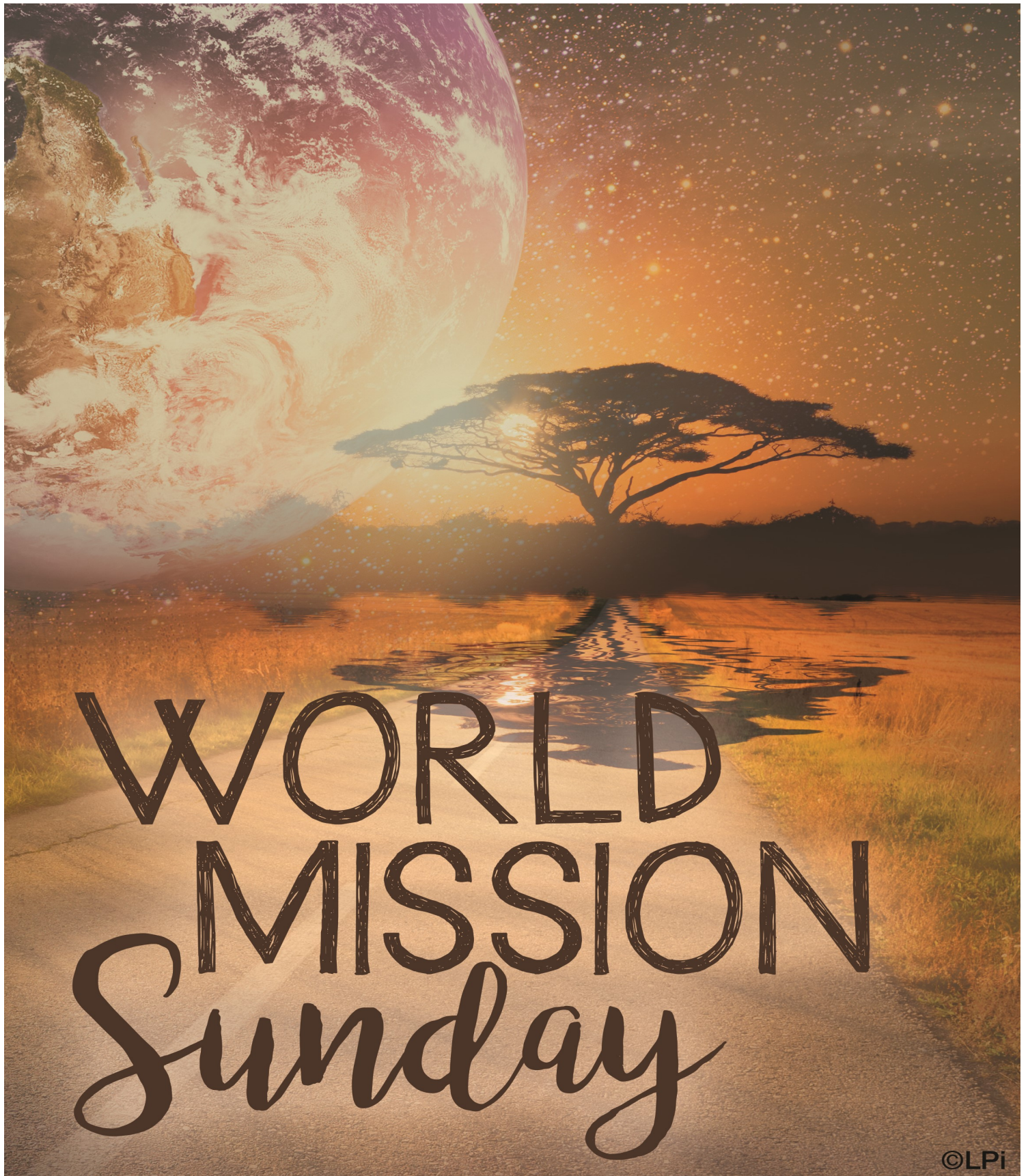




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Church of the Sacred Heart
415 West 5th Street, Rush City, MN 55069 320.358.4370

Daily Reflection Of Creighton University's Online Ministries

For every suffering or calamity, or tragedy, we look for - demand - reasons and causes. When there is a plane crash there is a big search for the Flight Recorder contained within the "Black Box". Somehow we feel better when we know the roots and causes of the tragic things so that we will be comforted by the prospect of how things will turn out. Mechanical malfunctions are easier to forgive rather than human fragility or mental disturbance. Recently and always, we read in the news of young people who shoot and kill people in a movie house, school classrooms, places of prayer and clothing stores. We eventually find out the killers were sick, angry, rejected or lonely. These are some kind of explanations and causes, but the sufferings of the families remain, and the victims are dead.

It is not exactly a tragedy when one person's injury or fault leads him/her to cause their own personal disturbance or destruction. The tragedy is really when, through that fault, others are destroyed. It is within this context that we read the First Reading for this week-end's liturgy. The reading is brief and is taken from the larger "Suffering Servant Song" of the prophet Isaiah which is the usual reading for Palm Sunday. This "Servant" will suffer for being God's servant. It will appear that God decided to "crush" and punish this particular person. There must be a reason!

There are several interpretations of just who this "servant" might be. It could be Israel itself, punished in exile for its infidelities. It could be the prophet Isaiah himself who has to suffer the punishments of being a prophet of hope within the exiled people of Israel. It could be a symbolic person whom the prophet projects will bring about peace and restoration. What is important here is that the prophet is finding a cause for the suffering and that cause is God. God has punished, or crushed, this servant, but the good results will be a hope for the people. There will be "descendants in a long life". There will be light of fullness, many will be justified, and the guilt of the people he will take away.

This continues the hopeful songs, reflections and prophecies of these fifteen chapters. The book of Consolation within the larger Book of Isaiah, is set as a call to the people of Israel to have hope in their God and in their future return to the Land of Promise. There is a reason for their exile, they know that very well. There is now, because of the suffering of the Servant, a reason to hope.

The Gospel today is a perfect picture of the collision between two forces, the perfectly human and the perfectly Jesus. James and John ask for a favor and it is a good one. Jesus responds with a loaded question of His own. It is loaded, because He is asking whether they know really what is good for them. They are asking to be up in the owner's box when the "kingdom" comes marching in.

The Roman kingdom or empire is always the prevailing setting for the listeners of Jesus. Roman domination is all they have ever known. Jesus talks of a new kingdom, but His listeners slowly are learning that their concepts of kingdom are changing. So James and John come out of their historical context and their human self-centeredness. There is a "learning-readiness" setting now.

The Greek word, baptizein (emphasis on the second syllable) means "immersion" or "sinking into." The "cup" which will be offered to drink by Jesus will be offered to His closest followers and He asks if they can allow themselves to drink the cup and be immersed. The two affirm that they can. Jesus then affirms that they will for sure enter into the deepest experience of Jesus' life, His death.

The Gospel reading for today ends with quite a self-defining statement. Jesus is living among His followers and within the world as "Servant". He is inviting them all to see His life and theirs as the heart of the "Kingdom". The Romans enslave with power, Jesus as servant offers the power of self-sacrifice as their participation in His identity. Can they drink that, take it in and sink into this kind of living?

Jesus is meeting His human family where they are and serving them what is good for them. The empire of Rome is a large section of our human territory. Much of our suffering occurs when that personal empire collides with our weaker desires for God's kingdom to come and replace our own. All sufferings cannot be explained so easily. We are invited to drink and sink into the powerful and gentle arms of the Servant, serving us toward what is ultimately good for us.

Did someone say that following Jesus is easy?

"See how the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His love, that He may rescue them from death and feed them in time of famine." Ps. 33, 18-19

Daily Prayer This Week

As Jesus continues to head toward Jerusalem in this week's readings, it can be easy to pray if we can focus. For simple thoughts and feelings to make their way into the background of our reflections this week we have to make a conscious choice to do it. Once we choose to let ourselves be reflective in this way, we can let this week's readings in to our consciousness.

It becomes real when I realize that I am on the road with Jesus to Jerusalem in my life. I can sense the resistance in me to face all that it means. I resist the call to greatness that Jesus offers - to be a servant for others. Greed can take a serious role in my life - unconscious, of course, but once I experience how many things I "want," I'll sense the role of greed within me.

I see the potential I for fruitfully connecting with my Lord throughout this busy week when I hear the call to be "vigilant" and to be aware of the "signs" of times today. Some days we can begin our days like getting on a treadmill and going all day. If I'm only attentive to what is immediately in front of me, I start to lose perspective. With reflection, I can see the "big picture" again and why I'm here and for whom I am responsible. Sometimes I'll have the courage not to be a "peace at all costs" person, but will actually take steps, say things, come together with others to "set the earth on fire."

Finally, perhaps this week I can simply get back in touch with being "called" and respond in a dozen simple ways, to thank the Lord for calling me and asking for the grace to be faithful.

We can prepare for Sunday later this week by begging our Lord to heal our blindness - our blindness to who we are and who we are called to be - and to follow him on the road to Jerusalem.

Dear Lord, sometimes I can be so dense. Thanks so much for getting through to me now and again. When I "get it," it seems that I want to be your disciple with every ounce of being within me. I really get the "fire" image you use. At other times, all I see is my needs and the ways I seem to be unfulfilled or falling short in some way. Release me from myself, that I might be free to give myself to my brothers and sisters who need my love and care. Then, I'll follow you into the toughest of situations with courage and hope.

October 21, 2018

Celebrants

Wednesday, October 24th

Fr. Shane Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Saturday, October 27th

Fr. Fitzgerald Sacred Heart 4:00 pm

Fr. Nygaard St. Gregory's 5:00 pm

Sunday, October 28th

Fr. Fitzgerald Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Fr. Nygaard St. Gregory's 9:30 am

Wednesday, October 31st

Fr. Nygaard Sacred Heart 9:00 am

All Saints Thursday, November 1st

Fr. Chuck Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Fr. Fitzgerald Sacred Heart 5:00 pm

All Souls Friday, November 2nd

Fr. Nygaard Sacred Heart 9:00 am

Liturgical Roles

Saturday, Oct. 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Lectors: Kevin Smith

Communion: Chuck Debevec,

Jeanne Kay

Gifts: Kay Family

Ushers: Ted Stathes, Dick Ordner

Servers: Ava Wendorff

Sunday, Oct. 28 at 9:00 am

Lectors: Jeremy Albright, Wayne Herberg

Communion: David Prickett, Jean Peno*, Mary Pat Hestbeck

Gifts: Peterson Family

Ushers: Craig Peterson, Ron Pel-tier, Don Belland

Servers: Isabelle Harer, Devon Larson

Financial Update

Week of 10/9/2018

Plate	318.25
Envelopes.....	1310.00
Aluminum Cans	52.92
Food Shelf	130.00
Fall Festival	50.00
Bldg. Maint. Env.....	70.00
Telephone Refunds.....	52.33
Fr. Shane sabbatical.....	60.00
Total.....	\$2043.50

Mass Intentions



October 24

† Carol Freid

October 27

Open

October 28

Parishioners

Needing our Prayers

"When we pray, God hears more than we say, answers more than we ask, gives more than we imagine...in HIS own time and HIS own way."

Sue Roth
Jim Kirchberg
Dina Scandinato
Amy Frasier Wallace



News

Make October 27th an evening of fun...Dinner and Bingo!

On Saturday, October 27th at 5pm, the Garcia family will be serving a **Latino Dinner in Wey Hall**. A free will offering is requested with all proceeds going to our upcoming building projects, so please be generous.



Come join us in Wey Hall for bingo! Hosted by the KOC. Saturday, October 27th, starts at 7:00pm.



Rush City Community Thanksgiving Dinner:

The Rush City churches are again sponsoring a free community Thanksgiving dinner at the Rushseba Town Hall on Thursday, November 22, from 11 am– 1 pm. Carry-out meals and home delivery will also be available. If anyone from Sacred Heart would like to help plan or serve, please contact Ilene Olson, ileneoh@gmail.com or call 320.358.4406.

Meetings:

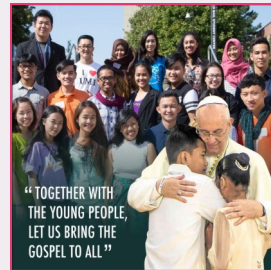
There will be a CCW meeting on Tuesday, October 23rd at 6:30pm in Wey Hall. All women of the parish are welcomed and are encouraged to come.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY TODAY

Pope Francis

in his 2018 World Mission Sunday message states, "Together with young people, let us bring the Gospel to all" calling to mind the active and joyful activities of youth as they witness the Gospel message through serving the poor and elderly in parishes. This

weekend, we celebrate World Mission Sunday with the theme **Witnessing Faith through the Hearts of Youth** highlighting the passion of the youth in St. Vincent de Paul Society at the parish of Jesucristo Resucitado in Venezuela. This diocese is an example of one receiving support from the World Mission Sunday appeal. Please be as generous as you are able and help support over 1,100 mission dioceses worldwide.



A November Memorial

All Souls Day encourages us to remember and to pray both with and for the vast numbers of unsung Christians who were once the Church on earth, just as we

are now. We invite you to bring pictures of your departed family and friends to church on All Saints Day or on the weekend of Nov. 3-4. Pictures will remain until the Feast of Christ the King, the last Sunday in November. For more information see the bulletin boards or the insert.

