

7/3/2012

7/2/2012

Remember this, you who never think of God.  
18-19, 20-21, 22-23                      Mt 8:18-22

Am 2:6-10, 13-16

Ps 50:16bc-17,

What is this? Does Jesus have no compassion? Does He not care? Is He thinking only of Himself? I am stumped!!!

7/3/2012

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.  
20:24-29

Eph 2:19-22    Ps 117:1bc-2

Jn

[Saint Thomas](#)

[Lectionary: 593](#)

[Audio](#)

Wow, wow, as Fr. Abelardo would say. Serendipity (and the Holy Spirit) gave us the wonderful gift of spending Tuesday Morning with Fr. Tom Alkire in LA, an old Carmelite friend from the 1980's. Then we arrive in Taipei a few hours ago to discover it is the feast of the great apostle, the first to the orient! God is so good to us.

So what is the good news we are to spread? Only that He Lives!!! The one who loves me more than His own life, lives! And He loves you just as much, and because of the trouble I usually cause Him, He probably loves you more. Yes, He lives! Just look around you. His wounds are always in sight! When you doubt, and no doubt, doubt you will, just remember Him and look for His wounds. Touch Him He is alive.

7/4/2012

To the upright I will show the saving power of God.  
9, 10-11, 1-13, 16bc-17                      Mt 8:28-34

Am 5:14-15, 21-24

Ps 50:7, 8-

[Lectionary: 379](#)

[Audio](#)

Collateral damage. When God is at work perfecting His creation there are often many who cannot see what He is doing. This is sometimes a hard lesson to learn. It is only the eyes of faith, pure trust in Him, that can help us get an inkling of what is really happening. It is so easy, so tempting to cash in our chips when our "pigs are drowned". It is only by faith that we can steel our will in the secure knowledge that "all things work for good for those who love Him", those who are loved by Him.

7/4/2012

The judgments of the Lord are true, and all of them are just.  
9,10, 11                      Mt 9:1-8

Am 7:10-17

Ps 19:8,

[Lectionary: 380](#)

[Audio](#)

Courage is courage. That's all there is to it. Either you shut up, or run away, or you face the music like a man. Doing, and that includes saying, the right thing is simply a matter of faith. If you have the faith, the courage is implicit. Do the right thing. Jesus always does. Consider the Gospel story? Jesus saw that the people had faith. Was it their faith that gave Him the power to heal the man? How ridiculous. He is God. His power is infinite. What the people's faith told Him was that they were ready for a POWERful lesson on forgiveness of sins. My friend you are completely free. You are free to wallow in the false pleasure of your sinfulness, but you are also free to stand up and do the right thing. You are free to love (and that includes forgive) as He loves.

7/6/2012

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Am 8:4-6, 9-12 Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131 Mt 9:9-13

[Lectionary: 381](#) [Audio](#)

I am always so very curious as to why Jesus in the Gospel shows so little compassion for the real sinners, the Pharisees. The real famine we face is always abandonment by Him. We certainly deserve it. We continue to fail Him constantly in our selfishness, our self-righteousness, our pettiness, our penchant for feeling we know the truth, as well as the way and the life. Why do we act like this, like we are better than others, like we are the guardians of His mysteries? Why, when we are so clearly sick are we so afraid to rest in His hospital? Why can't we just surrender to His will and ponder His simple message, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice.", WHY?

7/7/2012

The Lord speaks of peace to his people. Am 9:11-15 Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 Mt 9:14-17

[Lectionary: 382](#) [Audio](#)

Wow, Amos finally gets around to some good news. His picture reminds me of a childhood song my Daddy sang to us, "The Big Rock Candy Mountain." But as I look around I cannot see the lake of stew and lemonade too, let alone the whiskey still on every hill. So what about the "Good News"? Oh well!!! You can't be patched!!! You simply have to start fresh!!! There is one thing absolutely certain about the process. To put on a new coat you first have to get naked! You have to take the old clothes off first! There is something very symbolic and very true here.

7/8/2012

The Lord is gracious and merciful. Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Mt 9:18-26

[Lectionary: 383](#) [Audio](#)

God sees what we cannot see. He feels what we cannot feel or even imagine could be felt. Do you have problems? He feels them. Do you have pains? He feels them. Are you unfaithful? He is always faithful to you! Click the link and read to the end of Hosea Chapter 2. You are pitied, cared for with mercy and compassion. You are His spouse. You are His...and He is yours.

7/10/2012

The house of Israel trusts in the Lord. Hos 8:4-7, 11-13 Ps 115:3-4, 5-6, 7ab-8, 9-10 Mt 9:32-38

[Lectionary 384](#) [Audio](#)

The goodness of the Lord is so amazing. Ever do something good only to be accused of doing it for ulterior motives? It is the age old self-delusion of the self-righteous. The self-appointed purveyors of the things of God just have such a very hard time accepting it when He works

outside their realm. You see, His Kingdom is far beyond them and beyond their imagination, but His Kingdom is so very near and close at hand to all those with faith in Him. Watch Him work and praise the Lord!

7/11/2012

The house of Israel trusts in the Lord.

Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12

Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

Mt 10:1-7

[Lectionary: 383](#)

[Audio](#)

It is just so very tempting to do things our way, to build our Church, our organization. That is all well and good. We may have a really great time doing so. We may even do a little good along the way, but the fact is it will sooner or later all come crumbling down. Unless the Lord build the house... Yes He will use us, He will use us just as He used the twelve, but He is the one who builds. The moment we forget that, the moment we put anything at all over His simple commandment to love as He loves, the moment we stand to exert our will over a brother rather than stooping to wash his feet, that is the moment we have shoved Him to the side.

7/12/2012

Let us see your face, Lord, and we shall be saved.  
16

Mt 10:7-15

Hos 11:1-4, 8E-9

Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-

[Lectionary: 383](#)

[Audio](#)

Our hope is in the one who loves us, and loves us like the little children we are. He will always pave the way for us, and open all the doors that He chooses to open. This is His simple advice from the Gospel. The Kingdom is at hand. Enjoy it. Love one another. Help each other. He has other plans and other uses for those who are not able to listen or enjoy His Kingdom yet. Like a doting mother who locks up all the dangerous materials and puts all the harmful things away and out of reach, so He leads us to safe places to bring the joy and peace that is from Him alone.

7/13/2012

My mouth will declare your praise.  
17

Mt 10: 16-23

Hos 14:2-10

Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13, 14 and

[Lectionary: 383](#)

[Audio](#)

Living life in the Spirit is not living a sinless life. Do you think I am crazy? Do you think that I am sacrilegious? Perhaps I am. You be the judge. The one who believes he is living a righteous and sinless life is sadly delusional. The reality is that each one of us is steeped in sin and selfishness, and the wonder is that He loves us anyway. It is not our great wisdom, and certainly not our sanctity that save us, but is only Him in His abounding mercy and goodness. It is this goodness and love, as we come to experience it, that flows through us cleaning us of all our wickedness. The cleaner we become, the more effect His love has on us, the cleaner it is, and the more effective it will be, when it flows on into another heart and mind. In the end, and perhaps that is far away, the pure water of His love and grace will work its wonders on us all. All because of Him.

7/13/2012

The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty.  
33

Is 6:1-8

Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5

Mt 10:24-

[Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha](#)

[Lectionary: 388](#)

[Audio](#)

Here I am. Send me.

7/16/2012

To the upright I will show the saving power of God.  
21 and 23                      Mt 10:34-11:1

Is 1:10-17

Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17,

[Lectionary: 389](#)

[Audio](#)

There is a very simple hidden message in the gospel. It is all about Him. Read it carefully, especially the very last verse, the one that starts the “rest of the story”. It is clear to me that after Jesus finally was able to deliver the message to His disciples He went off to **TEACH IN THEIR TOWNS**. Being His disciple, being one who “gets it”, is learning the art of “tagging along” to help out while He does the heavy lifting in your town.

7/17/2012

. God upholds his city for ever.  
24

Is 7:1-9,

Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8

Mt 11:20-

[Lectionary: 390](#)

[Audio](#)

Free will is the strangest of gifts that God has given us. Why can we not be like everything else He made? Everything else just follows the rules. Everything else obeys gravity and rolls downhill. Not us. It is our aim to soar like eagles. Our problem is that we are so very ignorant. It takes us so very long to realize that eagles soar precisely because they have learned to follow the law of gravity, and enjoy its wonderful consequences! There is an important lesson in this!

7/18/2012

The Lord will not abandon his people.  
11:25-27                      Is 10:5-7, 13b-16

Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15

Mt

What a privilege to be a little piece of God's kindling!

7/19/2012

From heaven the Lord looks down on the earth.  
102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21                      Mt 11:28-30

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19

Ps

[Lectionary: 392](#)

[Audio](#)

All that we build is of no matter at all. We exist for only a brief moment. We worry and complain and scheme and plan, for what! Let it be. He is. If we simply learn this simple lesson all of life is His, and that is a dream!

7/20/2012

You saved my life, O Lord; I shall not die.  
16                      Mt 12:1-8

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8

Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd,

[Lectionary: 393](#)

[Audio](#)

"Those live whom the LORD protects; yours is the life of my spirit." sums things up very nicely. Its simple corollary tells us how to enjoy that life: "I say to you, something greater than the temple is here. If you knew what this meant, / *desire mercy, not sacrifice*, you would not have condemned these innocent men. For the Son of Man is Lord of the sabbath." When even only a few of us come to realize we are no better than anyone else, what a wonderful world this will be.

7/21/2012

**Do not forget the poor, O Lord!**  
11

**Mi 2:1-5**

**Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14**

**Mt 12:14-21**

**There is only one hope. Place all your hope in Him.**

7/23/2012

**To the upright I will show the saving power of God.**  
16bc-17, 21 and 23

**Mt 12:38-42**

**Mi 6:1-4, 6-8**

**Ps 50:5-6, 8-9,**

[Lectionary: 395](#)

[Audio](#)

Micah 6:8, here is the most clear-cut advice for a full, happy, productive life. There is no wisdom greater than this. I am told it was the favorite scripture verse of Pope John XXIII. Check the last line of the Psalm selection, there is something greater than Solomon here.

**Remember that no one can enslave you but you yourself.**

7/24/2012

**Lord, show us your mercy and love.**  
8

**Mt 12:46-50**

**Mi 7:14-15, 18-20**

**Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-**

[Lectionary: 396](#)

[Audio](#)

What a very special selection for me, a member of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel parish. Mt. Carmel means God's lovely garden. Jesus is not making a negative statement about Mary or His relatives in the Gospel today. Not at all! He is instead making a very profound statement about positions and structure in His Kingdom. Can it be possible that Simon Peter, or James and John are loved just as much by God as Mary, and Jesus' "brothers and sisters"? Or what about Simon the Zealot, or Judas Iscariot? Jesus' message can be no clearer, no plainer, no more simple and concise, "Those who do Our Father's will are those who are Jesus' brothers and sisters and even His mother. And what is Our Father's will? Micah says it quite plainly; be good, love passionately, walk humbly with Him and let Him love you and be your Shepherd as you enjoy the life of being His very presence in His beautiful garden of Carm-el, a place that is always near at hand!

7/25/2012

**Those who sow in tears shall reap rejoicing.**  
5, 6

**Mt 20:20-28**

**2 Cor 4:7-15**

**Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-**

[Saint James](#)

[Lectionary: 605](#)

[Audio](#)

**Be careful what you ask for. God will always do the best He can to get it for you.**

7/26/2012

With you is the fountain of life, O Lord.  
10-11 Mt 13:10-17

Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13

Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9,

[Saint Joachim and Saint Anne](#)

[Lectionary: 398](#)

[Audio](#)

What a wonder it is that God has given us such a great gift, to see His loving presence. He is there in every simple, loving, thing. Do you see Him?

7/27/2012

The Lord will guard us as a shepherd guards his flock.  
31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 Mt 13:18-23

Jer 3:14-17

Jer

[Lectionary: 399](#)

[Audio](#)

Some guides tell you where to go. Some guides point things out on a map. Some guides tell great stories. Our guide goes with us, watching us, protecting us, leading us every single step of the way.

7/28/2012

Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son.

[JER 18:1-6](#)

[PS 146:1B-2, 3-4, 5-](#)

[6AB](#) [MT 13:47-53](#)

[Lectionary: 404](#)

[Audio](#)

I wonder if the fish swimming around in the sea think about what will happen when the net is hauled in? I am pretty sure that if they do or if they did, what actually does happen would not be very much influenced by their wishes. I know this is a terrible analogy, after all we are persons not fish! We do think. We do make decisions. We actually do something from time to time. Yet I am forced by the sheer reality of life in our universe to conclude that whatever any of us, or even all of us for that matter, think or do has an infinitesimally small impact on what God is doing or thinking. That is... unless He loves us, each one of us. And if He loves each one of us I can come to no other logical conclusion but that He will be so very merciful to each of us. In fact He will no doubt be at least as merciful as He already has been... and He gave His own life for us!!!! Do you see why I am so happy? Do you see why I just keep trying to see what He is doing and, if I can, lend a hand?

7/28/2012

How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, mighty God.  
84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11 Mt 13:24-30

Jer 7:1-11

Ps

[Lectionary: 400](#)

[Audio](#)

I cannot help myself in commenting on the words of today's simple weeding, ...errr, readings. This outlines our most fundamental dilemma in the life in the Spirit. It is the God we serve. He is our entire "problem!" He is a crazy God! He is an un-believable God! He wants nothing at all to do with our temples, our structures, our constraints. Can you not understand that He loves you. He is actually dying for you!!! All that He asks, and this is really and truly the only thing He asks of you, is that you love as He does!!! Yes, that is most certainly impossible, so He has given you the most wonderful gift of all, He knows your heart!!!! All you have to do is try! When you do that He will run to your aid and help you. When you fail He will forgive you. Please, please, please listen. Stop trying to pull out

the weeds! You cannot perfect His garden. You cannot even tell the weeds from the wheat! This is the disaster that leads to the dwindling that leads to the death of all our efforts and any organization or movement or even church. Unless He builds the house you labor in vain. Rest assured that what He is building will give you great opportunities to love. His construct will always challenge you. It is His way! Open your arms, open your doors. This world He is building He will build. As he does so He will carefully hew and shape each stone. He will lovingly carve and trim each piece of wood. Relax and be part of the stone or wood that remains rather than the part that is thrown into the rubble or burned with the trash.

7/30/2012

You have forgotten God who gave you birth.  
21 Mt 13:31-35

Jer 13:1-11

Dt 32:18-19,20,

[Lectionary: 401](#)

[Audio](#)

God speaks to us all the time. His parables are going on all day long. Listen to them.

7/31/2012

For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.  
13 Mt 13:36-43

Jer 14:17-22

PS 79:8,9,11 and

[Saint Ignatius of Loyola](#)

[Lectionary: 402](#)

[Audio](#)

God's love is everlasting. His correction lasts only so long as necessary.