THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5 FOR OBSERVANCE OF LABOR DAY. WE WILL RETURN TO REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022
September 4, 2022   23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

What virtue is the cornerstone of discipleship? Love. Jesus preached about it, lived it, and summarized his greatest commandment featuring it. Love is in our DNA. To follow Jesus, then, is to follow the path of love. While this may appear to be an attractive and easy option, it most assuredly is not. Authentic love always comes with sacrifice. It is the complete giving of oneself to another. The sacrificial character of love always requires that we leave something aside and pursue something else. This is at the heart of self-denial. Love asks us to make choices that are often difficult.

There is a reason Jesus asks that the love of God come first. “Charity is the right attitude of mind which prefers nothing to the knowledge of God. If a man possesses any strong attachment to the things of this earth, he cannot possess true charity (St. Maximus the Confessor).” “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” A devoted disciple must be single-minded in her quest for God. She cannot allow anyone or anything to have more power over her soul than God. When any earthly attachments become more important than Love, we can get ourselves into trouble.

The Gospel calls us to walk boldly into the darkness, confusion, and emptiness of the world clothed in the mantle of love. We are asked to walk with others on their journey, offering a supportive, healing, challenging, and faithful presence. Ours is not to judge. To walk this sacrificial journey means that I must put myself aside and focus on the needs of others. “A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt and must empty ourselves (St. Teresa of Calcutta).” Love helps us walk straight and focus to see things more clearly and help others to do so as well. Many folks struggle to find joy and meaning in life. People may simply need someone with the freedom to sit with them in their pain, so they don’t feel so alone. Through acts of kindness, gestures of acceptance, and words of compassion, burdens can be lightened. Believe in God’s love and seek it above all other things!

Lighting Candles in Church

**Question:** Why do Catholics light candles in church?

**Answer:** Candles have been part of the Church’s worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically “shining a light” on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

**Brothers & Sisters, we ask that you keep the following members in your prayers.**

- Pope Francis
- Bishop Lopes
- Fr. Mark Lewis
- Fr. Jon Jenkins
- All unborn lost to abortion
- The Sackett family

*To add someone to this list, please send an email to joliveros@ourladyoftheonement.org*
The parish office has temporarily been moved over to Saint Anthony Hall. To access it you must park in the teacher’s parking lot and come in through the side doors. The front doors to the school are NOT to be used due to construction.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL AGED YOUTH - Our Parish Youth Group is returning soon. If you are interested, send an email to youthgroup@ourladyoftheatonement.org, scan the QR code, or go directly to our registration page at https://forms.gle/yY7tZzqm92uszQo6 and fill out the questionnaire.

SAVE THE DATE - Join us on September 11, 2022, for a Parish Ministry Fair. Come and meet all our different Ministries and Support Organizations after the 7, 9, and 11 a.m. Masses, in the Piazza. You can learn more about their ministry, their mission, and sign up to join as a volunteer or participant. Also, join us for a guided tour of the parish, at 1 p.m., covering its history and highlighting some of its beautiful artwork and architectural design. Join us to learn more about Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church.

SACRED MUSIC EVENT - On Sunday, September 25, 2022, at 6:30 p.m., Dr. Andrew Lloyd, Professor of Organ Studies at UTSA will be offering a recital here on our Casavant organ. Dr. Lloyd is an active recitalist and composer, whose works have been performed locally by the San Antonio Chamber Choir and the choirs of UTSA. He currently serves as the organist at University United Methodist Church here in San Antonio, and is professor to our very own Kieley Morales.

The CYO is looking for a few more players to join our soccer teams, especially the 3/4, 6, and the 10 year old teams.

If you are interested in registering, please send email to cyoregistrar@atonementonline.com

Please join us after the 9 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, September 11, 2022, in the Courtyard, to wish Fr. Mark Lewis & Fr. Jon Jenkins a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CRITICAL NEEDS FOR ADORERS

We need TWO adorers for each of the following time periods:

Saturday: 9-10 p.m. No one is covering this hour

We need ONE more adorer for:

Friday: 1-2 p.m. and 4-5 p.m., and

Saturday: 3-4 p.m., noon-1 p.m., 1-2 p.m., 3-4 p.m., 4-5 p.m., 5-6 p.m., 6-7 p.m., 7-8 p.m., and 11-Midnight.

Please send text Cathy School at (210) 275-5104 to commit to one of these hours.

We rely on our COMMITTED WEEKLY ADORERS to keep Adoration going in our parish.
Parish Registration

Question: Why is it so important that we register in a parish? Isn't it good enough that we go to Mass?

Answer: Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Your registration affects the parish in many ways. Census numbers can determine how many priests are assigned to a church, what benefits and obligations the community has to the diocese, and how Masses, Confessions, and devotions are planned and scheduled.

Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church and The Atonement Catholic Academy have the following job & volunteer opportunities available at this time.

Janitor (Parish) Sundays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If interested, please contact Mr. Anastacio Hinojosa at ahinojosa@atonementonline.com.

For information on this and other positions, including how to apply, visit our website at ourladyoftheatonement.org/home/careers.

Parish Registration

Saturday 5 p.m. Vigil Mass (Said Mass)
Sunday 7 a.m. (Said Mass)
9 a.m. (Sung Mass)
11 a.m. (Sung Mass)
5 p.m. (Said Mass)
Monday through Saturday
7 a.m. (Said Mass)

Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., and 10:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Wednesday 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday 7:45 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Sacred Heart Chapel - Friday 7:45 a.m. to Sunday 6:15 a.m.
Parish Family Adoration Hour - First Thursday of the month - 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament - First Saturday after the 7 a.m. Mass
Morning and Evening Prayer - Mon - Sun, 6:30 a.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Parish Rosary - Saturday after the 7 a.m. Mass
Healing Mass - Quarterly
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - Catherine School
schoolcat@att.net, (210) 275-5104

Adult Inquiry Class - Alan Becker
inquiry@ourladyoftheatonement.org, (210) 273-9426

American Heritage Girls - Veronica Tovar, AHG Coordinator, or Catherine Henriquez, AHG Vice Coordinator
ahgroop0814@gmail.com, (210) 695-2944

Atonement Moms Group
https://OurLadyofAtonement.flocknote/AtonementMoms

Culture of Life Ministry - Phil Sevilla
philsevilla@att.net, (210) 784-0518

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Athletics
cyopresident@atonementonline.com

Educating on Nature & Dignity of Women (ENDOW)
Glorian Roman-Ashby - EndowatAtonement@gmail.com

Fr. Paul of Graymoor Knights of Columbus Council #16730
Grand Knight, Mark Cerda, (210) 692-4245

God’s Comfort in Loss (after miscarriage) - Marcela Elsner, Renee Keller, & Claire Jenkins
godscomfortinloss@ourladyoftheatonement.org

Newcomers Ministry - Karen King
newcomers@ourladyoftheatonement.org

Nonnatus Meals for New Mothers - nonnatusmeals@gmail.com

Rosary Guild - Catherine School - schoolcat@att.net
(210) 275-5104, or Grace Howard, (210) 887-8562

Sacraments for the Homebound
Please call & leave a message, (210) 695-2944

St. Cuthbert Home Visitation Ministry - Dr. Jesus Garcia Gallegos
jgarcia.gallegos@gmail.com - (210) 993-2127

St. Joseph the Worker Prayer Group - Bill Vogt, (913) 961-2981

St. Stephen’s Guild for Altar Servers, Ushers, & Greeters
John Weems - altar_servers@ourladyoftheatonement.org

St. Vincent de Paul Society - (210) 695-2944

The Altar Guild - Jessica Coleman, (210) 479-5863

The Troops of St. George - Robert Wallace - tsg815.org

Women of Grace - Diana Marie Salsman
womenofgrace@ourladyoftheatonement.org

Our parish has over 20 different Ministries & Organizations at your disposal. We are here to help any parishioner. Please reach out to us in your time of need.

On the other hand, if you have time to volunteer, please contact the ministry or organization directly. We can always use your talents.

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Parish Office SUMMER Hours are
Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Parish Administrator - Erica Lizama
elizama@ourladyoftheatonement.org
(210) 695-2944

Business Manager - Anastacio Hinojosa
ahinojosa@atonementonline.com
(210) 695-2944

Director of Religious Education - Rev. Father Jon Jenkins, fr.jon.jenkins@ordinariate.net
(210) 695-2944

Director of Music - Alejandro Oliveros
music@ourladyoftheatonement.org
(210) 695-2944

Pastoral Council - John Weems
parishcouncil@atonementonline.com

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We continue to be grateful to those of you who contribute so generously to our Parish. But we still need your stewardship. Without your healthy support of the parish, we struggle to fully embrace God’s plan to spread the Gospel during these difficult and uncertain times.

Have you considered simplifying your giving through our online giving portal? You can automatically send your tithe from your checking account or debit/credit card – just as you may do now with your bills. You can enroll by going to the offertory link on our website at ourladyoftheatonement.org. You can continue to support us in the following ways:

Online Giving – At website and click on the “Offertory” link, select “Offertory Collections” in the fund box, and then fill in the amount of your tithe. Please consider making your tithe recurring.

At Mass - Bring your tithe to Mass OR
Mail Your Check – Attn: Business Office, Our Lady of the Atonement Catholic Church, 15415 Red Robin Rd, San Antonio, TX 78255.