



When Life Is on Empty

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As he stood in line in front of me, the back of his T-shirt read, "Pain is weakness leaving the body." Though unsaid, it implied that the parting pain would be replaced by newfound strength. Yet, the more I thought about it, I wondered if that is always the case. Some pain simply leaves one empty, like the grief that comes with the death of one's child. That emptiness never leaves, it is never replaced. So too, the pain of living with mental illness, as it seems to isolate one from many of life's joys and satisfactions. Or, eventually, the aging process in all of us, as it slips in and steals the treasures of life, one by one. Pain is not always weakness leaving the body. Sometimes, it is the pain of an alien spirit settling in for the long haul.

If St. Paul's assertion that Jesus came and "emptied himself...coming in human likeness...even [to] death on a cross," then those times that seem to empty us of all we would hold dear are the times when we slowly take on the image of Jesus in our own lives. It is at such times when we are most powerless but also when God's spirit shines through our broken and wounded lives, if only because we become totally dependent upon God. It is Saint Teresa of Kolkata who is said to have once remarked that even God cannot fill what is already full. ●

Reflect

***What emptying am I experiencing?
Can I accept it as becoming more like Jesus?***



**[Christ Jesus] emptied himself...
becoming obedient to death,
even death on a cross.**

PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8

ST. BARBARA PARISH

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St. Thomas More Site
302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info
Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am



**Holy Trinity Site
Parish Office**
212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger
Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com
Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164



CCD Classes

Sunday, September 14th – K-5th grade (first class)
Sunday, September 21st — 6th-8th grade (first class)

Dear Parents of Confirmation Students, as your children begin the second year of Confirmation class we will be giving them a written test to monitor their progress, and to see how well they have retained what they learned the previous year. Please encourage your children to review material from last year. This test will be given on Oct 12th.

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of September 15, 2025

Monday	9/15			† No Mass
Tuesday	9/16	9:00 am	STM Site	† John Balma
Wednesday*	9/17	9:00 am*	HT Site	† Bernard Schwamberger
Thursday	9/18	9:00 am	HT Site	† Fr. Paul Meisner
Friday	9/19	9:00 am	STM Site	† Phil Maggio

***Note Wednesday Mass time has Changed

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of September 20-21, 2025

Saturday	9/20	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Tony Panizzi
Sunday	9/21	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

THE TRIUMPHANT CROSS AND ITS MEANING

(FEAST DAY: SEPTEMBER 14TH)

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, also known as the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, commemorates three historical events: the discovery of the True Cross in 326, its initial exaltation for public veneration in 335, and the recovery of the Cross from the Persians in 628. Nowadays, this feast also celebrates the boundless impact of Christ's Cross upon all of creation.



Although we commemorate these three historical events today, the core of our celebration is not the physical wood of the Cross or the holy sites where Jesus died and was buried. Our primary focus is the infinite love shown through the selfless and perfect Sacrifice of the Son of God and the boundless mercy that has poured forth upon the world as a result. The Cross itself is a cruel instrument of torture and death. The fact that it is now the symbol of God's perfect love only further magnifies that love and showcases God's infinite power to use the worst for the best: to use death to bring life and to transform the greatest act of cruelty ever known into the greatest act of mercy ever bestowed upon the world.

The Cross of Christ must permeate each one of us, transforming us and making us new. First and foremost, this happens when we open ourselves to the infinite mercy of God flowing from that selfless Sacrifice. It also occurs when we allow every one of our sufferings, the injustices we endure, the crosses, hardships, and most undesirable aspects of our lives to share in the redemptive power of Christ. We do this when we embrace Jesus' commands to share in His sufferings, unite them with His own, and allow Him to bear an abundance of good fruit through us. "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it" (Matthew 16:24-25).

As we commemorate the triumph of Christ's Cross, call to mind the crosses we bear each day. More often than not, when faced with crosses, we seek a way out, succumb to self-pity, and are often tempted by anger and despair. Instead, try to allow Jesus to enter those crosses, transform them, and use them for His glory, our good, and the good of others. Crosses in life should not be avoided; they must be transformed. Although the suffering may remain, it must become redeemed suffering, thus bearing an abundance of good fruit in ways that only God can accomplish.

(excerpted from: mycatholic.life)

Church Announcements

2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal: The 2025 Annual Diocesan Appeal is now underway in our parish. Thank you to all who have already pledged to the appeal. Your gift supports ministries, like the Genesis Marriage retreat, that helps form marriages which are the bedrock for the Domestic Church. No gift is too small, and our parish is trying to reach 100% participation. If you have not given yet, please consider filling out a pledge card today and mail it to the Diocese or drop it in the collection basket. Addition pledge cards are in the narthex/pews. Every dollar raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to help us.

Principal Position: Holy Cross Catholic School in Mendota is currently seeking a Principal to serve Pre K-8 school of 179 students in the Diocese of Peoria. Submit your application <https://www.applitrack.com/cdop/onlineapp> and select Administration from the list of job categories.

Peterstown TEC: Is having a girl's weekend. On October 25-27, 2025. Information can be found at peterstowntec.com or contact Jim Hoscheid at 815-228-2525.

Latest Offering's

September 7th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:
\$2,934.10

Next Confessions

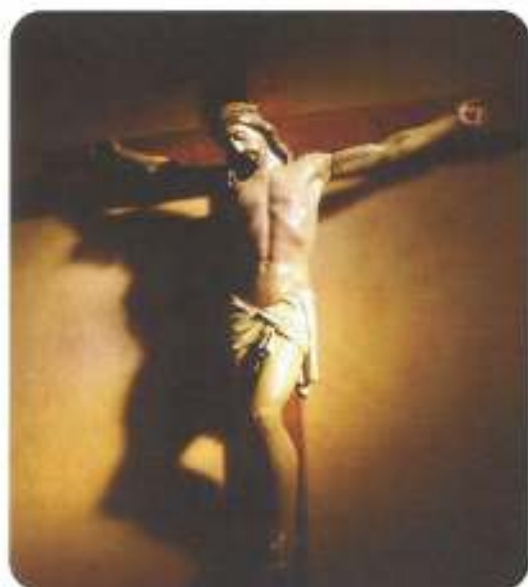
Confession will be
Sat. September 20th
10:30am-11:15am

HT site in the
Confessional

Dear Padre,

A Protestant friend tells me that Jesus died to take the punishment for our sins. That doesn't seem accurate to me. What does the Church teach about the meaning of Jesus' death on the cross?

Jesus understood his mission to be sacrificing his own life "as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). His fidelity to that mission was even at the cost of death. However, saying Jesus' death was payment for our sins doesn't mean that a vengeful God was appeased by the slaughter of his own innocent son. Rather, we are redeemed because of the mutual love between Father and Son, as well as the love Christ had for us all when he offered his life. "It is love 'to the end' (see John 13:1) that confers on Christ's sacrifice its value as redemption and reparation, as atonement and satisfaction" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 616). It is in this sense that Jesus' death was a payment—not one to be exacted—but a unique sacrifice "that completes and surpasses all other sacrifices," when "the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us with himself," and the Son of God freely and lovingly offered his human life to his Father "in reparation for our disobedience" (CCC 614). Christ "bore our sins in his body upon the cross.... By his wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24). Viewed in light of the resurrection, Christ's death has meaning in eternal life's triumph over sin. ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 15	September 16	September 17	September 18	September 19	September 20	September 21
<i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	<i>Sts. Cornelius, Pope, and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, and Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	<i>Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
1 Tm 2:1-8 Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35	1 Tm 3:1-13 Lk 7:11-17	1 Tm 3:14-16 Lk 7:31-35	1 Tm 4:12-16 Lk 7:36-50	1 Tm 6:2c-12 Lk 8:1-3	1 Tm 6:13-16 Lk 8:4-15	Am 8:4-7 1 Tm 2:1-8 Lk 16:1-13 or 16:10-13



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

I chose to take the name Leo XIV...mainly because Pope Leo XIII in his historic encyclical Rerum Novarum addressed the social question in the context of the first great industrial revolution. In our own day, the Church offers...the treasury of [its] social teaching in response to...new challenges for the defense of human dignity, justice, and labor.

ADDRESS TO THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS,
ROME, MAY 10, 2025