



MASSES FOR THE WEEK  
September 12—September 8  
EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR  
THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE  
PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12**

- 4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Robert E. Fontenelle; Margaret Gerrets; Wanda L. Johnson; Maselli Family; Marlene Morris; Barbara Rush; Captain Houston E. Walker
- 5:30 p.m. Thomas Baker; Theresa M. Barry; Fontana Family; Kate Howard; Joseph Maselli III

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

- 8:00 a.m. Members of St. Patrick's Church (Propopulo)
- 9:30 a.m. Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; Kelsey Favrot; Marie Gaudet; Claire A. Herthum; Norma McClellan; Richard McCloskey; Alfred Ramirez, Jr.; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Jerome J. Triche, Sr.
- 11:00 a.m. John M. Callia; Kate Howard; Barbara Rush; Captain Houston E. Walker; Poor Souls
- 5:30 p.m. Thomas Baker; Leona O'Dwyer; Thanksgiving to St. Anthony; Thanksgiving to Blessed Virgin Mary

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Leona O'Dwyer; Kate Howard; Ana Otal Sepulveda de Sedno

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

- 11:30 a.m. Delia Hernandez; Barbara Rush
- 12:00 p.m. Kate Howard; Joann Hintz; Leona O'Dwyer; Elisabeth Robert

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Kate Howard; Stephen Losee; Leona O'Dwyer

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

- 11:30 a.m. Kate Howard; Barbara Rush
- 12:00 p.m. Loretta Dousan; Elisabeth Robert

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

- 11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List
- 12:00 p.m. Mary G. Cammarata; Stephen Losee; Leona

**GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.**  
*Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost*  
**Solemn High Mass—**First Sunday of the month.  
**Benediction—**Third Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND BENECTION—**Sunday, 3:00pm—5:00pm

**PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR**  
Our Father in heaven, through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
Spare us from all harm during this hurricane season,  
And protect us and our homes  
from all disasters of nature.  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. Amen.

**SUNDAY OFFERING—**September 6, 2009

First Collection \$ 11,635

Second Collection\* \$ 1,670

\* Maintenance and restoration

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH MORNING OF PRAYER**

*Cenacle of Our Loving Mother Prayer Group*  
Saturday, September 19, 2009; 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.  
Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary, Confession, Novena and Holy Mass.  
All are invited.

**rites of Christian Initiation for Adults**

As followers of Jesus, we are all called to preach, teach and baptize. The RCIA process will begin Monday, September 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the rectory. If you know of anyone who is thinking of becoming a Catholic Christian please approach them with the RCIA information and ask them to call the rectory office. Someone may be waiting for *your invitation* to join our faith community.

**MASS OF THANKSGIVING & EVENING OF CELEBRATION**

Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. St. Patrick's will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to honor parishioners for their faithful service to God and His Church. It will be followed by our annual *Evening of Celebration*; cocktails and buffet dinner at the Renaissance Arts Hotel, 700 Tchoupitoulas St. String Ensemble Music will complement this event of art, friendship and dinner, and afford the opportunity to congratulate our honorees. Reservations for dinner will be accepted until September 14th. Parishioners have received information in the mail, but everyone is invited to attend. Please call the rectory for your reservation and donation information: (504) 525-4413.

**INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF NEW ORGAN**

Sunday, September 27, at 3:00 p.m.  
Father Stanley P. Klores will celebrate a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite to formally inaugurate and bless the new Patrick J. Murphy Organ. St. Patrick's Concert Choir will sing Antonin Dvorak's *Mass in D*, and will be accompanied by guest organist, Dr. James Hammann. A reception will follow in the rectory. Everyone is invited.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL WALK FOR THE POOR**

Saturday, September 26, 2009  
Audubon Park Walking Track—Magazine St. entrance—Shelter #10  
8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m. Late registration and pre-walk events  
10:00 a.m.—Walk begins  
11:00 a.m.—Food and fun  
For more info:  
Elaine Selle—985.792.5844 eselle@weiss-eason.com  
Yvonne Morise—504.835.9932 morisey@bellsouth.net  
Ken Krey—504.289.2465 kenkrey345@yahoo.com

**COFFEE AND DOUGHNUTS**

In Reynolds Hall, after the Sunday morning Masses.

**FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR**

To honor a loved one by donating flowers for the altar please call Jessie at 525-4413.

**PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL**

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Tom Alexander; Del Barry; Patricia Berrigan; Brett Bradley; Barbara Brennan; Randall Cashio; Tony Clesi; Colleen Collet; Rene Crane; Carol Daigle; Tom Darcy; Ralph DeBlanc; Raymond DeBlanc; Elizabeth DeBuys; Al Duroncelet; Katherine Eagan; Bryan Evans; Mimi Finley; John Fulcher; Marie Gattuso; Glenn & Christine Harper; Bob Held; Howard Henriques; Milton J. Hock, Jr.; Karen Ibraheim; Joan Kimball; Belinda Lazaro; Joseph; Stephen Losee; Michael McCarthy; Mary A. McKay; Buddy McInnis; Sally Ann Main; Maudie Megeson; Lucille Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Karen Paprocki; J. Van Provosty; Tom Roach; Elisabeth Robert; Larry Schapiro; M. Schuss; Eleanor Smith; Joseph M. Sonne; Pierre Stouse; Stephanie Summers; Joy Trapani; Alyssa Vingam

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### ST. BENEDICT AND THE WOOD-CHOPPING WAY

“Well, I went out to chop some wood this afternoon, and I was angry and frustrated about some stuff, and when I was done chopping wood, I wasn’t angry and frustrated anymore. I reckon it did me some good.”

My friend had a point, and St. Benedict understood it well. Benedict very wisely established three aspects to the monastic life, and traditional Benedictine monks still follow his advice. The monk divides his time between three pursuits — work, reading and prayer — and Benedict is clear that the work should take the form of physical labor.

St. Benedict understood the wood-chopping therapy. He understood that physical labor often helps to clear our mind, direct our attention and facilitate our prayer. Washing the dishes, digging the vegetable garden, feeding the roses, chopping wood, scrubbing the floor — all these ordinary things take on a spiritual function when they are seen as part of a whole spiritual life. In this way, work is sanctified. As the poet George Herbert wrote, “Who sweeps a room as for His cause makes that and the action fine.”

Benedict’s rule balances physical work with prayer and reading. For Benedict, prayer was essentially the liturgical prayer of the Divine Office. The monks go into church seven times a day to sing the Psalms, pray for the world and worship the Lord. The word liturgy actually means “work of the laity,” so their observance of the liturgical life was also part of their work. In this way, their prayer was their work, and because they are encouraged to pray while they work, their work becomes prayer.

This integrated life — in which prayer is work and work is prayer — is completed by the third aspect: reading or study. In a time when books were scarce, the monks in St. Benedict’s day would have spent their reading time memorizing not only all of the Psalms, but also great portions of other Scripture and selections from the great spiritual writers.

This threefold balance of work, prayer and reading is a practical approach to a balanced life, but it also has a deeper significance. The three aspects of the Benedictine life reflect the three parts of the human person. Work ministers to our bodies. Prayer ministers to our souls. Reading ministers to our minds. Only when we have a balance of all three will we be able to develop as completely well-rounded human persons.

The threefold balance of Benedict helps us address our imbalance. Therefore, the individual who focuses only on the physical aspect of life is missing part of his development. The intellectual is incomplete if he ignores the physical and spiritual, and the person who is focused on nothing but prayer is also lacking in a development of the whole person.

If we want to observe the wisdom of St. Benedict, we will examine our own lives and try to make up for what is lacking, and the way to do that is to bring to mind which one of these three we find most difficult or unpleasant. If we find reading and study to be a bore, unfortunately, that’s where we need to do some work. If physical work is not to our liking, then we need to engage in some “wood-chopping therapy.” If we find prayer difficult, then prayer is what we need to spend more time on.

The final result of this threefold balance is that the whole person is being renewed. This is the final aim of the Christian life, as St. Paul writes to the Ephesians, to “grow up into the full manhood of Jesus Christ.” The final goal is to be transformed into the image of Christ — to become a living icon of the incarnate Lord, who was himself a perfectly balanced harmony of body, mind and spirit.

St. Benedict’s rule is deceptive in its simplicity. While it calls

for the monks to engage in work, prayer and reading, all the time Benedict has his eyes on this higher goal. The entire activity in the monastery is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. St. Benedict says the monastery is “a school for the Lord’s service.” In other words, it is the environment in which souls can be sanctified.

How might we apply this same wisdom to our lives outside the monastery? As a husband and father — yes, you heard right; I am a convert to the Catholic faith from the Anglican priesthood — it is part of my responsibility to catch this threefold vision for my family, the domestic church. I need to make sure my children are engaged in the work that is required around the home. Suddenly, the kitchen duties, keeping their bedrooms clean, helping around the house, mowing the lawn and raking leaves all have a deeper significance.

Similarly, study or reading is important. In the modern world, this might include more than just book knowledge. It includes watching good films together, going to the theater to see good plays and opera, and helping the children read a whole range of uplifting, inspiring and challenging literature.

Finally, I must be actively involved in encouraging the family to pray on a regular basis. Seven times a day for liturgical prayer is not possible, but maintaining the discipline of grace before meals and prayer at the beginning and end of the day all help to continue the tradition of prayer as one of the aspects of the threefold balance.

As we develop the threefold balance, we will move to that place where, St. Benedict says, “We do all these things which were once duties because they are now our desire.” When we get to that point, we will “run in the path of God’s commandments, our hearts overflowing with an inexpressible delight of love.”

*Father Dwight Longenecker was an Anglican priest who became a Catholic in 1995. He is a candidate for Catholic priesthood under the special pastoral provision for married former Anglican clergy.*



In this month in which we celebrate the Exaltation of the Cross (Sept. 14) and Our Lady of Sorrows (Sept. 15) on succeeding days, it is interesting to consider the cross through the Gospel passages the Church has chosen for each day.

On the Exaltation of the Cross we will hear the Gospel of John in which Jesus says that the Son of Man must be lifted up “so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (Jn 3: 15). In the Mass of Our Lady of Sorrows we will hear the words of Simeon to Mary, “(and you yourself a sword will pierce) so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed” (Lk 2: 35). The liturgical celebration of these feasts shows the cross to be an event that demands that we take a position; a reality which separates believers and non-believers.

May the thoughts of our hearts be disposed to become ever more profoundly faithful before the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before the eyes of an aggressively disbelieving world may it become ever more clear that we are believers who long for the eternal life offered to us through the cross of our Lord and the sorrows of our Lady.

*Father Richard Veras  
Magnificat*