

- Welcome to all of our visitors.
- A little shorter homily today. We have a brief announcement after the final prayer.
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- But...we have essential advice from Jesus in our Gospel today (is there any other kind from Him?)—telling us that we should always make time to “*come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.*”
- ...to get away from the constant hustle and bustle...the noise...the constant stimulation of our senses in our day from the electronic devices, the internet, all the events that hold onto our attention, and to re-center ourselves on what truly matters.
- It is reminiscent of the story in Luke’s Gospel of Mary and Martha—Martha so concerned about serving the guests and doing everything that was expected by society of her, that she forgot the wisdom of her younger sister Mary, who knew that the better part was to sit at Jesus’ feet and listen to His words. That is what GOD expects from us.
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- As we all know, it’s so very easy in this world to forget about God...so many things vying for our attention...so many things to do...so many diversions to occupy ourselves with.
- So many that sometimes people come to me after Mass: “Father, you went over an hour”. Really?
- I can’t help but wonder: “What is so critical in your life that makes 10 extra minutes that essential? Is anything more important than seeking God’s grace? Will we even ration out our love for God...as if we’re doing HIM some sort of favor?... He who even holds us in existence at every moment?
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- (analogy of dinner w/ wife and egg timer)

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- Our weekly worship at Mass is our obligation, yes...but infinitely more...our privilege.
- Think of all those who do not know Jesus in the Mass...in the Eucharist—God Himself coming to us under the appearances of a little piece of bread...and offering to us an eternal salvation gained for us by being nailed to a cross for six hours.
- How little is expected of us...and yet how much is given to us.
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- Yet...it is because we have so much...and the danger of losing them are so comparatively little for us...that we simply forget and get caught up in our own pursuits...taking for granted God's many gifts.
- Jesus and the apostles, the saints and even many non-Christian philosophers preach simplicity of life—St. Paul, for instance, saying: *“There is great gain in godliness with contentment...if we have food and clothing, with these we shall be content.”* (1Titus 6:6-8 RSV), and Jesus saying: *“...do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’...But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well.”* (Matt 6:31-33 RSV)
- Simplicity of life minimizes distractions from God...from Him who should be the center of our lives...of our families...of our very thoughts...for all good things are from Him.
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- So let us heed Jesus' exhortation to frequently go to a deserted place with Him and rest awhile, separating ourselves even for a little while from the busy-ness of our lives—in the Blessed Sacrament chapel...delving into the Gospels in a quiet place...or something as simple as going on a walk in the forest saying your rosary.
- Because, as He tells us, it is there with Him that we will finally find rest for our souls.

Reading 1

[Jer 23:1-6](#)

Woe to the shepherds  
who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture,  
says the LORD.  
Therefore, thus says the LORD, the God of Israel,  
against the shepherds who shepherd my people:  
You have scattered my sheep and driven them away.  
You have not cared for them,  
but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.  
I myself will gather the remnant of my flock  
from all the lands to which I have driven them  
and bring them back to their meadow;  
there they shall increase and multiply.  
I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them  
so that they need no longer fear and tremble;  
and none shall be missing, says the LORD.

Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD,  
when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David;  
as king he shall reign and govern wisely,  
he shall do what is just and right in the land.  
In his days Judah shall be saved,  
Israel shall dwell in security.  
This is the name they give him:  
"The LORD our justice."

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6](#)

**R. (1) The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

In verdant pastures he gives me repose;

beside restful waters he leads me;

he refreshes my soul.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

He guides me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk in the dark valley

I fear no evil; for you are at my side

with your rod and your staff

that give me courage.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

You spread the table before me

in the sight of my foes;

you anoint my head with oil;

my cup overflows.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me  
all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
for years to come.

**R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.**

Reading II

[Eph 2:13-18](#)

Brothers and sisters:

In Christ Jesus you who once were far off  
have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one  
and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh,  
abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims,  
that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two,  
thus establishing peace,  
and might reconcile both with God,  
in one body, through the cross,  
putting that enmity to death by it.  
He came and preached peace to you who were far off  
and peace to those who were near,  
for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Gospel

[Mk 6:30-34](#)

The apostles gathered together with Jesus  
and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

**"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."**

People were coming and going in great numbers,  
and they had no opportunity even to eat.

So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

**People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.**

**They hastened there on foot from all the towns  
and arrived at the place before them.**

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd,  
his heart was moved with pity for them,  
for they were like sheep without a shepherd;  
and he began to teach them many things.