

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

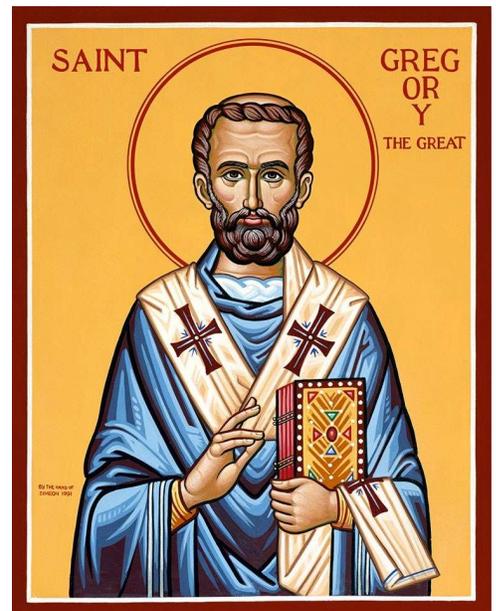
Thursday, September 3, 2020

- Thursday of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time
- Feast of St. Gregory the Great

Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: Marion Panzera

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:18-23

Brothers and sisters: Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you considers himself wise in this age, let him become a fool, so as to become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in the eyes of God, for it is written: *God catches the wise in their own ruses, and again: The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.* So let no one boast about human beings, for everything belongs to you, Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or the present or the future: all belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.



Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

To the Lord belongs the earth and all that fills it.

The Lord's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers. ***R/.***

Who can ascend the mountain of the Lord?
or who may stand in his holy place?
He whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain. ***R/.***

He shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to

Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.” Simon said in reply, “Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets.” When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.

Reflection

Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man. (Luke 5:8)

Peter and his coworkers fished all night. No doubt they had exhausted all the possibilities of making a catch before they returned to shore empty-handed. It's small wonder, then, that Peter was astonished at the immense haul of fish that filled his nets when, at Jesus' direction, he let the nets down into the water once more. Peter recognized that here was someone who exercised divine power. Suddenly aware that he was in God's presence, Peter fell to the ground before Jesus, acknowledging his sin.

We too may come to a similar point of recognizing God's holiness and our own sins. In the face of some act of God in our lives, we may become painfully aware of our unworthiness. Some of us have an unfortunate tendency to dwell on our sins. Guilt, shame, contempt for ourselves — any number of negative emotions flow in like the tide. If only they could flow out as quickly!

But notice Jesus' response to Peter. He didn't answer Peter's confession directly. Rather, he moved past it and told Peter of the great new role he had in mind for him. To Peter's cry of remorse — “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!” — Jesus answered with a reassuring promise: “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men” (Luke 5:8, 10).

This is how God looks at us: not as sinners mired in offenses, but as servants called to carry out important work. God knows our sins. But when we repent, we are immediately flooded with his mercy and forgiveness — and just as quickly called to move on to the business of his kingdom. In a sense, we have no right to dwell on sins that God has removed.

God's mercy has no limit! He delights in showing us his kindness. If he did not withhold his love and mercy from us before we loved him, will he refuse us now? Of course not! So press on in serving the Lord, confident that his mercy is greater than your sin and that he will carry you through to heaven.

Thank you, Jesus, for looking past my failings and pointing me toward your perfect plan!

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament
I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan,
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.
Amen.