind us that the most important thing in life is our relationship with God, since a time will come when marriage and its daily concerns will no longer exist.

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time: 1 Cor. 7:32-35

- In today's second reading it may seem to some that St. Paul is saying that being unmarried is innately superior to being married. That, however, is not what he is saying—St. Paul, in fact, praises marriage in strong language in many of his epistles. What he is pointing out is that married life tends to bring with it a number of distractions that oftentimes prevent couples from giving spiritual matters the attention they deserve. Thus, his words are meant to assist spouses in remembering what is most important, not to belittle their state of life.

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time: 1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23

- In today's second reading St. Paul says that preaching the Gospel is not an opportunity for him to boast because, since he is a Christian, he is called to preach the Gospel ("Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!" (v.16)). His words should inspire us to evaluate how often we fail or succeed in preaching the gospel in our lives, whether by word or deed.

6th Sunday of Ordinary Time: 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1

- Commenting on St. Paul's statement in today's second reading that we should "seek the benefit of many", St. John Chrysostom says, "Not only should the brethren receive no hurt from us, but neither should those who are outside the Church. If we are light and leaven and luminaries and salt, we ought to enlighten,

not to darken, to bind, not to loose, to draw unbelievers to us and not to drive them away.”

7th Sunday of Ordinary Time: 2 Cor. 1:18-22

- In today’s second reading St. Paul says that God has “put His seal upon us and given the Spirit in our hearts.” As one scholar says, “Paul’s teaching points to the indelible ‘character’ imprinted on souls who receive Baptism and Confirmation. This spiritual mark entitles them to God’s grace and protection, while its permanent effect makes it impossible to receive these Sacraments of Initiation more than once.”

1st Sunday of Lent: 1 Pt 3:18-22

- *Did you know?* St. Paul established the Church at Corinth around the year 51, but only stayed a short time to ensure things were up and running, before he departed on more missionary journeys. His two letters to the Corinthians reveal to us that the community there was a mixture of the poor and wealthy, slaves and freemen, Gentile and Jewish believers.

2nd Sunday of Lent: Rom. 8:31b-34

- In today’s second reading St. Paul says that “God is for us.” St. John Chrysostom says, “How God can be for us is made clear by what Paul has expounded in the preceding verses. It is because the Spirit of God dwells in us and because the Spirit of Christ, or Christ Himself, is in us...because we act in the power of God’s Spirit, because we have received the Spirit of adoption, because we are children of God, heirs and fellow heirs of Christ.”

3rd Sunday of Lent: 1 Cor. 1:22-25

- In today’s second reading St. Paul refers to Christ’s crucifixion as a “stumbling block to Jews.” As one scholar explains, “For some Jews, such as those who wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls, crucifixion was connected with the curse of God in Deut. 21:22-23. Paul deals with this apparent difficulty in Gal. 3:13, where he insists that Christ endured the curse of death so that Israel and the Gentiles could be blessed with new life.”

4th Sunday of Lent: Eph. 2:4-10

- In today’s second reading St. Paul states something very profound—by the grace of God we share in the exaltation of Christ: “His rising from the dead, His ascent into heaven, and His enthronement at the Father’s right hand.” St. Paul highlights this theology of participation by using the preposition “with” three times in verses 5 and 6.

5th Sunday of Lent: Heb. 5:7-9

- *Did you know?* St. Paul wrote the most books of the New Testament, but St. Luke, who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, is the writing champion, having authored over half of the New Testament.

Palm Sunday: Phil. 2:6-11

- Many scholars believe that today's second reading may have been an early Christian hymn which "depicts Jesus as the Suffering Servant of Isaiah. In the disturbing vision of the prophet, this messianic figure submitted himself to the violence and abuse of his people until he poured out his life in sacrifice for human iniquity (Is.52:13-53:12). Some theologians also detect a subtle contrast between Jesus, who humbled Himself to become man, and Adam, who asserted himself in order to become like God."

Easter Sunday: Col. 3:1-4

- The *Catechism* says, "United with Christ by Baptism, believers already truly participate in the heavenly life of the risen Christ, but this life remains 'hidden with Christ in God' (Co. 3:3). The Father has already 'raised us up with Him, and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus' (Eph. 2:6). Nourished with His body in the Eucharist, we already belong to the Body of Christ. When we rise on the last day we 'also will appear with Him in glory' (Col. 3:4)."

Or

Easter Sunday: 1 Cor. 5:6b-8

- In today's second reading St. Paul draws a spiritual lesson from the Feast of Unleavened Bread for his readers. As one biblical scholar points out, "Just as every Jewish family cleansed its home of leaven before the feast (Ex. 12:14-20), so Paul challenges the Corinthians to rid their Church of sin and even flagrant sinners before their celebration of the liturgy (5:13)."

Divine Mercy Sunday: 1 Jn. 5:1-6

- *Did you know?* St. Paul is considered an apostle, even though he was not one of the Twelve called by Christ during His earthly ministry. Paul never saw Christ in the flesh; rather, he is an apostle by God's grace "called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1) "for the sake of His name, among all the Gentiles" (Rom. 1:5).

3rd Sunday of Easter: 1 Jn. 2:1-5a

- *Did you know?* St. Paul's Letters to the Romans and the Colossians are the only letters he wrote to Christian communities that he did not establish himself.

4th Sunday of Easter: 1 Jn. 3:1-2

- *Did you know?* The Christian community at Rome had a sterling reputation at the time St. Paul wrote his letter to the Christians there; hence he hoped to launch his next phase of evangelization with the Roman Church as his base.

5th Sunday of Easter: Acts 9:26-31

- In today's second reading St. Paul goes to Jerusalem and the disciples there are afraid of him because they know his history as a persecutor of Christians. St. Paul

mentions this trip in his letter to the Galatians, explaining that he “went up to Jerusalem to confer with Cephas [St. Peter] and remained with him for 15 days” (1:18). It is believed that Paul received instruction in the Faith from St. Peter during that time.

6th Sunday of Easter: 1 Jn. 4:7-10

- ***Did you know?*** The Acts of the Apostles refers to Paul as Saul until 13:9, at which point we are told that he was also known as Paul. It was not uncommon in his day for Jews to have two names—one Semitic and one Greek/Roman. He refers to himself in his letters as belonging to the tribe of Benjamin, which makes the name “Saul” more significant (Saul, the first king of the Israel, was a Benjaminite as well), and “Paul” was a very common Roman name at the time.

7th Sunday of Easter: 1 Jn. 4:11-16

- ***Did you know?*** The tomb of St. Paul is located directly beneath the Basilica of St. Paul Outside-the-Walls in Rome. The original basilica was consecrated in 324 A.D. and added on to over the centuries. A fire completely destroyed the church in 1823, however the current basilica is an exact reproduction of what it looked like before the fire.

Pentecost Sunday: 1 Cor. 12:3b-7, 12-13

- In today’s second reading St. Paul reminds us that “No one can say ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (v.3). Quoting this passage, the *Catechism* says, “Every time we begin to pray to Jesus it is the Holy Spirit who draws us on the way of prayer by His [preceding] grace” (2670).

Or

Pentecost Sunday: Gal. 5:16-25

- In today’s second reading St. Paul contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruits of the Spirit. His reference to Christians having “crucified the flesh with its passions and desires” is an allusion to the Sacrament of Baptism, as a result of which sins are forgiven and the individual dies to their former way of life (the triple immersion in water at Baptism is meant to symbolically represent the 3 days Christ spent in the tomb.)

Holy Trinity Sunday: Rom. 8:14-17

- In today’s second reading St. Paul is speaking of grace and justification. Paragraph 1196 of the *Catechism* says, “Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is *favor*, the *free and undeserved help* that God gives us to respond to His call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life.”

Corpus Christi Sunday: Heb. 9:11-15

- ***Did you know?*** St. Paul’s account of the institution of the Eucharist in 1 Cor. 11:23-26 is the oldest written account we have. St. Paul goes on in 1 Cor. 11:27-

32 to warn the Corinthians about receiving the Eucharist unworthily, saying that he who receives it without recognizing Christ's Body therein "eats and drinks judgment upon himself" (v.29).

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 2 Cor. 5:14-17

- In today's second reading St. Paul says that those who are in Christ are "a new creation" (v.17). As one scholar says, "Baptism transfers us from the bondage of sin and slavery to the blessings of salvation and sonship. The New Covenant thus begins a new order in history where creation is steadily renewed, beginning with our souls and extending into every corner of the cosmos (Rom. 8:19-25; Rev. 21:1-5)."

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time: 2 Cor. 8:7, 9, 13-15

- In light of the economic turmoil of the past year, the *Catechism* (citing today's second reading) reminds us that "In economic matters, respect for human dignity requires the practice of the virtue of temperance, so as to moderate attachment to this world's good; the practice of the virtue of justice, to preserve our neighbor's rights and render him what is his due; and the practice of solidarity, in accordance with the Golden Rule and in keeping with the generosity of the Lord, who 'though he was rich, yet for your sake...became poor so that by His poverty, you might become rich' (2 Cor. 8:9)" (2407).