



USCCaruso  
Catholic Center

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
(striking your breast, say:)  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
(Then continue with:)  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:** Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**All: Amen**

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah:**

*Jeremiah 20:10-13*

Jeremiah said:

“I hear the whisperings of many: ‘Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!’ All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. ‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.’ But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!”

The Word of the Lord

## Responsorial Psalm

*Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 (14c)*

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children, because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!”

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

## A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:

*Romans 5:12-15*

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The Word of the Lord

**Alleluia:**

*John 15:26b, 27a*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:**

*Matthew 10:26-33*

Jesus said to the Twelve:

“Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord

**Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:**  
by Deacon Paul Pesqueira

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Homi-flection for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Terror, denounce, vengeance and confusion. These words are used in the first reading from the prophet Jeremiah. These words are filled with emotion and energy. Through these words we see that Jeremiah is suffering from an interior crisis. Whatever the crisis is, Jeremiah does not lose his faith, he goes on to say, “But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.” *Jer 20:11*

The world is in crisis. We see it every day on the news, from television to our phones. We are updated minute by minute to the crisis at hand. This can affect us, and it has affected me in a way where words such as terror, denounce, vengeance and confusion have surrounded me. How am I dealing with the world and its problems? I do not consider myself a fragile person. However, I have been affected by what is occurring in the world and at home in the United States. I am sad, mad, concerned and want change for the better and for #BlackLivesMatter. For all people of color, and those that are marginalized. During this time, I cling to my faith and to my God. “But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.” *Jer 20:11* And, I pray that this verse from the first reading happens and it happens quickly.

I have been trying to live a life of faith for over thirty years. The journey of my life has taken me through twists and turns. There have been joyful memories and grief-filled moments. I have sinned, and have been forgiven through the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man - Jesus Christ. Living through the spectrum of emotions, I have consistently tried to recognize the God in my life. I have grown, and I have had to change the way I thought as a young man, and even now. Life experience will do that to you.

In the gospel reading, Jesus says, “And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna.” *Mt 10:28* The evil in the world can seem overwhelming. And we can begin to think, is evil winning? NO. Our body may be destroyed, but our soul, our eternal soul can and will live on. We need to continue to seek God. We need to be better and do better. I need to seek God daily and I pray our county can recognize the love of God and see that love in our neighbor regardless of color, culture and creed. We are connected because of our humanity. Humanity is created in the image and likeness of God. This is called “Imago Dei.” Everyone is to be treated with dignity and respect from conception to natural death.

The world is not perfect. I am not perfect. But, I want to be a better person. It is through my Roman Catholic faith that I am trying to improve who I am. I am trying to acknowledge my heavenly father. It is through prayer and participation of the sacraments that I draw my strength to improve who I am, and learn through him. I want to be part of the solution; I do not want to be part of the problem. There is much to be done in order to make positive changes in the treatment of the Imago Dei. As a father, I hope that I can be a positive example to my family, and also to the greater family of Our Savior Parish, especially to the people that come into contact with. I pray that I see them, and they see me as a person who wishes to treat all with dignity and respect. *Marana Tha, Come Lord Jesus.*

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

**Presider:** We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

**Intercessions:**

1. For our Church and parish community, that every prayer and good work of ours may proclaim God's presence among us: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
2. For those who serve the church as pastors, teachers, and preachers, that their revelation of God's light may shatter the darkness of fear, hatred and oppression:  
*(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
3. For the nations and peoples of the world, that their common pursuit of justice and equality may destroy racism, poverty, and persecution forever: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
4. For television and radio broadcasters, for journalists and editors, for public relation and communication professionals, that through their work, justice and truth may be proclaimed "from the housetops.": *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
5. For the sick, suffering, abused, recovering and dying, that the providence of God will be their hope and strength: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
6. For all our deceased relatives and friends, that Christ will welcome them into his Father's presence: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:** We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:** Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen