

## Pope Leo's Audience 24 September 2025

Today, again, we will look at the mystery of Holy Saturday. It is the day of the Paschal Mystery in which everything seems immobile and silent, while in reality an invisible action of salvation is being fulfilled: Christ descends into the realm of the dead to bring the news of the Resurrection to all those who were in the darkness and in the shadow of death. This event, which the liturgy and tradition have handed down to us, represents the most profound and radical gesture of God's love for humanity. Indeed, it is not enough to say or to believe that Jesus died for us: it is necessary to recognize that the fidelity of his love sought us out where we ourselves were lost, where only the power of a light capable of penetrating the realm of darkness can reach. The underworld, in the biblical conception, is not so much a place as an existential condition: that condition in which life is depleted, and pain, solitude, guilt and separation from God and others reign. Christ reaches us even in this abyss, passing through the gates of this realm of darkness. He enters, so to speak, in the very house of death, to empty it, to free its inhabitants, taking them by the hand one by one. It is the humility of a God who does not stop in front of our sin, who is not afraid when faced with the human being's extreme rejection.

The apostle Peter, in the brief passage from his first Letter that we have just heard, tells us that Jesus, made alive in the Holy Spirit, went to take the news of salvation even "to the spirits in prison" (1Pt 3:19). It is one of the most moving images, which is expressed not in the canonical Gospels, but in an apocryphal text entitled the Gospel of Nicodemus. According to this tradition, the Son of God entered the deepest darkness to reach even the last of his brothers and sisters, to bring his light down there too. In this gesture there is all the strength and tenderness of the Paschal message: death is never the last word.

Dear friends, this descent of Christ does not relate only to the past, but touches the life of every one of us. The underworld is not only the condition of the dead, but also of those who live death as a result of evil and sin. It is also the daily hell of loneliness, shame, abandonment, and the struggle of life. Christ enters into all these dark realities to bear witness to the love of the Father. Not to judge, but to set free. Not to blame, but to save. He does so quietly, on tiptoe, like one who enters a hospital room to offer comfort and help.

The Fathers of the Church, in pages of extraordinary beauty, described this moment as a meeting: that between Christ and Adam. An encounter that is the symbol of all the possible encounters between God and man. The Lord descends where man has hidden out of fear, and calls him by name, takes him by the hand, raises him up, and brings him back to the light. He does so with full authority, but also with infinite gentleness, like a father with the son who fears that he is no longer loved.

In the eastern icons of the Resurrection, Christ is depicted breaking down the doors of the underworld, stretching out his arms and grasping Adam and Eve by the wrists. He does not save only himself; he does not return to life alone, but carries all of humanity with him. This is the true glory of the Risen One: it is the power of love, it is solidarity with a God who does not want to save himself without us, but only with us. A God who does not rise again unless he embraces our miseries and lifts us up to a new life. Holy Saturday, then, is the day in which heaven visits earth most deeply. It is the time in which every corner of human history is touched by the light of Easter. And if Christ was able to descend all the way down there, nothing can be excluded from his redemption. Not even our nights, not even our oldest faults, not even our broken bonds. There is no past so ruined, no history so compromised that it cannot be touched by mercy.

Dear brothers and sisters, to descend, for God, is not a defeat, but the fulfilment of his love. It is not a failure, but the way by which he shows that no place is too far away, no heart is too closed, no tomb too tightly sealed for his love. This consoles us, this sustains us. And if at times we seem to have hit rock bottom, let us remember: that is the place from which God is able to begin a new creation. A creation made of people lifted up, hearts forgiven, tears dried. Holy Saturday is the silent embrace with which Christ presents all creation to the Father to restore it to his plan of salvation

## Our Lady of Divine Providence ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## TWENTYSEVENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME 2025



### HOLY MASS

**Saturday: 05:30 pm English, Church.**

**Sunday: 09:00 am English, Church.**  
**10:30 am Creole, Church.**  
**12:30 pm Spanish, Church.**

**Weekdays: 05:30 pm English, Upper Room, St. Maria Goretti.**

**Fridays: 04:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Rosary.**

**05:30 pm Upper Room**

### SCHEDULE OF SACRAMENTS

**Baptisms: Contact one of the priests in person.**

**1st Confession: T.B.A.**  
**1st Communions: T.B.A..**

**Confirmations: To be confirmed.**

**Marriage: Call the parish office for preparation before setting a fixed date.**

**Anointing of the Sick: Upon request.**

**Confessions: Everyday before Mass or by appointment.**

In Today's Gospel there are 2 parts. In the first Jesus speaks about Faith and basically tells the Apostles that they don't have an ounce of it. Faith is much more than believing the articles of the creed we say every Sunday. Faith is something beyond our reason. One cannot adequately define it. It is an experience of the love of God and to put one's trust in that love. ultimately it is a relationship with the Lord but it is also a cause of tension. And why is that? Because it's always a risk. To have faith is to have a certain boldness in waiting to see the Lord provide and He most certainly will if you trust in Him. Many times we 'pull out' just before He provides and we lose the graces of seeing just how He provides down to the last detail, and every time it's the same. But there is this tension of whether He will provide or am I being too presumptuous? We need wisdom to discern this. Also, faith is something extraordinary and not at all that common.

The second part is that "We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty." Is this your attitude? Most unlikely and if it is, it is because you have low self-esteem. We are called just to be in the truth and that is, that any thing good we do comes from the Lord. St. Therese, the Little Flower said "All is grace." It's true there needs to be our free will but even so without the Lord blessing any thing we do it will end up being of no value. It is the Lord who blesses this mission with the beautiful church, the school and the People of God who participate and we pray that He continue to do so.

Fr. Paul



## HOLY HOUR FRIDAYS

4:00 pm—5:00 pm.

Holy Rosary in three languages, readings reflection, and meditation on the Holy Eucharist. Upper Room St. Maria Goretti.

## MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE

The marriage course will continue in October as follows

Thursday 2nd October,

Thursday 16th October

Monday 20th October

It will be at 7pm in St. Joseph's room and it will be given by a married couple with one of the priests to assist and answer any questions.

This is open to everyone even those who are married and may want to renew their vows.

## CCD CLASSES

## NEW TIME AND PLACE

BEGINNING Saturday  
4 October.

10am at the Church

## Parish Events Oct. 5-12

**Holy Mass: 09:00 am, 10:30am  
12:30pm,**

04:00pm Coeur de Marie Children's group.  
05:00pm Fraternalite, Red Room.  
05:00pm Creole Youth Choir practice.  
05:30pm Sacre Coeur de Jesus, P. Hall.  
06:00pm Choeur D'hommes 1st and 3rd Sunday at church.

### **Monday St. Bruno**

05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

### **Tuesday Our Lady of the Rosary**

05:30pm Daily Mass, SMG, Upper Room

07:00pm First English, Blue Chapel  
07:00pm Second English, St. Joseph's Room  
07:00pm Spanish, St. Maria Gorretti  
07:00pm Sixth English, Blessed Sac. Chapel

### **Wednesday**

05:30pm Daily Mass,, SMG Upper Room  
07:00pm Third English, SMG, Upper Room  
07:00pm Fourth English, St. Joseph's Room  
07:00pm Fifth English, Blue Chapel  
07:00pm Creole, Blessed Sacrament, Chapel

### **Thursday St. John Leonardi**

05:30 pm Daily Mass SMG, Upper Room

### **Friday**

04:00 pm Adoration, SMG upstairs  
05:30 pm Daily Mass, SMG upstairs

### **Saturday Pope St. JohnXXIII**

05:30 pm Mass in Church  
07:00 pm Eucharist NCW



# School Notes

Holy Family Academy  
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## SPONSORS / BENEFACTORS

We continue to look for donations and sponsors to support our **Scholarship Program** and help the school with necessary supplies.

Your sponsorship payment can be done through direct deposit or bank transfer or by donating any of the items below.

- Projectors and projector screens
- Projector stands
- Art Supplies
- Printing Paper
- Sport supplies
- Asthma Inhalers & AED

Click on our [Wish List](#) or scan the code to see more!

