

St. Philip the Apostle
Roman Catholic Church

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

- Tuesday of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time
- Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: Joseph R. Costello

First Reading: Micah 5:1-4

The Lord says: You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel; Whose origin is from of old, from ancient times. (Therefore the Lord will give them up, until the time when she who is to give birth has borne, And the rest of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel.) He shall stand firm and shepherd his flock by the strength of the Lord, in the majestic name of the Lord, his God; And they shall remain, for now his greatness shall reach to the ends of the earth; he shall be peace.

OR

Romans 8:28-30

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 13:6

With delight I rejoice in the Lord.

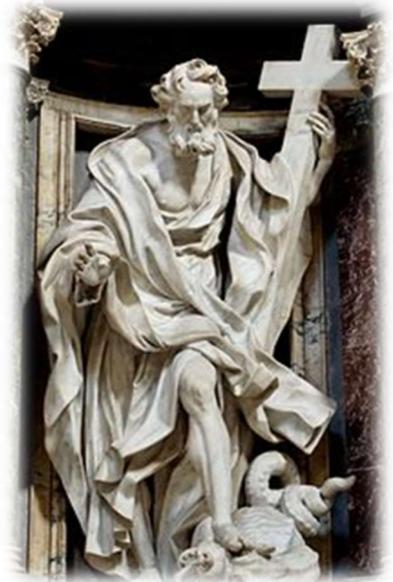
Though I trusted in your mercy,
let my heart rejoice in your salvation. **R/.**

Let me sing of the Lord, "He has been good to me." **R/.**

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 OR 1:18-23

[The Book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. Judah became the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar. Perez became the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab. Amminadab became the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father



of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab. Boaz became the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth. Obed became the father of Jesse, Jesse the father of David the king.

David became the father of Solomon, whose mother had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon became the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asaph. Asaph became the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, Joram the father of Uzziah. Uzziah became the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah. Hezekiah became the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amos, Amos the father of Josiah. Josiah became the father of Jechoniah and his brothers at the time of the Babylonian exile.

After the Babylonian exile, Jechoniah became the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abiud. Abiud became the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok. Zadok became the father of Achim, Achim the father of Eliud, Eliud the father of Eleazar. Eleazar became the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary. Of her was born Jesus who is called the Christ.

Now] this is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

Reflection

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said. (Matthew 1:22)

If there's one thing the genealogy in Matthew's Gospel shows us, it's how much care God took in bringing his plan of salvation to fruition! Just look at how many events had to converge before Jesus could come into the world. Or think about how many characters had to play out their parts in order to prepare God's people for the fulfillment of his promises.

Praying about Jesus' genealogy can give us a bigger picture of God's work. And that's important, because the broader our grasp of God's goodness and his wisdom, the easier it will be to trust the Lord with our lives.

Think, for instance, about how many things came together before your own birth. Your ancestors paved the way with their lives. There were formative events in the world that affected your family. God's intervention shaped your family tree until that moment in history when you were born. You aren't an accident of genetics. You didn't just show up randomly without a history or without a future. No, God has a plan for your life — a plan centuries and centuries in the making.

It's likely that the ancestors of Jesus didn't have a clear sense that they would be immortalized in Scripture. Surely Mary didn't fully grasp her significance as she was growing up in Nazareth. It

unfolded over time, and she was able to embrace it as she sought the Lord and his wisdom. It's the same for us. We may not know the part we are meant to play in God's plan, and we certainly will never know just how many people we will influence in our lifetime. But we can still choose to follow the Lord and watch as his plan unfolds for us.

You probably don't see it fully now, but your life is woven into the tapestry of God's perfect plan for the world. So don't get caught up in minor squabbles. Don't let small concerns become sources of deep anxiety. Instead, take a broader look at your life and know that your God has great things planned for you.

Thank you, Lord, for the beauty of your plan! I trust in your wisdom and in the way you are forming me.

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.