

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE LORD GOD IS MY HELP, THEREFORE I AM NOT DISGRACED.

SEPTEMBER 13, 2009

— Isaiah 50:7

LISTENING AND RESPONDING

There are three interwoven themes in today's readings: listening to God, faith vs. good works, and losing our life in order to find it. How are they related?

The Suffering Servant of Isaiah undergoes much distress and ridicule, but is able to bear it because he has listened to the promptings of God day after day. The psalm tells us that God listens, too. God hears our prayers for help and is always ready to save us. As our faith deepens, so does our desire to do the works of justice and charity that build up the reign of God. God directs our actions in ways we often cannot see, and we don't always see the results. We are called upon in faith to trust that what we do is enough, and that willingness to listen to God's promptings will lead us in the right way.

ST. MATTHEW FEAST DAY NEXT SUNDAY

Most importantly, **we shall celebrate the Feast of St. Matthew at our 10:30 Mass next weekend.** Our outdoor festivities will begin at 11:30a.m. and continue until 6:00p.m. where you can enjoy music, good food, games, and more.

We welcome and encourage you to purchase food and game tickets after any of our weekend Masses between now and then. Part of the fun will include a **50/50 raffle**. The *more* people who purchase tickets...the *more* money the lucky winner will take home! It could be *you!* *Join the fun!*

CONGRATULATIONS SISTER SHARON FRANCIS AND SISTER DOLORES BARLING

This year is a very special year for Sr. Sharon and Sr. Dolores. It is the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Professions as Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Community. Sr. Dolores is well known in our parish community. She ministered at St. Matthew's for eight years in Liturgy, RCIA, Faith Formation and Eucharistic Ministry to the Sick. She also blessed us every Sunday morning providing beautiful music at our 7a.m. Mass.

Sr. Sharon is quite new to our community...*a mere child*.... She came to St. Matthew parish last year to share her time and know-how instructing our RCIA folks and planning informative Adult Faith Formation programs. Our parish will celebrate this beautiful occasion with Sr. Sharon and Sr. Dolores on **October 4th at our 10:30 a.m. Mass** where we shall give thanks to God for their presence in our lives.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTH CARE

HR3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009 has been amended in the House Energy and Commerce Committee to virtually assure you will pay for abortions with your tax dollars. The amendment results in elective abortions being part of the public plan of HR3200 and ensures federal funding of private plans that include elective abortion. **Contact your elected representatives and urge them to OPPOSE HR3200, which contains abortion and abortion funding, something that victimizes the unborn child.** Phone numbers are: Senator Diane Feinstein, 310.914.7300, Senator Barbara Boxer, 213.894.5000, and Representative Laura Richardson, 202.225.7924.

RCIA

(RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS)

Non-catholic adults and baptized Catholics who have not received the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation are invited to join our Sunday classes held immediately after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. Please call Sister Sharon for more information 562.439.0931 x 5.

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you do other monthly drafts? Our parish office now offers Electronic Giving to those who wish to have their contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If this program would simplify your life, you may contact the parish office to receive the necessary authorization forms.

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING TODAY

On the second Sunday of each month our parish nursing ministry is available to check your blood pressure in classroom #2 after the 10:30a.m. Mass and the 12:30p.m. Mass.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

SECOND READING: James 3:16 — 4:3

GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

REFLECTION FOR ST. MATTHEW FEAST DAY: *St. Matthew did not hesitate when Jesus called him to follow Him. When the Spirit calls me to listen and act, do I follow without hesitating? In what ways do I need healing?*