

St. Philip the Apostle

Roman Catholic Church



Thursday, September 22, 2022

-- Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: **Joseph F. Dengler**

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2-11

Vanity of vanities, says Qoheleth, vanity of vanities! All things are vanity! What profit has man from all the labor which he toils at under the sun? One generation passes and another comes, but the world forever stays. The sun rises and the sun goes down; then it presses on to the place where it rises. Blowing now toward the south, then toward the north, the wind turns again and again, resuming its rounds. All rivers go to the sea, yet never does the sea become full. To the place where they go, the rivers keep on going. All speech is labored; there is nothing one can say. The eye is not satisfied with seeing nor is the ear satisfied with hearing.

What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. Nothing is new under the sun. Even the thing of which we say, "See, this is new!" has already existed in the ages that preceded us. There is no remembrance of the men of old; nor of those to come will there be any remembrance among those who come after them.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."

For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night. **R/.**

You make an end of them in their sleep;
the next morning they are like the changing grass,
Which at dawn springs up anew,
but by evening wilts and fades. **R/.**

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

Return, O Lord! How long?
Have pity on your servants! **R/.**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.
Prosper the work of our hands for us!

Prosper the work of our hands! *R/.*

In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Gospel: Luke 9:7-9

Herod the tetrarch heard about all that was happening, and he was greatly perplexed because some were saying, "John has been raised from the dead"; others were saying, "Elijah has appeared"; still others, "One of the ancient prophets has arisen." But Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things?" And he kept trying to see him.

Reflection

Nothing is new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9)

Today's first reading isn't very inspiring, but it is relatable! Haven't we all sometimes felt like Qoheleth, the author of this passage? Our days can seem routine and monotonous. Why are we here? What is the point of all our work and struggles, all the things we accumulate, when it will eventually be turned to dust?

If you are a person of faith, you may feel guilty for feeling this way. Shouldn't believing in Jesus and obeying him put a smile on your face every moment of the day? Shouldn't helping people be its own reward, no matter how futile it can seem at times?

Of course, we know the answer to these questions should always be yes. But there's often a difference between what we should experience and what we actually do experience. Some of our greatest saints, like Mother Teresa and John of the Cross, have faced the loneliness and confusion of feeling distant from God.

So put your guilt aside. It's okay to admit that you haven't figured out the secret to constant happiness! In the end, Jesus is more concerned with your actions than your feelings.

Instead of fighting the sense of emptiness, try accepting it. Try telling God how bored, frustrated, or hopeless you feel — he won't condemn you. In fact, he is there with you in the midst of the frustration or the dullness. You may not feel motivated to pray, but you can still do it anyway and offer your efforts to him regardless of your feelings. You may feel unable to hear his voice, but you can still ask him questions. Or you may not feel happier, but you can place your hope in the promise that the Lord will eventually reward your persistence — even if it's with a greater degree of patience!

God wants to bless your efforts — but he has to have efforts to bless. So even if you feel unenthusiastic, take those first steps to accomplish the work he has put in front of you. The work may be unglamorous and hidden to the world, but God can still draw blessings from it. That's because his faithfulness knows no bounds!

Lord, give me the strength to carry your light into the world.

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.