

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Friday, September 23, 2022

- Friday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **William Sullivan**

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-11

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every thing under the heavens. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

What advantage has the worker from his toil? I have considered the task that God has appointed for the sons of men to be busied about. He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without man's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 144:1, 2, 3-4

Blessed be the Lord, my Rock!

Blessed be the Lord, my rock,
my mercy and my fortress,
my stronghold, my deliverer,
My shield, in whom I trust. **R/.**

Lord, what is man, that you notice him;
the son of man, that you take thought of him?
Man is like a breath;
his days, like a passing shadow. **R/.**

Gospel: Luke 9:18-22

Once when Jesus was praying in solitude, and the disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist; others, Elijah; still others, 'One of the ancient prophets has arisen.'" Then he said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said in reply, "The Christ of God." He rebuked them and directed them not to tell this to anyone.

He said, "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised."

Reflection

Who do the crowds say that I am? (Luke 9:18)

If you asked ten people on the street who Jesus is, you would probably get fifteen different answers! Some might say he is a historical figure. Others might call him a moral teacher or philosopher. Some may deny that he ever existed. And still others might call him a prophet, like the people in the crowd in today's Gospel.

But you might also hear one or two people echo Peter in confessing that Jesus is the Christ (Luke 9:20). That answer is as radical today as it was in Jesus' time — and we are blessed to proclaim it! Our answer connects us all the way back to Peter and the other disciples. Like them, we have spent time with Jesus. We have studied his teachings, been awed by his mighty deeds, and heard the whisper of the Holy Spirit revealing Jesus' glory to us. What's more, we have become convinced that Jesus truly is the Son of God — something even the disciples weren't sure about at the time.

We proclaim this truth every week at Mass when we recite the Creed. We do it so often, in fact, that it can seem routine, even ordinary. But it is extraordinary. Together as one body, we declare our belief in a God who became human, who suffered, died, and rose again. We have come to know Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit, and so we boldly proclaim our faith in him as the Son of God.

How grateful we should be for this gift of faith! How grateful we should be too that God promises us that we can always grow in our understanding of who Jesus is. His love is so vast that we will never tire of exploring all that it means for us.

You might want to try focusing on a portion of the Creed in your prayer each day. Think about each statement as you declare it. Ask the Lord to highlight one or two phrases to you and to reveal himself even more to you. Then, on Sunday at Mass, pause before the Creed and thank Jesus for revealing his truth to you, to whatever degree you understand it. Pray that the Spirit would help you to find a way to share this great good news with someone so that they too can join Peter in his proclamation.

Jesus, you are the Christ, the Son of God!

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.