

### SUNDAY REFLECTION

There is an old Latin proverb: *Ad impossibile nemo tenetur* – “No one is obliged to do the impossible.” Since Jesus came this rule no longer applies.

Jesus came, not just to save us from sin – from falling below par in our human lives, but to save us from being confined to the level of human life altogether. He came to call us to live on the level of God. To be saved really means to share in the life of God and to live on the level of God in our thoughts, attitudes, decisions and actions. This is manifestly impossible. But Baptism commits us to it.

Today's Gospel passage gives us a good example of this. In answer to a question about divorce Jesus changes the nature of marriage! Until then a "good" marriage was one in which husband and wife made life satisfying for each other on earth. (Refer to the description of the ideal wife found in Proverbs 31:10-31. There is no description of the ideal husband; apparently even the Holy Spirit's imagination did not reach that far!) but Jesus establishes a principle which can only be explained if he is changing the goal, and therefore the nature of marriage.

If divorce is never permitted, then it must be that a "good" marriage, one that is achieving its purpose and doing essential what a marriage is meant to do, is not one in which the spouses are making life easier for each other, but one in which both spouses are learning to love. Jesus does not guarantee that any two people will always enjoy living together. But He does guarantee that any two people who work at it, using all the means He has provided – reading Scripture and praying together, using Mass and the sacraments – can grow in love for each other. To accept the principle of no divorce, then, is to accept that the goal of marriage is to teach two people to love as God loves; that is, with total unselfishness, in total gift of self. Any marriage which is achieving this, even though it might be far from pleasant, is still a "good" marriage, because it is leading towards its goal: the perfection of love.

Jesus came, then, to make marriage impossible! The goal of Christian marriage is quite simply for both spouses to learn how to love like God, on the level of God – something so high that no human being could possibly stand at the altar and promise with any confidence or credibility at all to achieve it!

This makes Jesus a Savior who makes life impossible! He makes it impossible by changing the goal, the level of life to which we are called. But He makes it possible by giving us a share in His own life, giving us the power to live on the level of God, which is what the word grace means. A Christian marriage is possible if both spouses work at it with Jesus, guided by His words, strengthened by His sacraments, in response to His Spirit, living fully the life of grace.

To be saved, then, means, not just to be saved from sin, but to be lifted up to a whole new level of life: God's level; to accept a whole new framework of attitudes: God's attitudes; and to live by a whole new set of values and priorities: God's values, God's priorities. It means to be called to something beyond human power and at the same time to be enabled to do it. It means to be called to the "perfection of love" – not only in marriage, but in our social life,, business life, political and civic involvement. We have to love like Christ in everything we do. That is the only goal we really have to accomplish (see Jn. 15:12).

This gives new meaning to the word Savior. Jesus as Savior is someone we need all the time, in everything we do. We need to be constantly united with Him in mind and heart in order to succeed in doing anything in the way we are called to do it.

**STEWARDSHIP:** The phrase in today's psalm, "May you see your children's children," is really a prayer for a long life. The good steward knows that every day is a gift from God, to be lived with joy and thanksgiving. "May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives".

## **READINGS TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY**

**10 OCT '21**

**Wis. 7:7-11:** Prayer leads to wisdom, which gives understanding and helps the disciple recognize the promptings of God.

**Heb. 4:12-13:** The word of God penetrates the hidden recesses of the human heart.

**Mk. 10:17-30:** Those who leave everything to follow Jesus will receive far more than they gave up in the first place.

### **OCTOBER INTENTION: MISSIONARY DISCIPLES**

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

### **OCTOBER THEME**

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on October 7. October falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time.

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

"Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources — from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church — it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven.

"If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. Many are the favors granted to private individuals through its devout recitation: there are few devoted users of the Rosary who cannot testify to experiencing its power in their own lives. If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary. Early tradition attributes the defeat of the Albigensians at the Battle of Muret in 1213 to the Rosary. But even those who do not accept this tradition will admit that St. Pius V attributed the great defeat of the Turkish fleet on the first Sunday of October, 1571, to the fact that at the same time the Rosary confraternities at Rome and elsewhere were holding their processions. Accordingly, he ordered a commemoration of the Rosary to be made on that day. Two years later, Gregory XIII allowed the celebration of a feast of the Rosary in churches having an altar dedicated to the Rosary. In 1671, Clement X extended the feast to all Spain. A second great victory over the Turks, who once, like the Russians, threatened the ruin of Christian civilization, occurred on August 5, 1716, when Prince Eugene defeated them at Peterwardein in Hungary. Thereupon Clement XI extended the feast of the Rosary to the whole Church.

"Today, when dangers far greater than those of the ancient Turks threaten not only Christianity but all civilization, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help. If men in sufficient numbers do this, and at the same time carry out the other conditions that she has laid down, we have the greater reason for confidence that we will be delivered from our dangers." -- *Mary in our Life* by Fr. William G. Most

## **THE MASS**

To judge the "quality" of the Christian life of a community is always a difficult task, and perhaps a foolhardy one. There are so many factors that should be taken into account. And the most important of them are hidden!

Nevertheless, if the Holy Mass is the central act of our Catholic life, then Mass-going must surely remain one of the most indicative of these factors. With good reason therefore we consider the number of people coming to Mass. What is even of more significance in evaluating the "quality" of participation, our participation in the Mass is do we understand its nature and its application to our own lives of what it should mean for us.

### **Christ's action**

The Holy Mass is the holiest thing we have here on earth. Why? Because it is the action of Christ. The main thing in the Mass is not what is read from the Holy Scriptures, even though this is the word of God and should be listened to as such. The main thing in the Mass is not what the priest or deacon preaches in their sermons, hard as that may be to believe, or what the people do or sing. The main thing is what Christ does. And what does Christ do in the Holy Mass? He offers Himself for us, as He offered Himself on the Cross. He sacrifices Himself for us. That is why we say that the Mass is the same Sacrifice as that of the Cross renewed in an unbloody manner on the altar. On the altar just on as on the Cross, Christ offers His body and blood for us. The difference is that on the Cross His body and blood were visible to the eyes of those who were present, while in the Mass they are hidden under the appearances of bread and wine. But they are really present. This is the great fact. In each Mass, Christ is really present and renews the Sacrifice of the Cross.

### **Love for the Mass**

"A man who fails to love the Mass fails to love Christ." To love the Mass is a guarantee for salvation. But to love the Mass does not mean just being present and no more. It means to be present with faith and devotion. It means to take part in the Mass, realizing what it is: the Sacrifice of the Cross renewed on the altar, and realizing that when we go to Mass, we go, as it were, to Calvary. And that we should be present there, like our Blessed Lady beside the Cross, in loving contemplation of Christ who offers Himself lovingly for each one of us.

### **Faith**

The holy Eucharist is the "mystery of faith." Without faith, all you would see is bread and wine being offered, no more. Without faith, the most you could see in this is a gesture, a symbol, nothing more. With faith you know that at the moment of the Consecration which is when the priest says, "This is My body," "This is the cup of My blood" the bread and wine are changed into the body and blood of Jesus Christ who is then really present as God and as Man sacrificing Himself for us on the altar as He sacrificed Himself on the cross. If you come to Mass without faith, or with little faith you will easily get distracted and perhaps even bored. What a sad thing to get bored with Christ's sacrifice! Would we have been bored if we had been present at Calvary? If we hadn't faith, perhaps we would. Or at least we would have completely failed to understand what the death of that Man nailed to the cross really meant. You will only begin to understand the greatness of the Mass if you have faith. Stir up your faith. And then you will

always be amazed at the Mass, you will realize that it is the greatest thing we possess here on earth.

## **PRAYERS**

**A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life** Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God's humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God's most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

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### **To the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary**

Queen of the most holy Rosary, in these times of such brazen impiety, manifest thy power with the signs of thine ancient victories, and from thy throne, whence thou dost dispense pardon and graces, mercifully regard the Church of thy Son, His Vicar on earth, and every order of clergy and laity, who are sore oppressed in the mighty conflict. Do thou, who art the powerful vanquisher of all heresies, hasten the hour of mercy, even though the hour of God's justice is every day provoked by the countless sins of men. For me who am the least of men, kneeling before thee in supplication, do thou obtain the grace I need to live righteously upon earth and to reign among the just in heaven, the while in company with all faithful Christians throughout the world, I salute thee and acclaim thee as Queen of the most holy Rosary. Queen of the most holy Rosary, pray for us!

This theologically rich prayer to Mary, the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, calls to mind our Blessed Mother's protection of the Church—as, for example, at the Battle of Lepanto (October 7, 1571), when the Christian fleet defeated the Ottoman Muslims through the intercession of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.

It is a very good prayer for the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary (October 7), as well as for the entire month of October, which is dedicated to the rosary.

## **TWENTY-SEVENTH WEEK ORDINARY TIME 2 - 10 OCTOBER**

**Saturday 2 Oct 26<sup>th</sup> Week Ordinary Time**

**8:30 a.m. Mass M Holy Guardian Angels**

**Proper, Proper Preface, Eucharistic Prayer III**

11:00 a.m. Funeral Mass Harold Huckins  
 3:30-4:30 p.m. Confessions  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time  
     Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface Sunday VII, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention: Ramon & Mercedes Cruz RIP)

**Sunday 3 Oct** Twenty-Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time  
 7:00 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface Sunday VII, Eucharistic Prayer II  
     (Intention: Louise Grant RIP)  
 8:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface Sunday VI, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention: William Proud RIP)  
 11:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface Sunday VII, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention: Parish of St. Stephen Martyr)  
 2:00 p.m. Mass Brig

**Monday 4 Oct** Day Off  
 6:00 p.m. Meeting

**Tuesday 5 Oct** Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos Priest (USA)  
 8:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Preface Pastors, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention: John F. Sussilleaux)  
 6:00 p.m. Meeting

**Wednesday 6 Oct** St. Bruno Priest, Blessed Marie Rose Durocher (USA)  
 6:30 a.m. Mass 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Preface & Eucharistic Prayer II  
 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Confessions  
 8:30 a.m. Mass 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday, Preface & Eucharistic Prayer II  
     (Intention: Maria Sanchez RIP)

**Thursday 7 Oct** M Our Lady of the Rosary  
 8:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Preface Blessed Virgin Mary, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention: Donald Reisch RIP )  
 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Confessions  
 6:30 p.m. Mass Proper, Preface Blessed Virgin Mary, Eucharistic Prayer III  
     (Intention )

**Friday 8 Oct** Twenty-Seventh Weekday  
 8:30 a.m. Mass For Unity of Christians  
     Proper, Preface of the day, Eucharistic Prayer II  
     (Intention: Reconciliation within Families)  
 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Adoration & Confessions

**Saturday 9 Oct** St. Denis Bishop, St. John Leonardi Priest  
 8:30 a.m. Mass Immaculate Heart of BVM  
     (Intention: Phyllis Huenzanga)  
 9:30 a.m. – 12 Noon Baptisms  
 1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions  
 5:00 p.m. Vigil Mass for the 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time  
     (Intention: Barbara Shoemaker RIP )

**Sunday 10 Oct** Twenty-Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time  
 7:00 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface, Eucharistic Prayer II

(Intention: Tom and Joann Trotter RIP)

8:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface, Eucharistic Prayer III

(Intention: Fr. Myron Badnerosky RIP)

11:30 a.m. Mass Proper, Gloria, Creed, Preface, Eucharistic Prayer III

(Intention: Margaret Edwards RIP)

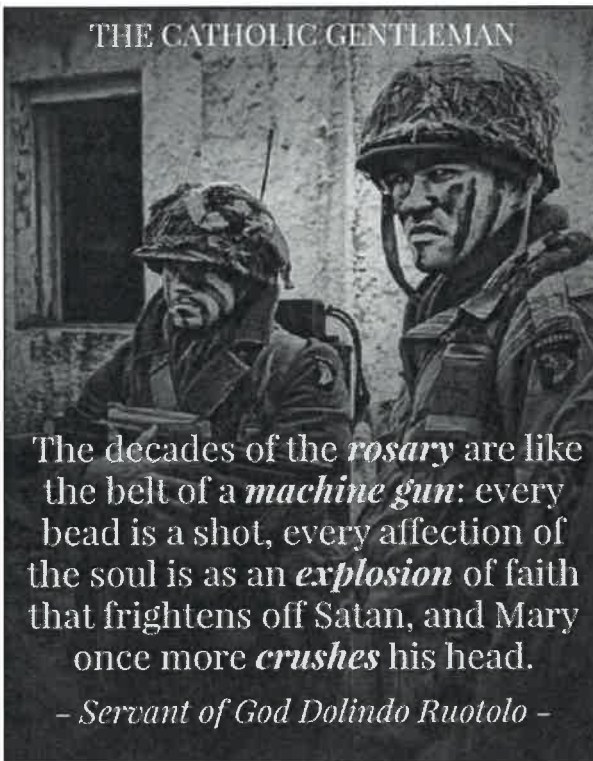
2:00 p.m. Mass Brig

## ROSARY

“It could be said that each mystery of the Holy Rosary, when carefully meditated, sheds light on the mystery of man: ‘cast your burden on the Lord and he will sustain you,’ as it says in Psalm 55:23. To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the combined merciful hearts of Christ and His Mother. The rosary does indeed ‘mark the rhythm of human life’, bringing it into the joyful communion of the Holy Trinity, Who is our life’s destiny and deepest longing. Through the rosary, the faithful receive abundant graces as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.” (Pope John Paul II)



## THE CATHOLIC GENTLEMAN



The decades of the *rosary* are like the belt of a *machine gun*: every bead is a shot, every affection of the soul is as an *explosion* of faith that frightens off Satan, and Mary once more *crushes* his head.

- *Servant of God Dolindo Ruotolo* -

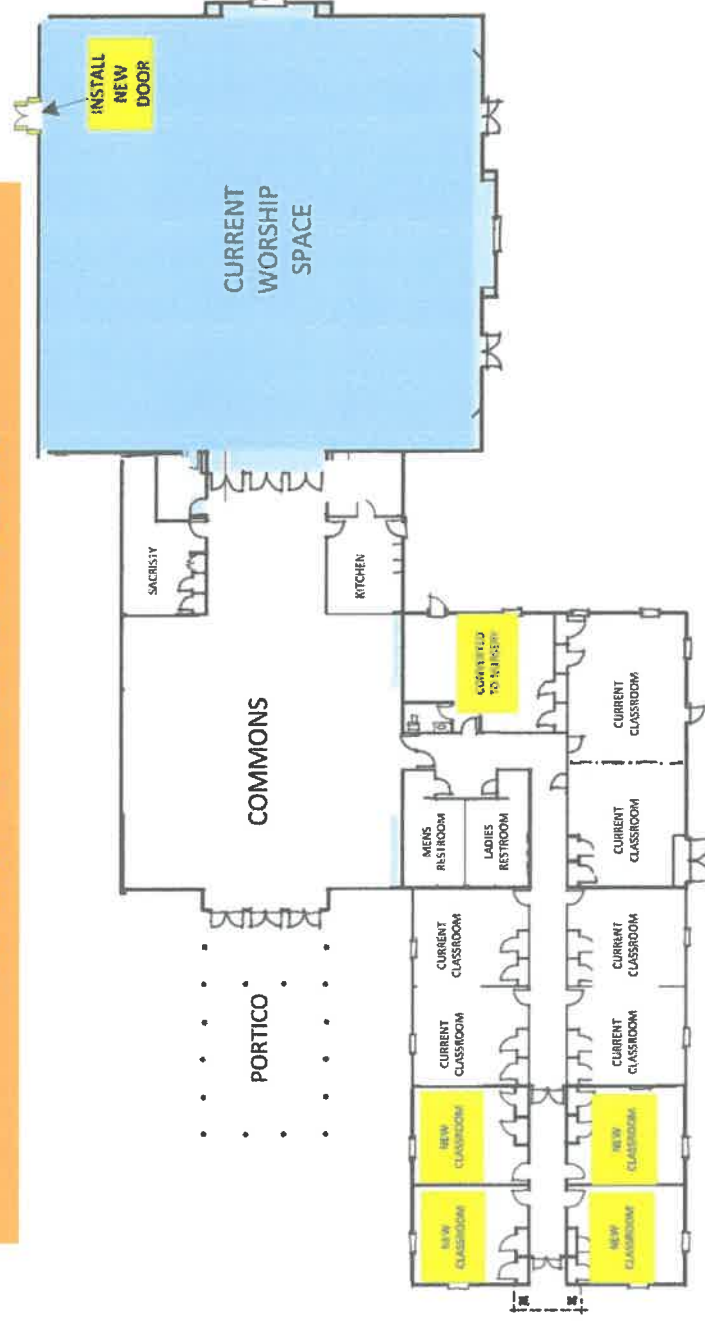
# St Stephen Martyr Phase 1 Plan Repair & Meeting The Needs Of Our Current Church

Phase 1.



## Key Items

- Safety
- New Roof
- New Siding
- New Exit Doors
- 4 New Classrooms
- Nursery
- Fully Funded
- Master Plan

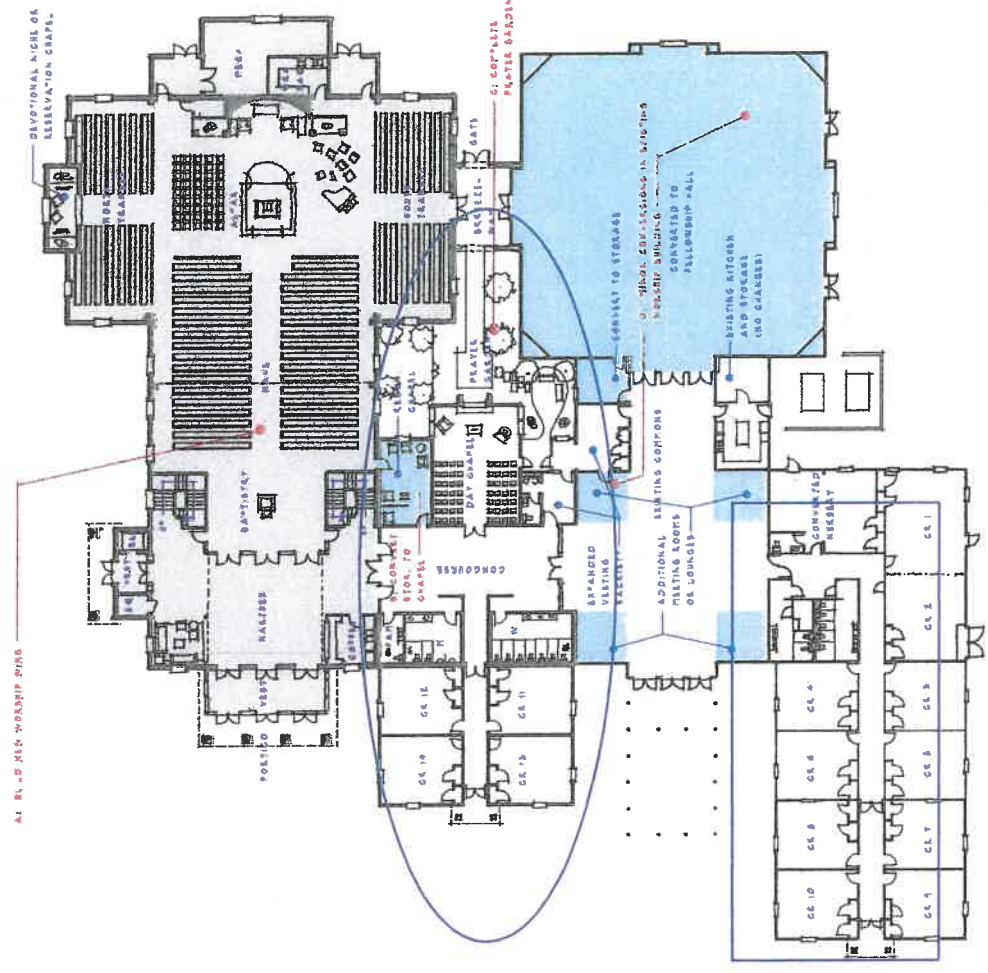


Remember the  
Informational  
Meeting Tuesday,  
OCT 26 @ 6 PM  
Room #3

**Reminder**  
Email Questions for  
Parish Council Open  
House to:  
**Cyndi Truxillo**  
[cltruxil@gmail.com](mailto:cltruxil@gmail.com)  
**Ron Bamby**  
[ronbam@gmail.com](mailto:ronbam@gmail.com)



# Final Laydown



Phase Three

Phase Two

Phase Zero and One

# Overhead Final Laydown

