

Love the Lord your God

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

There is no other commandment greater than these.

- Mark 12

Ninth Week in Ordinary Time: June 3 - 9, 2012

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Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

The week opens with **Trinity Sunday**, which always follows Pentecost. It celebrates the unknowable relationship between the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit - and their loving support for us in our lives. *“When he comes, the Spirit of truth will guide you to all truth...”*

Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint Boniface, Bishop and Martyr**. On Thursday everywhere but the US, it is the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity**. That Solemnity will be celebrated Sunday, June 10 in the US.

The first readings this week are from the pastoral letters, **The Second Letter of Peter** and **The Second Letter to Timothy**.

Mark's Gospel offers stories of how Jesus is in the midst of a struggle with the religious leaders in Jerusalem who do not like them. He tells them the Parable of the tenant farmers, telling them that the stone rejected by builders has become the cornerstone. They almost arrest him. His opponents try to ensnare Jesus with question about the temple tax, but he isn't trapped by them. When they question him about the resurrection, Jesus tells a parable which teaches that God is the God of the living. When asked which is the first commandment, Jesus gives two - highlighting the equal importance of love of God and neighbor. Jesus is both Son of David and Messiah and Lord. Jesus warns of those who abuse widows on spiritual pretexts and tells his disciples to notice the widow who gave from her poverty.

Sunday in the US is the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**. For the rest of the world, it is the **Tenth Sunday of Ordinary Time**. *“If a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand.”*

Daily Prayer This Week

The pastoral letters set the tone. Writing to Timothy, for example, Paul is eloquent in urging him to be faithful - even to fan what he has learned into a flame. This is a good context for us to return to this season, fresh from the graces of Pentecost. The gifts of the Spirit have been given us. We can ignore them, bury them, or use them with very little life and energy. We can also fan them into a fire that gives courage and hope to others.

As we wake each morning this week, and prepare to be focused when we go about our daily tasks, we can ask the Spirit of Jesus to “enkindle within us the fire of your love.” Each day, we can be more and more concrete about where we need help, grace, “fire” to heal and gather others together and be a source of unity and peace which simply aren't a part of the “world's way” of doing things.

Jesus faced terrible conflict in his final days on this earth. That's consoling for us who experience conflict in our day to day experience. This week, let's ask the Spirit to be with us in the difficult times we face. Let's ask that we might not surrender our peace. Let's ask that we be able to trust our Lord when we are asked to love others and give up “my way” of doing things, loving God and our neighbor equally.

As we give thanks each night, we prepare to celebrate the love of the Trinity - with us in the reality of our

lives.

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