

Our Lady of the Desert Catholic Church



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Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,
Administrador Parroquial

Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial

Confesión el Sábado:
Por cita en (Español y Inglés)

Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María—3:20pm

Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.

Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima
Virgen María— 9:40am

Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.

Liturgia en los Días de la Semana

Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Lunes: Adoración 7:00am y Misa a las 7:30am

Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:
Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am

Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz con
Adoración

Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am
Misa en Honor de Virgen María



7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” - Mt 5:44

“Yo, en cambio, les digo: Amen a sus enemigos, hagan el bien a los que los odian y rueguen por los que los persiguen y calumnian”. - Mt 5, 44

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February 19th, 2023

Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator
Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar

Confession on Saturday:

By appointment English/Spanish

Saturday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary - 3:20pm

Saturday Mass (Vigil): English -4:00 p.m.

Sunday Rosary: With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin
Mary—9:40am

Sunday Mass: Spanish 10:00am

Liturgy of the Weekdays

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

Monday: 7:00am Adoration & Mass 7:30am

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am

Friday: At 6:00pm Rosary of Queen of Peace with
Adoration

Saturday: Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass
In Honor of the Virgin Mary

I remember the first time I read the Bible from cover to cover. I found Genesis and Exodus enthralling. There were lots of interesting stories and the narrative was easy to follow. Then I began reading the Book of Leviticus, the book from which today's first reading is taken. Suddenly I found myself somewhat lost in paragraph after paragraph of laws and prescriptions about the sacrifices prescribed by God, cleanliness, and a lot of other rules that seemed obscure and completely disconnected from my own life, making it very difficult to follow.

Then I got to chapter 19, part of which we hear at Mass today. In verses 1–2, we hear, “The Lord said to Moses, ‘Speak to the whole Israelite community and tell them: Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.’” This, my friends, is the most important part of this chapter because it is the reason behind all of the law of Moses. God, whose essence consists in supreme holiness, has chosen this people to be peculiarly his own. He has freed them from their captivity in Egypt, and is now leading them through the desert into the promised land. Along the way, he instructs his holy people on how to be in relationship with an all-holy God and with one another. When we read the story of the Old Testament, it can be easy to get caught up in the details of the law, losing sight of this great truth: the reason God calls His people to observe these laws is because He is holy, and He desires them to have a share in His holiness.

In your dealings with others this week, pay close attention to those people with whom you struggle the most. Perhaps God is giving you opportunities to grow in love. You need only to ask him for patience and trust to treat others with the same love and concern that God gives to each of us.

Whenever he teaches, Jesus, who is the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, uses the same pedagogy. He teaches us to observe, not only the commandments that were once taught to the Jewish people so that we can share in His holiness He also teaches us to go beyond the letter of those laws and arrive at the heart of the matter: “So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Jesus desires us to grow in the perfection of love in our hearts, that love which we received on the day of our Baptism when we became God's beloved daughters and sons.

Many times, when we hear his command to “be perfect,” in our minds and hearts we actually hear, “be a perfectionist.” I have seen many people struggle with this misperception. It is one that can ultimately lead to anxiety since, as human beings, we still deal with the effects of the Fall. Perfectionism is, at its root, reliance solely upon oneself. We give in to a false belief that we have to do everything correctly in order to be lovable. Many people find that even when they do things correctly, their accomplishments are never “good enough.”

When Jesus calls us to “be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect,” he is inviting us to place our trust in God, rather than ourselves. Just as God gave the Jewish people the law so they could share in His holiness, He who is the source of our perfection desires to share His divine life with us. He who calls us to perfection also gives us every grace we need to grow in holiness.

This is especially important in our dealings with others. Both teachings that we receive from Jesus today have to do with love of neighbor: “You have heard that it was said, An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.” Likewise, “You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy. But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Let's be honest: if we try to rely solely on ourselves to observe these commandments, we will inevitably fail. But God, the source of goodness, holiness, and perfection, delights in giving us the grace to realize that which is impossible.

Fr. Brent Bowen



Mission Bells

Monday, February 20, 2023

11:00am—Lite Lunch

Mission Bells meeting
following after lunch

Fr. Victor's Schedule

Fr. Victor is scheduled to be at “Our Lady of the Desert” the 4th Sunday of every month.

(Dates are subject to change)

Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Of all the things Jesus says which seem totally bat-crazy, this one might take the cake: **“But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you.”** An enemy is someone who desires the destruction of you, your projects, or those you care about. To love and pray for them is to want their health, strength, and flourishing. But if they thrive, they are more likely to hurt you and others. So, aren't you indirectly willing your own destruction, or that of your friends? If you doubt that this problem is embedded in this teaching, when was the last time you actually prayed honestly for the people you really hate?

How can we solve this riddle so we might actually live this command? Recall that enemy-love is the surest sign that you love someone with God's love, and not with indirect egotism. After all, if my love for my enemy ends up hurting me or my loved ones, it can't be for me. Enemy-love costs more because there are no tit-for-tats. No reciprocity — just loved poured out, and often pain in return. That's why it is so precious and rare. “What is unusual about that?” asks the Lord about love for our friends. Jesus wants us to experience the unusual love which only comes from him.

When Jesus was being killed on the cross, he was loving his executioners. In fact, he was holding them in being as they nailed him to the cross. He loved those who were spiritually piercing his Mother's heart, while they were doing it. And when he rose from the dead, he showed us that this kind of love is always worth it. It's stronger than death. Real love is unusual.

— *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"Take no revenge and cherish no grudge against any of your people.

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
I am the LORD." (Lv 19:18)

Psalm:

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)

Second Reading:

All belong to you, and you to Christ, and Christ to God.
(1 Cor 3:22-23)

Gospel:

"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you." (Mt 5:43-44)

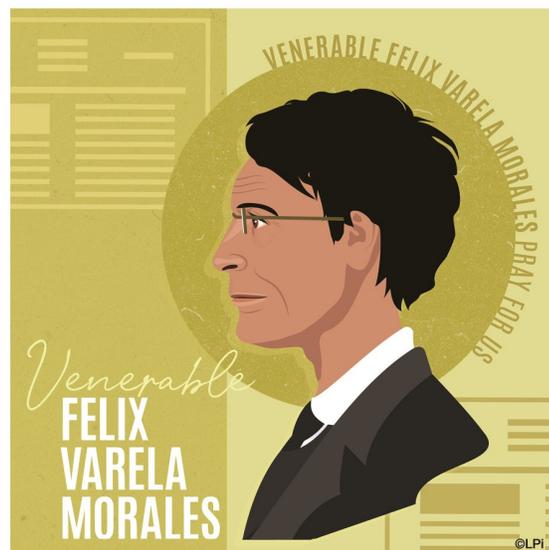
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Want to be a real revolutionary? Defy the fallen impulses of human nature. Love your enemy. Pray for your persecutor. Give to those who would take. We can do hard things, Christians. We aren't perfect, but our God is.

Observances for the week of February 19, 2023

- Sunday:** 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Presidents' Day
- Tuesday:** St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday
- Thursday:** St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr
- Next Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Venerable Félix Varela was a thought leader, professor, scholar, political leader, and cultural champion for immigrant families. Originally from Cuba, he served in Spain and in the United States as a pastoral luminary in every community he engaged.

Prayer

Prayer for Venerable Félix Varela y Morales's intercession

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image.

Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and make no peace with oppression.

Help us, like your servant Venerable Felix Varela,

to work for justice among people and nations, to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns

with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Prayer Source: -Adapted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (2006), page 60

<https://neatnik2009.wordpress.com/2016/12/10/feast-of-venerable-felix-varela-february-25/>)

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Hardness of Holiness

Want to know the words I find hardest to say?
“Lord, give me the strength.”

The world tells us to push ourselves outside of our comfort zone if we’re training for a marathon or applying for a job — but if we’re talking about God, everything is supposed to be easy. If it comes “naturally” or without struggle it’s supposed to be right.

Only God is perfect, the world tells us. What’s the use of trying so hard?

I’m really good at finding excuses for myself, especially when it comes to holiness. Holiness, often (not always, but often), is about choosing the hard, but right, thing. The invitation to holiness is whispered in the hardest moments of my day when I am the most hopelessly human. After the kids’ bedtime, when I really just want to watch Dateline and eat too much ice cream instead of saying the Rosary. When I’ve committed to helping someone, but it suddenly becomes incredibly inconvenient. When I see a social media post that’s just begging for a snarky reply. When the conversation becomes gossip and I’m dying to make myself feel superior to someone.

The reason it’s so difficult for me to mutter these five simple words is because I know that if I say them and I mean them, they form a prayer that God will always answer in the affirmative. He will give me the strength I ask for, and then I will have no excuse.

It’s not unlike my kids claiming they’re too tired to clean up the playroom. If they would just ask me for help, it would all be so doable. But where would that leave them?

With a job to do, that’s where.

*“Be holy, for I, the LORD, your God, am holy.”
— Leviticus 19:2*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Is gossip a mortal sin?

Answer:

To really ask this question, we must consider the Eighth Commandment: “You shall not bear false witness.”

In its reflections on this commandment, The Catechism of the Catholic Church invites us to not only think about what bearing “false witness” means, but to also consider how we understand the truth and how we communicate more broadly. This is why so much of this section of the Catechism has to do with the gift of language. With this in mind, we will notice that the word “gossip” isn’t used by the Catechism. Instead, we find the words “detraction” and “calumny,” which are actually two forms that gossip can take, and both can be quite serious.

First, detraction is the of revealing “another’s faults and failings to persons who did not know them,” without morally valid reasons. Calumny, by extension, is saying something about another person that is untrue, and it is sinful because it “harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgements” (see no. 2477).

In all of our communication, we have to always recognize that we have a moral obligation to the truth and to always work to protect the reputation and honor of our neighbors (see no. 2479).

Gossip can, in fact, prove to be a very serious sin. After all, the Catechism reminds us: “No one is bound to reveal the truth to someone who does not have the right to know it” (no. 2489). When we have gossiped, especially if we are aware we have damaged another person’s good name or reputation, we want to make every effort to undo the damage we have done, including seeking the grace and forgiveness offered in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Our Lady of the Desert



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