



June 25, 2023 | Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:10-13 | Rom 5:12-15 | Mt 10:26-33

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

#### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

**GROW:** When I was in middle school, I came upon a group of students who had singled out another student, accusing her of some pretty rotten things. The Lord must have helped me to be brave that day because I decided to step in and defend her. Thankfully, calling them out on their cruelty was enough to fend them off. Thank God for his presence and aid in that moment! In the first reading today, Jeremiah tells of his experience of being betrayed and accused: **“All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. ‘Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him.’”** But Jeremiah does not lose heart, saying also, **“the Lord is with me like a dread warrior.”** And Jesus’ words in the Gospel echo the resolve of Jeremiah when he says: **“Fear no one ... What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light ... And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.”** It seems pretty clear, then, that our job is to bring the Good News of Jesus into the world whenever we can and let his light shine forth by our words and actions. We are commissioned to be warriors for Christ who should not fear injury but rather call upon him in our need and trust in his goodness and mercy to render aid.

#### GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

**GO:** Stepping into a conflict or situation can be difficult. But we are not meant to do it alone. Yes, we are called to proclaim the Word of God at every opportunity – to let “zeal” for our Father’s house consume us, as we heard in the psalm. And the task at hand may seem a daunting one – until we focus on the second part of the Gospel and soak in the depth of the love Jesus has for each of his children. Matthew writes: **“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even all the hairs of your head are counted.”** We are not alone as we do the work of the Father; rather, we are known and loved by him and strengthened by the Advocate, the Holy Spirit. We can feel emboldened by this as we pursue the everlasting gift of heaven.

**ENGAGE:** This world often tells us to do what makes us happy. Let’s challenge ourselves to, instead, do what makes us *holy*, as we keep our eyes fixed on the path to eternity.



### ST. MONICA PARISH

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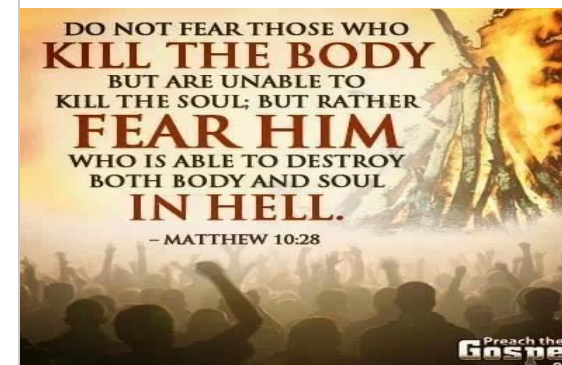
PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

DEACON: **Wilbur Victoria**

#### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm



#### MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: 9:00 am

SATURDAYS: 9:30 am & 5:00 pm

SUNDAYS: 9:00 am & 11:00 am

#### CONFESSION SCHEDULES

SATURDAYS: 4:30 pm—4:55 pm

10 minutes before Daily Mass

**BAPTISM, WEDDING, FUNERAL,  
HOUSE BLESSING, SICK CALL**

Please call the Parish Office

June 25, 2023

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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#### Liturgy of the Word

*What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops.*

Jeremiah fears turbulent times and impending siege, but also trusts in God. Saint Paul writes to the Romans that sin entered the world through Adam, but redemption through Jesus overflows all the greater to save everyone. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples to fear no one, and that all who acknowledge him he will acknowledge before the Father.

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#### Today’s Readings:

1st: **Jeremiah 20.10-13**

*Psalms: 69*

2nd: **Romans 5.12-15**

*Gospel: Matthew 10.26-33*



**More Valuable  
Than Sparrows**  
Matthew 10:26-33