

FROM THE DESK OF THE PASTOR

SOMETIMES WE NEED TO BE ALONE WITH OUR LORD IN CHURCH

All of us know that we need to maintain a balance in our lives, public and private. There are times when we need to be part of the crowd. There are other times when we need to retreat to our private space. Jesus gave us an example of the proper balance that we need in our spiritual lives. He had the custom of going to the synagogue for communal worship every Sabbath. And He participated in the Jerusalem temple services at all of the appointed times. He also went off by Himself and spent whole nights in prayer to His Heavenly Father.

In today's Gospel from St. Mark the disciples were returning to the Master after a missionary journey for which He had sent them out two by two. It had been for them a time of preaching to the people and of praying with them. Naturally the disciples were tired. So Jesus came up with a really welcome idea. "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." This suggestion was music to their ears. Without a whole lot of coaxing the disciples went off with Jesus in a boat to a deserted place. However, peace and quiet was hard to find.

"People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.

They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them. When He disembarked and saw the vast crowd, His heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and He began to teach them many things."

The Christ wants us modern Catholics to also seek a true balance. Foremost in our spiritual lives is the celebration of the Mass together as a united people. Full, active, and conscious participation in the sacred liturgy, especially that of Sunday Mass, is the most important source from which we are to derive our Catholic Faith. And yet we too must at times go to a deserted place to pray alone with Our Savior in the Blessed Sacrament. Sometimes we need to make a visit. Sometimes we need to be alone with Our Lord

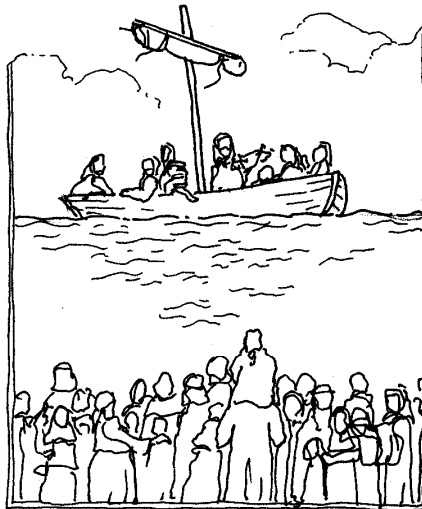
in church. We need that chance to pray in our own way and for our own intentions. Both public and private prayers are to be part of our Catholic lives. We should never want the Mass to be what it is not, a form of private, individual prayer. But personal prayer must never be neglected.

All of us must realize that taking our faith seriously involves much more than just Sunday Mass. We must make time to pray in our own way in order to fulfill our personal spiritual needs so that we may come to Mass ready and eager to join with our spiritual sisters and brothers in the family worship of God our Father. For the parishioners of St. James at Sag Bridge there is the duty to share in our devotional activities. Advent, Lenten, and Holy Week liturgies, the

Days of Adoration, the annual celebration of the Divine Mercy, the annual Parish Mission, the annual communal Anointing of the Sick, the annual May Crowning, the weekly recitation of the Rosary during the months of May and October, the Stations of the Cross both inside and outside. And beginning today there will be the opportunity to visit the Statue of Our Lady of the Millennium right here on parish grounds!

Private devotion should not ordinarily take on the character of public worship through the recitation of many vocal and communal prayers. The need is for quiet, contemplative prayer, a reflection on the meaning of life and our place within it, a meditation on the teachings and example of the Christ, and the expression of our personal relationship with the Father. We should not want the Mass to be like quiet, personal devotion, nor should we turn private religious expressions into community type prayer. Our Lord has taught us the importance of balance in prayer. And He has given us an example. The effort and time that we put into both public and private prayer are our way of responding to His teaching and His example.

God Bless Our Parish
FATHER ED GLEESON, PASTOR



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FLOWERS

The two large bouquets adorning the main altar were made available through the kindness of **THE NELSON FAMILY**.



The collection for St. James on the weekend of **July 16th was \$3,818.12**
Mission Co-Op was \$2,174.25

The number of July 16 Offertory Envelopes handed in the weekend of July 15 and 16 was 166. The amount of money coming out of those envelopes was \$3,242.00 which averages out to \$19.53 per envelope. Our many thanks to the 166 contributing families.

BLESS YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED AND VALUED SUPPORT.

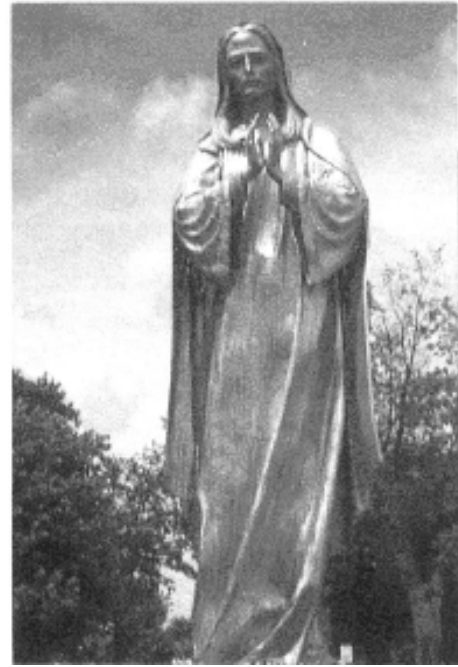
VOCATIONS

Rest to listen. Listen to respond. Hear God's answer to your question, "What do you ask of me?" Is it to consider priesthood or religious life? Rest to listen. Listen to respond. For information on priesthood and/or religious life, contact St. Peter Mary at the Archdiocesan Vocation office 312-751-5240 or voac@archchicago.org.



TRAVEL MASS TIMES

For traveling Catholics free information on the location of the nearest church and times of Masses on weekends and holy days can be found by calling 1-410-676-6000, or visit their website at www.masstimes.org.



**OUR LADY OF THE
NEW MILLENNIUM STATUE
WILL BE AT HERE AT ST. JAMES
BETWEEN SUNDAY, JULY 23
AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 6.**

ROSARY & MASS IN THE GROTTO

Both Wednesday evenings July 26th and August 2 the Recitation of the Rosary will take place at the Our Lady of the New Millennium statue followed by 7:00pm Mass in the Our Lady of the Forest Grotto (weather permitting, or the Mass will be held in church). This is the first time Mass will be celebrated in the grotto itself. Everyone is invited to our Marian Devotions on both evenings. If you cannot make either evening you can surely make time to visit our Blessed Mother and say a short prayer anytime you drive by our location during the 2 weeks she will be

HISTORY OF THE BROWN SCAPULAR

The Brown Scapular is a Roman Catholic devotion to Mary under her title of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is worn as a sign of love and devotion for the Mother of God. The Scapular was presented by Our Lady to St. Simon Stock, the Father General of the Carmelite Order, on July 16, 1251. Mary stated the following promise to him concerning the Scapular: "Whosoever dies wearing this

Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire...it shall be a sign of salvation, a protection in danger, and a pledge of peace. Another important aspect of wearing the Scapular is the Sabbatine Privilege. This concerns a promise made by Our Lady to Pope John XXII. In a papal letter he issued, he recounted a vision that he had had. He stated that the Blessed Virgin had said to him in this vision, concerning those who wear the Brown Scapular: "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whomsoever I shall find in Purgatory, I shall free, so that I may lead them to the holy mountain of life everlasting." According to Church tradition, there are three conditions

necessary to participate in this Privilege and share in the other spiritual benefits of the Scapular: wear the Brown Scapular, observe chastity according to your state in life, and pray the Rosary. In addition to the Sabbatine Privilege, enrollment in the Brown Scapular also makes a person part of the Carmelite family throughout the world. They therefore share in all of the prayers and good works of the Carmelite Orders. Participation in the Carmelite family also, of course, places you in a special relationship with the Carmelite saints, especially St. Elijah, St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Therese of Lisieux, and, most importantly, Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Many popes and saints have strongly recommended wearing the Brown Scapular to the Catholic Faithful, including St. Robert Bellarmine, Pope John

XXII, Pope Pius XI, and Pope Benedict XV. For example, St. Alphonsus said: "Just as men take pride in having others wear their livery, so the Most Holy Mary is pleased when Her servants wear Her Scapular as a mark that they have dedicated themselves to Her service, and are members of the Family of the Mother of God." Pope Pius XII went so far as to say: "The Scapular is a practice of piety which by its very simplicity is suited to everyone, and has spread

widely among the faithful of Christ to their spiritual profit." In our own times, Pope Paul VI said: "Let the faithful hold in high esteem the practices and devotions to the Blessed Virgin...the Rosary and the Scapular of Carmel" and in another place referred to the Scapular as: "so highly recommended by Our illustrious predecessors."

In order to receive the spiritual blessings associated with the Scapular, it is necessary to be formally enrolled in the Brown Scapular by either a priest or a lay person who has been given this faculty. Once enrolled, the enrollment is for life and need not be repeated. Anyone, adult or infant, who has not previously been enrolled may be enrolled in the Brown Scapular. Participation in this devo-

tion is open to non-Catholics as well.

What the Carmelite scapular IS NOT:

- a magical charm to protect you;
- an automatic guarantee of salvation;
- an excuse for not living up to the demands of the Christian life.

What the Carmelite scapular IS:

A Sign which...

- has been approved by the church for over seven centuries;
- stands for the decision to follow Jesus like Mary: open to God and his will, guided by faith, hope and love, close to needs of people, praying at all times, discovering God present in all that happens around us; introduces people into the family of Carmel;
- points to a renewed hope of encountering God in eternal life with the help of Mary's protection and intercession.



ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE

FEASTDAY: JULY 25

This James is the brother of John the Evangelist. The two were called by Jesus as they worked with their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had already called another pair of brothers from a similar occupation: Peter and Andrew. “He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him” (Mark 1:19-20).

James was one of the favored three who had the privilege of witnessing the Transfiguration, the raising to life of the daughter of Jairus and the agony in Gethsemani.

Two incidents in the Gospels describe the temperament of this man and his brother. St. Matthew tells that their mother came (Mark says it was the brothers themselves) to ask that they have the seats of honor (one on the right, one on the left of Jesus) in the kingdom. “Jesus said in reply, ‘You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink?’ They said to him, ‘We can!’” (Matthew 20:22). Jesus then told them they would indeed drink the cup and share his baptism of pain and death, but that sitting at his right hand or left was not his to give—it “is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father” (Matthew 20:23b). It remained to be seen how long it would take to realize the implications of their confident “We can!” The other disciples became indignant at the ambition of James and John. Then Jesus taught them all the lesson of humble service: The purpose of authority is to serve. They are not to impose their will on others, or lord it over them. This is the position of Jesus himself. He was the servant of all; the service imposed on him was the supreme sacrifice of his own life.

On another occasion, James and John gave evidence that the nickname Jesus gave them—“sons



of thunder”—was an apt one. The Samaritans would not welcome Jesus because he was on his way to hated Jerusalem. “When the disciples James and John saw this they asked, ‘Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?’ Jesus turned and rebuked them...” (Luke 9:54-55).

James was apparently the first of the apostles to be martyred. “About that time King Herod laid hands upon some members of the church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also” (Acts 12:1-3a).

This James, sometimes called James the Greater, is not to be confused with the author of the Letter of James and the leader of the Jerusalem community.

OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

St. Damian Church is in final preparations for the 9th Annual Mass to Honor Our Lady of Czestochowa. The Mass will be held on Sunday, August 20, 2006 at 3:00pm in the Church. Their final Choir practice will be on Monday, August 14 at 8:00pm in the Church. They are always looking for more singers. If you are interested please call Lee Zalewski at 708-687-1799 or Arlene Cygan at 708-535-0878. St. Damian is located at 5300 W. 155th St. in Oak Forest.

SPONSOR LETTER TO HOLY NAME SOCIETY

Hello,

I send you this card to say thank you for this birthday present I had received from CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND THE AGING. I knew they came from you. Thank you for the ironing board, bath towel, 1 kilo of bihon and a can of maling. These things are great help to my daily needs and work at home. Thank you for this ample food I have.

I had prayed to God for another year of blessing for my life. God knows how I cherish you as my family. Prayer is only as I can you in return.

God bless you always,
Luciana Bayta

VOTIVE CANDLES For the remission of Sandy Allison
Votive offering for the week of July 23rd
 In memory of Darren Chud *Votive offering Sat. July 29th*
 In memory of Freda Kirkman The Nelson Family (10 votives)

VIGIL CANDLES
 We try to have vigils lit at all times at our two shrines. Keeping them lit with your intentions has been a tradition here for many years. Each lit candle lasts for one week. In the past few weeks there are few and fewer vigils being lit. When there are no intentions requested they will remain out. If you would like to light a vigil for a special intention the donations is \$8.00 each which pays for the candle. Your name will be placed on the candle which will burn for one week. You can find vigil light envelopes in the back of church. You can fill them out and drop them in the collection basket or give them to one of the ushers.

“The recognition of the sacred character of human life and of its inviolability—a principle admitting no exceptions—is not some trivial little problem or question that may be considered relative, in view of the pluralism of opinions we find in modern society... There are no ‘small murders.’ The respect



of every human life is an essential condition if a societal life worthy of the name is to be possible.
 Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) in Christianity and the Crisis of Cultures.

PRAYER: For the leaders of churches that they may fearlessly speak out for legal protection of the unborn, we pray.



Monday July 24 *Weekday*
 8:15 AM †Bernice Fargan

Tuesday July 25 *St. James, Apostle*
 8:15 AM int. of Richard J. Guzior—
 Birthday

Wednesday July 26 *Ss. Joachim & Anne*
 6:30PM Rosary in Grotto
 7:00PM †Jerry Mogy

Thursday July 27 *Weekday*
 8:15AM †Elizabeth Nelson

Friday July 28 *Weekday*
 8:15AM †Joseph Fargan

Saturday July 29
 11:00AM *Vigil: 17th Ordinary Sunday*
 WEDDING:
 Joseph Volini & Mary
 Catherine Nelson

4:30 to 5:15PM **Confessions**
 5:30PM †Frank Podczerwinski, Sr.

Sunday July 30
SEVENTEENTH ORDINARY SUNDAY
 8:30AM **Living & Deceased Parishioners**
 10:00AM †Janice Tessitore
 11:30AM †Walter Nakon

July 29 & 30	5:30 PM	8:30AM	10:00 AM	11:30 AM
Celebrant	Father Gleeson	Father Obasi	Father Howarth	Father Gleeson
Altar Servers	K. Janociak M. Wall M. Walsh	D. Lawler P. Lawler P. Tishuk	Z. Reitz J. Zubek M. Zubek	J. Haluska B. A'hearn K. Smuda
Lector	C. Zarzycki	C. Stach-Pearman	M. Zubek	S. Hagen
LEM	L. Backofen	M. Dillenburg	D. Lasica	Deacon John
Ushers	P. Walsh C. Hughes E. Liczwek N. Nowaczyk	M. Hally T. Lang F. Pearman H. Grutza	M. Lavery M. Wall J. Pajkos D. Butalla	B. Czaja M. Fleckenstein R. Poynter J. Neadly