Dear Padre,

What is the "gospel of prosperity"? Does it mean that being rich is a sign of God's favor?

That's a good question, as this month we listen to the challenging words of St. James. If there is a "gospel of prosperity," Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John didn't write it, and it isn't about Jesus. If anything, the Gospels would be called "Gospels of poverty." Jesus himself was born in poverty. Had he wished to extol riches and prosperity, he would have been born into the lap of luxury. But God chose the poverty of a stable.

Although the subject of riches and poverty appears in all the Gospels, Luke writes about it the most. It is thought that Luke was

concerned about this topic because he came from wealth and dealt with people of means. Luke sees money and goods as dangerous to salvation. Although "nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:37), Luke uses the image of a camel passing through the eye of a needle to explain that this impossible task is easier than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven (Luke 18:25). Scary words. Yet, poverty itself is not hailed as good, nor are riches condemned in themselves. It's what wealth does to people that is the core issue. When we focus on riches and possessions, we risk turning from God and growing deaf to the cries of the poor. Possessions and wealth are to be shared, not hoarded.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Let us ask ourselves: how is my capacity to listen going?Think about family life: how many times do we talk without listening first, repeating the same things, always the same things!.... The healing of the heart begins with listening.... We hear the words of Jesus addressed to us: "Ephphatha, be opened!" Open your ears. ANGELUS, ROME, SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

Monday

September 9 St. Peter Claver, Priest 1 Cor 5:1-8 Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday

September 10 Weekday 1 Cor 6:1-11 Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday

September 11 Weekday 1 Cor 7:25-31 Lk 6:20-26

Thursday

September 12 Weekday 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13 Lk 6:27-38

Friday

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

September 13 St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 Lk 6:39-42

Saturday

September 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Nm 21:4b-9 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

Sunday

September 15 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ls 50:4c-9a Jas 2:14-18 Mk 8:27-35

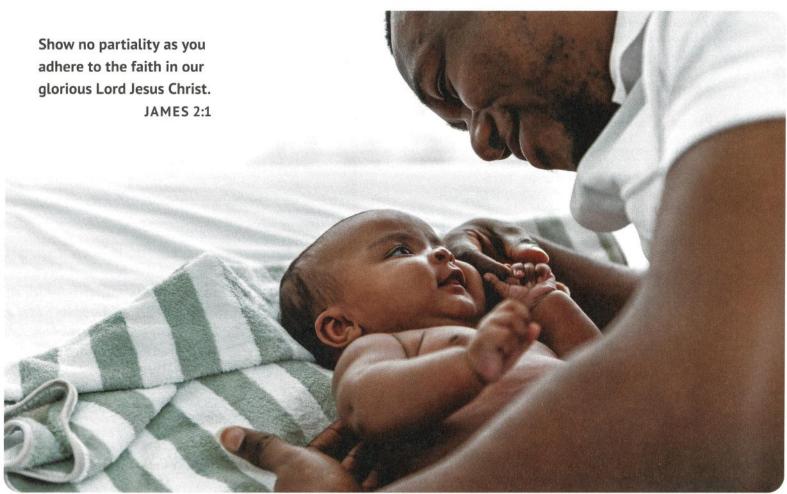
Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 8, 2024 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Isaiah 35:4-7a / James 2:1-5 / Mark 7:31-37

Life at the Edge

e find ourselves living at the edge sometimes, when life could go either way, up or down. We may experience this as we begin marriage or first become parents. At other times, it may be frightening or sad, but also exciting, such as when graduation nears, or when we are faced with an "empty nest." Then, we stand at the edge of a new beginning, eager for the onset of what we've dreamt of for so long, but also uncertain whether we will be able to navigate it. We also find ourselves living at the edge when someone we love dies.

The other day, someone came by, wanting to talk. She spoke of the chaos of her life, its pain, and of not knowing how to cope. As she was about to leave, she commented how, in spite of it all, it seemed



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FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

strange that God was also very much present. Strange indeed, yet chaotic times are when God's presence is often perceived in our lives, perhaps out of our need, perhaps because we are not distracted by life's glitter, or perhaps because, at last, we have nowhere else to turn. It was St. James who asked then and asks us now. "Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith?" (James 2:5). There are indeed many different ways of being poor, of being in need. For people of faith, it is often at the edge when we sense most clearly that God is with us.

Reflect

Do you feel God's presence differently in hard times than you do in easy times?



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dinners.....\$ 200.00

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What's on the Calendar???

	C4 La salation and a la station in the
ept 08:	St Joachim parish picnic
ept 10:	Parish Council mtg-5:00pm
	K of C 6:00pm mtg
ept 12:	Most Holy Name of Mary
ept 13:	Clarity House
ept 14:	Exaltation of The Cross
ept 15:	St. James Church Picnic!!!
ept 16:	Mission Mtg
-	St.Vincent DePaul mtg
ept 22:	St Joseph Fall Festival-Bonne Terre
ept 29-00	et 03: Parish Mission Fun Begins
oct 03:	First Thursday Adoration
ct 05:	First Saturday
	Caring Hearts PRC *walk for life*
ct 06:	STS. Philip/River Aux Vases Picnic

bled, and do not let them be afraid." -John 14:27

For more information Contact Sherry Leeling @ 573-518-2564

about the love or the lesson."

prayer life is one that comes from Go

