

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Thursday, September 15, 2022

- Thursday of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time
- Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows
- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Jean Ann Duffy***

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the Gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand. Through it you are also being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at once, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. After that he appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one born abnormally, he appeared to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, not fit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me has not been ineffective. Indeed, I have toiled harder than all of them; not I, however, but the grace of God that is with me. Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 16-17, 28

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say,
"His mercy endures forever." ***R/.***

"The right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord has struck with power."
I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord. ***R/.***

You are my God, and I give thanks to you;
O my God, I extol you. ***R/.***

Gospel: Luke 2:33-35

Jesus' father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to

be a sign that will be contradicted and you yourself a sword will pierce so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.”

Reflection

Standing by the cross of Jesus . . . (John 19:25)

Today’s Gospel for the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows brings us right to the cross. There we see Mary grieving as her son suffers a slow and torturous death. We see her grappling with unthinkable anguish of heart and mind. But notice, she was not alone. She was with her “sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene” and, of course, the disciple John (John 19:25-26).

Mary’s sorrow cut to the deepest, most private part of her heart. Still, she welcomed these friends and family members into her pain. And she shared their pain too. Together they struggled to trust God in the face of their grief. Together they brought what comfort they could to one another. Mary’s open generosity on her darkest of days reveals to us the mercy of having other people standing with us in our sorrow. With them, we can give and receive comfort, consolation, and protection.

None of us are strangers to sorrow, but Our Lady teaches us that even — maybe especially — in our deepest sadness, we need one another. God designed us to share our lives with one another, and those relationships can sustain us and help us navigate our most challenging times.

Sorrow is complex, and each person faces grief differently. But another caring human being can make a world of difference in helping us know that we are loved and that we don’t have to travel this path alone. Fr. Henri Nouwen put it this way: “The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, . . . that is the friend who cares.”

We all need that kind of friend. We can all be that type of friend. And Mary herself is that ultimate friend for us. In her presence, we can pour out everything that is on our hearts. Her comfort and intercession can be a source of great consolation. She has walked this path of sorrow before us with deep faith and grace, and she will stand beside us and teach us to do the same.

Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us!

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.