

Twenty-second Sunday | Year A

September 3, 2023 (Jer 20:7-9 | Romans 12:1-2 | Matthew 16:21-27)

The Prophet Jeremiah puts his feeling beautifully, saying, “You duped me, O Lord, and I let myself be duped.” Let us turn to God and let God direct our thoughts according to his will.

1/ Our souls are thirsting for God, because he is our God for whom we seek. For all nations and peoples that yearn for God. We pray that, together with Pope Francis and pastors, they may all be united in their love for God, thirst for justice, and yearn for peace. Let us pray.

2/ Urging the Roman Christians to offer their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, Paul warns them not to conform themselves to lures of this world. Rather, they ought to long for the goodness of God. For those who seek worldly powers and material wealth. We pray that Paul’s warning may deter them from further downfalls. Let us pray.

3/ In last Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus praised Peter, calling him the rock upon which his Church was built. In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls Peter Satan, who has become his stumbling block to God. For Peter was thinking in human conditions. For those who cause others to stumble and walk away from God. We pray that Jesus’s teaching may turn them to God. Let us pray.

4/ Carrying the cross of this world and following Jesus can be challenging. But for those who endure and remain faithful to Jesus, God will reward them bountifully in the life to come. For our sisters and brothers who carried their crosses and followed Jesus, but have now departed from us. We pray that God may grant them eternal life. Today we remember **[at 4:30 PM]** Bob and Joan Whelan; Red and Libby Lucas; **[at 10:00 AM]** Stephen Zanone and Wallace Mangin. Let us pray.

Oh Lord our God, all truth is from you, and you alone bring oneness of heart. Give your faithful the joy of hearing your word in every sound and of longing for your presence more than life itself. May all the attractions of a changing world serve only to bring us closer to your love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.