

Take care of him

(adapted from St Alphonsus Liguori's sermon for the 12th Sunday after Pentecost)

Today, a man is robbed, wounded and left half dead. A Samaritan takes pity upon him, binds up his wounds and leaves him at an inn telling the host: *Take care of him*. So I wish for those wounded by sin who, instead of caring for them, continually aggravate them by committing new sins and, thereby, abuse the mercy of God. I tell such: "Brethren, 'Have pity on thy own soul.' (Eccl 30:24) Your souls are sick, and what is worse they are near the eternal death of hell; for he who abuses to excess the divine mercy, is on the brink of forfeiting the mercy of God." This shall be the subject of the present discourse.

1. The devil deludes Christians in two ways: by despair and hope. After a person commits sin, the enemy, by placing before his eyes the rigor of divine justice, tempts him to despair of God's mercy. But, before he sins, the devil by representing to him God's mercy, labors to make him fearless of the chastisement due to sin. Hence, St Augustine says, "After sin, hope for mercy; before sin, fear justice."

3. A common illusion of so many damned Christians!: "God is merciful: I will commit this sin, and will afterwards confess it." Behold the snare, by which Satan draws so many souls to hell. "Commit sin," he says, "and confess it afterwards." But listen to what the Lord says: "Say not, the mercy of the Lord is great; he will have mercy on the multitude of my sins." (Eccl 5:6) Why does he tell you not to say, "the mercy of God is great"? Attend to the words which follow: "For mercy and wrath come quickly from him, and his wrath looks upon sinners." (Eccl 5:7) The mercy of God is different from the acts of his mercy; the former is infinite, the latter are finite. God is merciful, but he is also just. Too often sinners only consider God as merciful and ready to pardon, but not as just and prepared to punish. One day, the Lord complained to St. Bridget: "I am just and merciful: sinners regard me only as merciful. "God is just, and, being just, he must punish the ungrateful." (St Basil) Again, the Holy Ghost has said: "his mercy is to them that fear him." (Lk 1:5.)

10. Let us conclude the discourse: Brethren, consider all the bygone years of your life: recall the grievous offences you have committed against God, and the great mercies which he has shown to you, the many lights he has bestowed upon you, and the many times he has called you to a change of life. By this sermon, he calls you anew. He asks me to tell you: "What more ought I do to my vineyard that I have not done?" (Is 5:4) What more ought I to do for you that I have not done? What say you? What answer will you make? Will you give yourselves to God, or will you continue to offend him? St. Augustine says, "Consider that the punishment of your sins has been deferred, not remitted; the axe is held high. Be not secure: you shall be cut off." If you abuse the divine mercy, you shall be cut off; vengeance shall soon fall upon you. What do you wait for? Do you wait till God sends you to hell? The Lord has been hitherto silent; but he is not silent for ever. When the time of vengeance comes, he will say: "These things thou has done, and I was silent. Thou thought unjustly that I should be like to thee: but I will reprove thee, and set before thy face." (Ps 49:21) He will set before your eyes the graces he gave you, which you have despised: these shall judge and condemn you. Brethren, resist no longer the calls of God; tremble, lest the call which he gives you Today may be his last call to you. Go to confession ASAP, and make a firm resolution to change your lives. It is useless to confess your sins without this resolve, only to return to your former vices. But you may say, that you have no strength to resist the temptations which assail you. Listen to the Apostle: "God is faithful, who will not permit you to be tempted above that which you are able." (1 Cor 10:13) God is faithful: he will not permit you to be tempted above your strength. And, if of yourself you have not strength to overcome the devil, ask it from God, and he will give it to you: "Ask, and you shall receive." (Jn 16:24) "Praising," said David, "I will call on the Lord, and I shall be saved from my enemies." (Ps 17:4) St. Paul says: "I can do all things in him who strengthens me." (Phil 5:13) Of myself I can do nothing; but with God's help, I can do all things. Recommend yourselves to God in all temptations, and God will enable you to resist them, and you shall not fall.



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 2020

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CTK remains open for LIMITED Mass attendance:

Please call the office to arrange your Sunday Mass attendance;
registered parishioners will have preference over others. No
appointments are needed for daily Mass.

The Daily Mass Schedule is: Monday at 12 noon; Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday at 7:00 am and 9:00 am; Friday at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm;
Saturday at 9:00 am.

The Sunday Mass Schedule is (in Sarasota): 7:00 am; 8:30 am; 10:30 am;
and 12 noon. [Call the office!] **In Ocala,** Mass is 4:30 pm. (No need to
call.)

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before Mass.

Please only use the bathrooms in the vestibule.

Finally, please leave the church & grounds after your thanksgiving;
socializing after Mass is not permitted.

The Sunday obligation is dispensed until Tuesday, September 1, 2020.

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 08-23	12 th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	
Mon 08-24	St Bartholomew	2/R	
Tues 08-25	St Louis IX	3/W	
Wed 08-26	Feria	4/G	St Zephyrinus
Thu 08-27	St Joseph Calasance	3/W	
Fri 08-28	St Augustine	3/W	St Hermes
Sat 08-29	Beheading of John the Baptist	2/R	St Sabina
Sun 08-30	13 th Sunday after Pentecost	2/G	



Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 08-23	(7 am) Wyatt J. LoCicero-Grich+ (8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Ted Cover+ (12 noon) Karen Turner+	rb S Hemeryck rb Cook family rb A Emke
Mon 08-24	(12 noon) Fr Bartholomew FssP	rb Angley family
Tues 08-25	(7 am) Fr Dupre (9 am) Fr Adrian Harmening+	rb anonymous rb Fay-Lu Wu
Wed 08-26	(7 am) Bill & Teri Shehwen (wedding ann.) (9 am) Anna Vi	rb Shehwen family rb M/M L Truong
Thu 08-27	(7 am) Fr Hathaway (9 am) Matthew Shelton+	rb Anonymous rb R & D Gabriel
Fri 08-28	(9 am) Barbara Wolchak (6:30 pm) Dominic Hien	rb Sr Margaret rb K Dinh
Sat 08-29	(7 am) Kalysta Emke (9 am) Ed & Pat DeVerna anniversary	rb Emke family rb E & P DeVerna
Sun 08-30	(7 am) Jane J Strong+ (8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) John C Wojtyna+ (12 noon) Gracie Heini Lein+	rb M/M L Labrecque rb Burns family rb K Kirsch & B Blake

Today, after the 12 noon Mass, items on “the blessing table” in the hall will be blessed; the Bookstore is open after the 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses.

Please continue making reservations to attend Sunday Mass; if you do not have a reservation, the ushers will seat you in the hall.

Please claim any item you may have left on St Joseph’s altar. Items are in the office.

Group Rosary is prayed after the 12 noon Monday Mass; you are welcome to join!

PLEASE DO NOT come to church if you have a chronic cough, especially do not come to church if you have a cough and do not wear a mask (the reason should be self-evident). Fr Hathaway has given the ushers permission to ask anyone at church to leave if they are coughing often and are not wearing a mask.

Fall Catechism Classes: The diocese wants its parishes to begin preparing for its Fall Catechism Classes. Please know, Christ the King will enroll its students on Thursday, Sept 3 from 5 to 6 pm; again, this is the time to sign the consent forms etc. for each student who will attend any class. The first real class will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2020 from 5 to 6 pm. As last year, there will be two classes each month on alternating Thursdays (calendar forthcoming); the class for children (6-12 years) will meet in the hall & the class for teenagers (13-18 years) will meet in the Choir Room.

Fall Forty Days for Life: Christ the King will participate in the up-coming “40-Days for Life” (from September 23 to Nov. 1, 2020) Rosary prayer near the local Planned Parenthood abortion mill in downtown Sarasota. As a parish, Christ the King will pray there on Saturday, October 24, 2020, the day before the Feast of Christ the King, which is always the last Sunday in October (in the Old Mass). The time we need to cover is from 9 am to 5 pm; a total of 8 hours. This early announcement is given so that you have p-l-e-n-t-y of time to set one hour aside on this day to help end the slaughter of abortion. In late September, our Pro-Life leaders, Mr. and Mrs. John Funderburk, will have sign-up sheets to record the hour that a parishioner is willing & able to commit to for this important ministry: *when I was defenseless, you defended me. “Amen, I say to thee, as long as you did it to one of these my least brethren, you did it to me.”* (Mt 25:40). Please know, the men’s group is asked to have a man available at each hour for your safety; you may also bring your big dog, but leash him and have a poop bag ready, just in case. Also, please do not pick a time slot because you want to be with your buddies; this concentrates people so that only a few hours are filled, leaving other hours as more difficult to fill (this has been a problem in the past.) Last, for more information on Christ the King’s pro-life committee, or if you want to help save babies, please email Missy Funderburk at mlfunderburk@gmail.com.

Please pray for Scisenti family (8/23), Virginia Strong (8/23), Bill & Barbara Wis (8/16); Fr Vincent Sheehy, Pastor Emeritas at Our Lady of Lourdes in Venice, (8/7), James Ahearn (7/26), Karen Boylan (7/26), Jessica Branham (7/26). (Prayer requests are posted for one month; renewable upon another request.)

Are there any parishioners at Christ the King who desire & are of age to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? Our Naples mission will host confirmations on January 9, 2021. If so, please email Fr. Hathaway.

Last Sunday’s collection: \$ 3771.00; and **Mass attendance:** 7 am, 39; 8:30 am, 73; 10:30 am, 59; 12 noon, 66; for a total of 237.