

Our Lady of Good Hope Roman Catholic Church

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Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 9, 2017

Weekday Masses

Tuesday to Saturday 9:00 AM

Sunday Masses

Saturday – 4:30 PM (anticipated Mass)
Sunday –9:00 AM

Confessions

Weekdays Tuesday to Saturday – 8:30 AM to 8:45 AM
Saturday - 3:30 PM to 4:00 PM
Always available upon request.

Please pray for our sick and shut in parishioners.

May Our Lord sustain, comfort and heal them through their faith.

Mimi LaBossiere, Ann Vinet, Don Appel, Lew and Dolores Hampton, Marilyn McKay, Galdino Berti, Yunha Kim, Gerard Born, George Stock, Jerzy and Irena Klimczek, Rita Rocan, Theresa Witjes, Dolores Azevedo, Amanda Paller.

Last Sunday Offering

\$1,791.00 Envelopes
\$ 281.00 Loose
\$1,657.00 Average Weekly Expenses

Thank you for your generous support of your Parish.

Project Advance: Our appreciation goes out to all parishioners who have made a gift to Project Advance 2017. ***To date, we have received 26 gifts 34.7% of the parishioners totaling \$11,770. (78.5% of the Parish Goal).*** Remember that funds received over our Diocesan goal (\$5,000.) will be returned to the Parish. Please continue to respond in prayer and generosity. Our sharing reflects our caring. Thank you.

Stewardship Reflection: July 9, 2017

“For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” - Matthew 11:30. When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God is asking too much of us when He calls us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, we must remember that we are not “owners” of anything; we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. All He is asking is that we give back a small portion of what He has already given to us.

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Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Eucharist

Devotion to the Sacred Heart should bring us to a life of intimate union with Jesus who, we know, is truly present and living in the Holy Eucharist. The two devotions—*to the Sacred Heart and to the Holy Eucharist*—**are closely connected.** They call upon one another and, we may even say, they require each other.

The Sacred Heart explains the mystery of the love of Jesus by which He becomes bread in order to nourish us with His Substance, while in the Holy Eucharist we have the Real Presence of this same Heart, living in our midst. It is wonderful to contemplate the Heart of Jesus as the symbol of His infinite love, but it is even more wonderful to find Him always near us in the Sacrament of the altar.

The Sacred Heart which we honor *is not a dead person's heart* which no longer palpitates, so that we have only the memory of Him, but ***it is the Heart of a living Person, of One who lives eternally.*** *He lives not only in heaven where His sacred humanity dwells in glory, but He lives also on earth wherever the Holy Eucharist is reserved.* In speaking of the Holy Eucharist, Our Lord says to us, "Behold, I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world" (Matthew 28:20).

In Holy Communion, then, this Heart beats within us, it touches our heart; through the love of this Heart, we are fed with His Flesh and with His Blood, so that we may abide in Him and He in us. "In the Holy Eucharist," said Benedict XV, "this divine Heart governs us and loves us by living and abiding with us, so that we may live and abide in Him, because in this Sacrament ... He offers and gives Himself to us as victim, companion, viaticum, and the pledge of future glory."

Reflection on Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 11:25-30

The primary focus of the Gospels these last two Sundays has been about carrying our heavy crosses of burden in life. Jesus says, "Whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me." At times, the temptation is to find a way to make our crosses lighter. However, today's Gospel message is of *hope* that Jesus will help us carry our crosses, if we only but ask for His help.

A story is told about a group of devout people who were carrying heavy crosses of burden on their pilgrimage. The going was rough and there was much moaning and groaning among the travelers. It was such rough going that one of the pilgrims found his cross just too heavy to carry, so he decided to cut off a part of it and make it shorter so it would be lighter to carry.

After days of walking, the pilgrims approached the Promised Land of everlasting joy and peace in God's presence. But they still had one obstacle to overcome. Between them and heaven was a river. How could they get to the other side?

Someone thought of the idea of each traveler using his cross to make a bridge. And wouldn't you know it? The crosses were just the right length to span the river.

So, all the cross-bearers were able to cross the river *except* for the one who had decided to cut down his cross to make it lighter.

Today's Gospel contains one of the most encouraging invitations Jesus ever issued, and at the same time it is an invitation that is too often overlooked by His followers of today, as it was overlooked by the pilgrim who shortened his cross. "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." *What an offer!* Artists and sculptors who have portrayed our Saviour above our altars with arms outstretched before us have captured that invitation most vividly.

Then Jesus completes the invitation by saying, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." Jesus invites us to take His yoke upon ourselves and to learn from Him. A yoke is a double harness made of wood that is custom-made and placed on the necks of a pair of oxen to enable them to pull a plow or wagon together.

When Jesus says we should take His yoke upon us and learn from Him, He is offering to share our cross with us the way oxen support one another by pulling together. With Jesus helping us, our cross becomes lighter.

Many people come to Mass on Sunday laden down with the problems, troubles and burdens of life. Jesus meets us at the door and embraces all our trials and us. Jesus does not offer to remove these crosses but He offers to lighten them by walking by our side and helping us to carry them. The challenge is not to shorten our cross but to be united with Christ in carrying our cross. Then at the end of our pilgrim journey on earth, our cross will be the right length to cross into heaven where we will find peace and rest for our souls.