



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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Pastor: Reverend Richard Smith
Pastoral Minister: Sheila Przesmicki
Holy Days: please call for Mass times

St. Francis Mass: Sundays at 11:00 a.m.
Confessions: By appointment
Weekday Mass: Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m.

All times subject to change

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time – June 27, 2010

*"No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."
Luke 9:51-62*



Are you surprised to see two of Jesus' disciples praying for the destruction of a Samaritan village? The Jews and Samaritans had been divided for centuries. Jewish pilgrims who passed through Samaritan territory were often assaulted. Jesus did the unthinkable for a Jew. He not only decided to travel through Samaritan territory at personal risk, but he also asked for hospitality in one of their villages! Jesus' offer of friendship was rebuffed. Is there any wonder that the disciples were indignant and felt justified in wanting to see retribution done to this village? Wouldn't you respond the same way? Jesus, however, rebukes

his disciples for their lack of toleration. Jesus had "set his face toward Jerusalem" to die on a cross that Jew, Samaritan and Gentile might be reconciled with God and be united as one people in Christ. Tolerance is a much needed virtue today. But aren't we often tolerant for the wrong thing or for the wrong motive? Christian love seeks the highest good of both one's neighbor and one's enemy. When Abraham Lincoln was criticized for his courtesy and tolerance towards his enemies during the American Civil War, he responded: "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?" How do you treat those who cross you and cause you trouble? Do you seek their good rather than their harm? When the Lord calls us to follow him he gives us the grace to put aside everything that might keep us from doing his will. Loyalty to Jesus requires sacrifice, letting go of my will for God's will. A would-be disciple responded by saying, *I must first go and bury my father*, that is, go back home and take care of him until he died. Jesus certainly did not mean that we should refuse to care for others, especially our parents in their old age. His startling statement, however, made clear that God must always be first in our lives. If we love him above all, then everything else will fall into its proper place and time. Jesus surprised his disciples by telling that they must not look back but keep their focus on the goal set for their lives – full happiness and union with God. A plowman who looked back caused his furrow to be crooked. Likewise, if we keep looking back to what we left behind, our path in following God will likely go off course and we'll miss what God has for us. When the going is rough or the way ahead looks uncertain, we are tempted to look back to the "good old days" or to look for "greener turf". Are you resolved to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and to "stay the course" in following him to the end? *Used with permission, <http://www.dailyscripture.net/>, Don Schwager*

When Elijah calls to Elisha, he hesitated, "Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye." Elijah does not prevent him. Then Elisha kills the team of oxen he was driving, uses the wood of the plow to build a fire to burn their flesh and distributes it to the people and follows Elijah. He detaches himself from everything he previously depended on. Christ teaches us to be free from attachment to things of this world and "to serve one another in love." Jesus calls us to follow him, but we sometimes hesitate. If we start to follow Jesus but let other attachments distract us, we will never be free to discern God's will for us and respond in freedom to God for all that he has given to us.

Department of Stewardship-Development, Diocese of Jackson

Religious Education Registration: Registration forms for Religious Education need be filled out for each child who will be attending Sunday School classes in the 2010-2011 academic year. Forms (in both English & Spanish) are located on the table in the narthex. Deadline for registration is July 31, 2010. Classes will begin after Mass on Catechetical Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Bulletin Inserts include the calendar for July, Parish Prayer list (on the reverse side of the calendar), and Growing in Faith. Updated Birthday & Mailing lists can be found on the table in the back of the church. Please let the office know when a name can be removed from the Prayer list. Thank you!

Is God Calling You? Check out the USCCB's new website for those exploring priesthood or the religious life: www.ForYourVocation.org. And to find out about vocations in our own diocese, go to www.jacksonvocations.com.

Parish Ecology Action: "It must also be said that the proper ecological balance will not be found without *directly addressing the structural forms of poverty* that exist throughout the world. Rural poverty and unjust land distribution in many countries, for example, have led to subsistence farming and to the exhaustion of the soil. Once their land yields no more, many farmers move on to clear new land, thus accelerating uncontrolled deforestation, or they settle in urban centres which lack the infrastructure to receive them. Likewise, some heavily indebted countries are destroying their natural heritage, at the price of irreparable ecological imbalances, in order to develop new products for export. In the face of such situations it would be wrong to assign responsibility to the poor alone for the negative environmental consequences of their actions. Rather, the poor, to whom the earth is entrusted no less than to others, must be enabled to find a way out of their poverty. This will require a courageous reform of structures, as well as new ways of relating among peoples and States." *Pope John Paul II, 1990 World Day of Peace Message*

COLLECTION

**12th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, June 20, 2010**

Envelopes	\$675.00
Loose	16.00
Total	\$691.00
Candles	12.75
Cookbooks	17.00
Recycling	9.25
Religious Articles	6.00

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday, July 4, 2010**

Lector 1	Mary Frelichowski
Lector 2	Trish Blakely
Euch. Ministers	Margarita & Ann
Intercessory Prayers	Charry Lacy
Gift Bearers	Perez family