**Everyone:**

**During the week I was researching the topic “Why attend Mass”? The following response is from Father John F. Baldovin, S.J..**

**Thanks Father Baldovin for your carefully crafted response to my question even though it was written 20 years ago.**

**It was spiritually rewarding and uplifting, I hope the community agrees?**

**Comments are always welcome.**

**Why attend Mass?**

**Not every Mass is going to be a great and deeply moving experience**, not for the vast majority of us anyway. But there is a great deal to be said for simple fidelity to our worship. St. Ignatius Loyola says in the Spiritual Exercises that the person who is experiencing some desolation (dryness, “downness”) in prayer can be helped by remembering times of consolation in the past. I think that is true not only of individual prayer but of communal, liturgical prayer as well. In any case, the Mass may not always be a deeply emotional experience, but it is always an experience of the Lord giving himself to us in his word and his sacramental presence and calling forth our self-giving in return.

Why bother? Why bother going to Mass at all when we can worship God anywhere?

1**. Participation in the salvation of the world**. The most important reason for participating in the Eucharist is that God has invited us to share in the experience of the world’s salvation in the death and resurrection of the Lord every time we celebrate. We are invited to participate in God’s redeeming act each time we participate in the Eucharist and thereby commit ourselves to working for God’s reign.

2. **Experiencing the glory of God**. St. Irenaeus, a second-century Christian theologian and martyr, wrote that the glory of God is the human being fully alive, and that the human being fully alive is the one who is in Christ Jesus. The Mass is where we experience sacramentally our destiny as members incorporated into the body of Christ. This is what God wants the world to look like: human beings who give of themselves to others in faith, hope and love.

3. **Discipline of faith**. A third reason to bother is the formation of the habit of worshiping and glorifying God. Human beings ordinarily develop by forming habits, some good and some bad. These are patterns that shape our lives. The discipline of worshiping God helps us to grow into being habitual “adorers of God,” even when we do not feel like it.

4. **Hearing the Scriptures communally**. The Bible is the word of God, but let’s face it, individualistic and idiosyncratic readings of the Bible have led to some pretty wacky and even destructive interpretations. We need to experience the Scriptures both alone and in community. This is what Christians mean by tradition: the way we have learned throughout history as a church to interpret the Scriptures together. Hearing the Scriptures in community is a way of deepening as well as safeguarding our experience of God’s communication with us.

5. **Developing the moral life**. If the basic structure of the Eucharist is taking, blessing, breaking and giving in imitation of the Lord’s passion, death and resurrection, then the habit of weekly (or even more frequent) celebration of the Mass ought to help us in our development as moral human beings. If we celebrate faithfully, we ought to be conforming more and more, as individuals and as a community, to the image of generosity and love of the one into whom we were baptized. The final test of whether the Mass “works” is: “By their fruits shall you know them.”

6. **Companionship with Christ**. If I believe that Christ is the savior of the world, God incarnate, who has given his very self for me, then I want to share in the most intimate experience of self-giving—holy Communion—and I also want to recognize him in the brothers and sisters with whom I am sharing the act of self-giving. We have a vital human need for both food and meaning. The word “companionship” is derived from the Latin cum (with) and panis (bread). We find companionship in sharing food with others. There is no companionship without sharing what our bodies need. There is no companionship with Christ except by sharing in his body—sacrament and church.

7. **Focusing my needs**. From the earliest days of Christianity, men and women have brought their deepest needs and desires to the table of the Lord, confident that they can be joined to Christ’s great act of intercession before the Father (Heb 7:25, 10:1-22). This is why we pray for the dead at Mass; we place them before the merciful and compassionate God in the midst of this great work of our redemption. I can bring my deepest desires to the table of the Lord, confident that I will be heard.

8. **Praying for the world**. Of course we bring not only our own personal needs but the state of the world to the celebration of the Eucharist. There is a kind of cosmic dimension to every celebration in which the realities of our world (bread, wine, men and women) are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. The world with all of its needs, joys and struggles is present every time we celebrate the Eucharist together, and our consciousness of the world helps to make the Mass the experience of Christian life in a concentrated way.

9. **Welcoming the kingdom**. If the Eucharist is the celebration of how God wants the world to look, then every time we celebrate, we anticipate the banquet of God’s kingdom “when every tear will be wiped away.” In other words, the reign of God looks like human beings who, recognizing their sinfulness, know that God’s mercy is far greater. The reign of God looks like people who are gathered to receive his word gratefully. The reign of God looks like people who allow God’s Holy Spirit to form them into a community that accepts life from God, blesses God with everything that is in them, are broken and poured out for others in imitation of the Lord Jesus who has given us this pattern. The reign of God looks like people who share the most unimaginably precious gifts freely because they know that all is gift in Christ. The reign of God looks like people who are sent forth to do the works of faith, hope and love with courage.

10**. Pure joy. A final reason for celebrating the Eucharist is that here God invites us to the deepest peace and joy that is possible—sharing in his own divine life. St. Augustine wrote in his Confessions: “O God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” The Mass is a foretaste of that perfectly joyful rest. The Mass is an obligation to be sure, but it is an obligation that comes not so much from the outside as from the nature of what it means to enjoy Christian fellowship. We are who we are because of our sharing with our brothers and sisters. And what we share is Jesus Christ himself. How could that not be the cause of pure joy?**

In the Gospel of John, Jesus invites his followers to “come and see.” Nowhere is that invitation from the Lord clearer than in the invitation to share in the celebration of the Mass.

Remember, we go to Mass for – Jesus. The church, it’s the Lord’s house!!

**John F. Baldovin, S.J.**, is professor of historical and liturgical theology at Weston Jesuit School of Theology, Cambridge, Mass.

**ATTENTION: Ladies Guild Members**

**We missed our monthly fellowship!**

**We will have our monthly luncheons again starting on Wednesday July 12th at 11:30 AM.**

**Please let Cindy know if you will be attending by emailing her or signing up after Mass starting June 18th.**

**Crys Mueller will be doing signups this Sunday. Cindy is out of town.**

**For $5 per person, lunch will be a salad bar and Margarita cake for dessert.**

**Hope to see you for lunch and sharing you experiences since last we gathered for lunch!**

**Cindy, Jan and Kathy**

**NOTE FROM OUR PASTOR:**

**PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW PAROCHIAL VICAR, FATHER JONATHAN GARCIA, TO OUR PARISIH;**

**Fr. Jonathan Garcia was born to a diverse heritage in Monterey Park, California. His mother is from Guanajuato, Mexico, while his father is from Los Angeles, California. Growing up in a multicultural household, Fr. Jonathan was exposed to various traditions, languages, and perspectives.**

**Coming from a large family, Fr. Jonathan is one of five siblings, with two sisters and two brothers. He cherishes their bond and values family's importance in his life. Additionally, Fr. Jonathan is an uncle to five nieces and four nephews, and their presence brings him immeasurable joy.**

**Fr. Jonathan's spiritual journey led him to pursue his vocation in the priesthood. After completing two years at Serra House in Grand Terrace, he continued his formation at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Texas, for a remarkable eight years. During this time, he delved deep into his studies, nurturing his faith and preparing for the responsibilities ahead.**

**To gain practical experience, Fr. Jonathan interned at St. Peter & St. Paul in Alta Loma. This invaluable opportunity allowed him to engage with the community, offer guidance, and develop pastoral skills. Through this experience, he recognized the profound impact he could have on the lives of others and reaffirmed his commitment to serving as a spiritual guide.**

**Fr. Jonathan Garcia is dedicated to his faith, family, and community. His multicultural background and extensive formation have shaped him into a compassionate and empathetic priest, ready to provide solace, guidance, and support to those in need. With a heart full of love and a deep-rooted devotion, he continues his sacred journey, spreading the message of hope, forgiveness, and compassion to all he encounters.**

**FIND-Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program next distribution is today, Thursday, June 1st  at 9:30.**

* + **To date we have distributed 17,700 pounds of food.**
  + **Our family count is 21. God is helping us to reach out to those in need.**
  + **We need volunteers to assist with this program. See Jay or Cindy, if you wish to help us.**
    - **1 hour each month on the 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30.**

### **JUNE 25TH, 2023**

### **Themes for 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

### The readings for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time are a call to trust in God. Although our circumstances can be unsettling or frightening, God is always caring for us.

### The first reading Jeremiah trusts in the Lord even though he is being plotted against.

### The psalm expresses hope that God will hear our prayers in times of distress.

### The second reading reminds us that Jesus rescued us even though we are sinners.

### And in the gospel, Jesus tells us “Fear no one” and that we are loved and cared for by God.

### **Mass Readings for the 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time:**

* **First Reading** –[Jeremiah 20:10-13](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=599&rp=2653): The prophet expresses his frustration and anguish over the opposition he faces for delivering God’s message. Despite the hardships, Jeremiah reaffirms his trust in God and acknowledges that God is with him, giving him strength and protecting him from his enemies.
* **Responsorial Psalm** – [Psalm 69](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=600&rp=2653): Call upon the Lord in faith, seeking His loving response. Endure insults and shame, trusting in His boundless kindness and mercy. Rejoice, for the Lord hears the cries of the poor and oppressed, and let all creation join in praise.
* **Second Reading** – [Romans 5:12-15](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=601&rp=2653): Sin and death entered the world through one man, Adam, but through the one act of righteousness by Jesus Christ, grace and eternal life are made available to all who believe. Through Adam’s transgression, humanity was condemned, but through Christ’s sacrificial death and resurrection, God’s gift of forgiveness and justification abounds, offering reconciliation and abundant life to those who receive it.
* **Gospel** – [Matthew 10:26-33](https://young-catholics.com/scripture-reading/?en=602&rp=2653): Jesus encourages His disciples to fearlessly proclaim His teachings, assuring them that whatever is hidden will be revealed and their actions will be brought to light. He emphasizes that they should not fear those who can harm the body, but rather fear God who holds ultimate authority over both body and soul, and promises that those who acknowledge Him before others will be acknowledged by Him in return.

**Themes are gleaned from**[**www.young-catholics.com**](http://www.young-catholics.com/)

**JUNE ACTIVITIES:**

* **June 1st was the monthly (Thursday) FIND Food distribution/Community Supplemental Food Distribution Program at 9:30AM.**
* **June 10th was the K of C Monthly Drive -Thru CRV (California Refund Value) recycling program at SHC North parking lot. 7:30 to 11:30.**
* **June 14th ,at 11 AM, we celebrated the life of John Evans. May he rest in Peace. Amen!**
* **June 14th was the first Bingo night at Sacred Heart 6 to 9 PM in the Salta Center.** 
  + **Bingo dates for July 12th & August 9th.**
* **June 15th was Christ of the Desert final Finance Council meeting for the year.**
* **June 18th was Father’s Day.**

**Who is saying Mass at Christ of the Desert Chapel:**

* **June 25th: Father Connole**
* **July 2nd :  Father Alwyn Anfone. Father Connole is out of town.**
* **July 9th :  Father Connole**
* **July 16th : TBD**
* **July 23rd : Father Connole**
* **July 30th : Father Connole**

**THE POPE’S INTENTION FOR JUNE: FOR THE ABOLITION OF TORTURE:   
We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.**

**The Christ of the Desert “Bulletin” now appears on**[**www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com**](http://www.sacredheartpalmdesert.com/)**website. Open up the site and click on “church”, look down on the bottom left for Christ of the Desert. Open up this site for the “bulletin” and other information about our community.**

**WEEKLY MASS UPDATE:**

**June 18th  – Mass we had 62 people. Capacity is 185. Lowest attendance of the year.**

**June 16th – Healing Mass (at 12:30) we had 43 people.**

**CELEBRATION SECTION:**

**There will be an information providing sheet on the table near the Chapel exit/entrance area.**

**You can always email the information to me as well.**

**You can sign up for any month NOW. I will keep a record of your special month and enter it when that month arrives.**

**WHO HAS A DATE IN JUNE & YOU WANT ME TO ADD TO THE NOTICES BELOW????**

**JUNE BIRTHDAY SECTION:**

**Steve Lester has a birthday on June 1st.**

**John Olsen has a birthday on June 2nd.**

**Crys Mueller has a birthday June 6th.**

**Jan McCoy has a birthday on June 6th.**

**Sharon Curran has a birthday on June 16th.**

**Lois Hickey has a birthday on June 17th.**

**Paulette Quaid has a birthday on June 23rd.**

**NEW SECTION: JUNE BIRTHDAYS IN HEAVEN:**

**None submitted.**

**JUNE HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY SECTION:**

**Carol & Chris Anderson – June 6th.**

**Frank & Wanda Rizzo – June 16th.**

**NEW SECTION: JUNE REMEMBERING WEDDING ANNIVERSAY SECTION:**

**Arnold & Jackie Capitanelli June 30th 1959. 66 years ago!**

**JUNE REMEMBRANCE SECTION: “May their souls rest in peace”, Amen**

**None submitted.**

**Please provide Month, Date & Year & Relationship to family member being remembered.**

**“Who would you like to pray” for section:**

**Please send me your new updated petitions which will appear in green.**

**Many of you have returned to Mass on Sunday and pray for special intentions there. Please send me those intentions so the entire Parish can pray to the LORD with you.**

**Please pray for my Daughter Penny Pepper Kaska. She has ovarian cancer. JoAnn Pepper**

**Please pray for my brother Bernard (Bernie) Muehlenkamp as his health is declining rapidly. Janice (Jan) Niemeyer Seiden.**

**Please continue to pray for Jimmy Rogers, my father in law & Crys’ dad, that God answers his pray. J & Crys Mueller**

**The Parish prays for the following parishioners:**

**Marie, Joyce Olsen, Peggy Jones, Jim Carlo & Carol Lee Evans.**

**THIS WE PRAY TO THE LORD!!!**

**PAVER ORDERS:**

**Pavers can still be purchased. Installation will be within 30 days of your order. I have the tools to do the install myself now. Forms are available from the Parish Office or back of the church. If you are not sure what you want to say on the paver, let me assist you!!**

**Christ of the Desert office hours: 760-346-0089**

**Office hours are from 9:30 to 1:30 Monday- Friday. Please call first to be sure Cindy is available. When Cindy is in the office, the office door is locked. Please ring the doorbell “to get her attention”.**

**REMINDER SECTION:**

**JULY HAS 5 SUNDAYS FOR THOSE THAT GIVE MONTHLY.**

**Please make all checks payable to “Christ of the Desert” not Sacred Heart.**

**See instructions at end of Bulletin for ways to continue giving via your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service.**

**We have done great this past year but remember this is an ongoing process. Thanks for your continued generosity.**

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE SECTION:**

**THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR JULY 1,2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023 IS NOW $135,000\*.**

**\*MID-YEAR ADJUSTMENT FOR ESTIMATED HIGHER ENERGY COSTS.**

**This information is important for our community in order to understand where are financially throughout the year.**

        **Our Monthly expenses are $11,250 or $33,750 per quarter. $135,000 annually.**

**Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard.**

        **Total Q1,Q2,Q3 & Q4 monies collected: $172,805. 128.1 % of new annual budget.**

**Monies collected each week reflect the Friday & Sunday Mass collection plus rental income from offices in the Courtyard.**

* **Total 1st quarter collections were: $40,172.**
* **Total 2nd  quarter collections were: $36,854.**
* **Total 3rd quarter collections to date are: $51,288.**
* **Total 4th quarter collections: $44,491.**
* **April collections: $24,043.**
* **May collections: $11,554.**
* **June collections are: $8,894. Sunday’s collection was $1,164. Lowest of the year.**

**SUPPORT OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE SMALL BUSINESSES SECTION:**

**If anyone else wants to advertise their business in the Bulletin, send me your information.**

**Postal Connection (**[**760-568-3471**](tel:760-568-3471)**) owned and operated by one of our parishioners, Helene Shaunty. They are located (Near CVS Pharmacy) at 74923 Hwy 111 in Indian Wells. They are open and are considered an essential business doing mail and shipping, as well as Notary Services. The Postal Connection would appreciate any and all of your business**.

**Enedina Sutton, a Distributor of Nature Sunshine Products and a long time parishioner. Has Herbal Supplements, all kinds of Vitamins, ointments, essential Oils, disinfectant products and much more. I do the business from home. I can be reached at**[**760-345-3754**](tel:760-345-3754)**. I live in Sun City Palm Desert community.**

**Invented by NASA engineers, used on astronauts returning from space to rebuild muscle, bone and heal wounds “red light therapy” is now available. I am a new parishioner. Please call or email me: Rom Partyka 805-673-9235 or email at** [**rom1942@msn.com**](mailto:rom1942@msn.com) **for more information or to set up an appointment.**

**Thinking about selling your house or condo? Call Crys Mueller at 760 989 8732. I have been with BD Homes for the past 15 years.**

**Need a good Catholic housekeeper? Call Elvia Pantoja at 760 698 6050. 20 years’ experience in the Indian Wells & Palm Desert area. References provided upon request.**

**ON GOING MESSAGE SECTION:**

**Please continue to consider supporting our community with the following options:**

**Mail your weekly or monthly offering to Christ of the Desert. All our regular mail goes to Sacred Heart so you would need to use that address. Make checks payable to Christ of the Desert.**

**CHRIST OF THE DESERT c/o.**

**SACRED HEART CHURCH 43-775 DEEP CANYON ROAD, PALM DESERT, CA 92260.**

**OR**

**Go to your bank on-line service, there is likely a “setting” that will say “Autopay” or some other “Bill Pay” service. You can set up an automatic payment directly from there. If you have any trouble doing this or don’t have a computer, just call your bank and they can help you.**

**Please make sure that you tell the bank to make the check payable to Christ of the Desert but send the check to Sacred Heart’s address:**

**43775 Deep Canyon Rd.  Palm Desert, CA  92260**

**Jay Mueller**

**Stay Healthy! Do good work! Keep in touch!!!**

SHC & COD Finance Council Member

SHC & COD Parish Council Member

COD Remembrance Walk Coordinator

SHC Parish Walk Coordinator

SHC East Valley Food Distribution Coordinator

SHC East Valley Outreach Program Coordinator

CELL NUMBER 760-777-3745