

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Monday, September 19, 2022

- Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***The Sanctity of Life***

First Reading: Proverbs 3:27-34

Refuse no one the good on which he has a claim when it is in your power to do it for him. Say not to your neighbor, "Go, and come again, tomorrow I will give," when you can give at once.

Plot no evil against your neighbor, against one who lives at peace with you. Quarrel not with a man without cause, with one who has done you no harm.

Envy not the lawless man and choose none of his ways: To the Lord the perverse one is an abomination, but with the upright is his friendship.

The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked, but the dwelling of the just he blesses; When dealing with the arrogant, he is stern, but to the humble he shows kindness.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5

The just one shall live on your holy mountain, O Lord.

He who walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue. ***R/.***

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
By whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the Lord. ***R/.***

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
He who does these things
shall never be disturbed. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 8:16-18

Jesus said to the crowd:

"No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel
or sets it under a bed;
rather, he places it on a lampstand
so that those who enter may see the light.

For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible,
and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light.
Take care, then, how you hear.
To anyone who has, more will be given,
and from the one who has not,
even what he seems to have will be taken away."

Reflection

Take care, then, how you hear. (Luke 8:18)

While volunteering at a summer camp for hearing-impaired children, a man saw a ten-year-old boy receive a new, more advanced hearing device. When the boy heard distinct sounds for the first time in his life, he squealed loudly in delight. It was such a joyful sound that the man would never forget it.

In today's Gospel, Jesus urges his listeners to consider how they hear his words. But like that young boy, we don't always hear loudly or distinctly without some kind of assistance. That's why we need the Holy Spirit. He acts as a kind of hearing aid for us, amplifying and improving our ability to hear. He can impress on our ears, our hearts, and our minds the meaning of Jesus' words for our everyday life.

This may sound simple, but it's not automatic. We need to cooperate with the Spirit. We can start by consciously taking in God's word. There is always a temptation to listen only superficially to the Scriptures, whether it's the readings proclaimed at Mass or our own "hearing" as we read them ourselves. If you are having trouble focusing, you can ask the Spirit to help you let go of any worries or distractions that might be interfering with your ability to listen.

After you've read or listened to a Scripture passage, you can try to sit quietly for a bit and ponder what the Lord might be saying to you through it. The Spirit may lead you to a phrase that speaks to your life at the moment. Or he may help you understand a familiar passage in a new and different way.

It's not only through the Scriptures that the Lord speaks to us; he may also use another person to communicate something important. So keep your ears open! If someone says something that strikes you, ask the Holy Spirit if it was a word that the Lord wanted you to consider.

When Jesus told us to "take care" how we hear, he wasn't speaking only to those who were listening to him that day; he meant it for us as well. But he didn't leave us on our own. Instead, he gave us an indispensable helper: the Holy Spirit, the best "hearing aid" we could ever have!

Holy Spirit, I'm listening! Help me to hear and understand God's word.

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.