

Fr. Simon Sez



In the gospel proclamation for today (Luke 10:38-42) we hear how Martha welcomed Jesus into her home and served Him, but she was “burdened with much serving.” Why? Was it because Mary would not help her? No, it was because she did not welcome Jesus into her heart like

Mary did! Mary “listened” to Jesus. To listen meant Mary pondered in her heart what Jesus was telling her.

As Christians, we do not welcome someone only when they visit our home. We welcome them by listening to them. We welcome them by serving them with the love of the Lord in our hearts. Are we burdened by having to serve others? One important way to not be burdened by serving others is to welcome Jesus into our hearts and seek to serve Him as we serve others.

In the first reading (Genesis 18:1-10a) we heard how Abraham welcomed His master, the Lord, and insisted that the Lord stay with him and let His servant serve Him. (The three men represent the Lord in three persons.) For the Lord’s part, He blessed Abraham and Sarah with a son. The Lord had previously promised him progeny and prosperity even though, up to this point, they were not able to even have a son.

Having Christ within us helps to make it a joy and privilege to serve one another. As we serve one another, we serve the Lord. For the Lord’s part, as He did for Abraham and Sarah, He will bless us too.

Today’s gospel acclamation (cf. Luke 8:15) summarizes our lesson for today, “Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and yield a harvest through perseverance.”

Clergy News: I will be gone this Sunday afternoon through Tuesday due my mother Alice Simon’s health issues. Beverly will also be gone this week for a couple days this week due to health issues in her family.

I will be gone next weekend and a couple days early in the following week for a relative’s wedding in Billings, MT. Fr. David Axtmann will be here that weekend. We will not have noon confessions and not have the River Mass next Saturday, July 24.

Fr. Jerry Kopel is doing well. He is feeling better due to him not having allergies there and not needing medications for allergies. He is a substitute priest for weekends and for priest vacations.

Waiting on the Lord: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Genesis 18:1–10
Psalm 15:2–5
Colossians 1:24–28
Luke 10:38–42

God wants to dwell with each of us personally, intimately—as the mysterious guests once visited Abraham’s tent, as Jesus once entered the home of Mary and Martha.

By his hospitality in this week’s First Reading, Abraham shows us how we are to welcome the Lord into our lives. His selfless service of his divine guests (see Hebrews 13:1) stands in contrast to the portrait of Martha drawn in this week’s Gospel.

Where Abraham is concerned only for the well-being of his guests, Martha speaks only of herself—“Do you not care that my sister has left me by myself . . . ? Tell her to help me.” Jesus’ gentle rebuke reminds us that we risk missing the divine in the mundane, that we can fall into the trap of believing that God somehow needs to be served by human hands (see Acts 17:25).

Our Lord comes to us not to be served but to serve (see Matthew 20:28). He gave His life that we might know the one thing we need, the “better part,” which is life in the fellowship of God.

Jesus is the true Son promised today by Abraham’s visitors (see Matthew 1:1). In Him, God has made an everlasting covenant for all time; He has made us blessed descendants of Abraham (see Genesis 17:19, 21; Romans 4:16–17, 19–21).

The Church now offers us this covenant, bringing to completion the word of God, the promise of His plan of salvation, what Paul calls “the mystery hidden for ages.”

As once He came to Abraham, Martha, and Mary, Christ now comes to each of us in Word and Sacrament. As we sing in this week’s Psalm: He will make His dwelling with those who keep His Word and practice justice (see also John 14:23).

If we do these things, we will not be anxious or disturbed. We will not have our Lord taken from us. We will wait on the Lord, Who told Abraham and Who tells each of us: “I will surely return to you.”