Homily Themes
23rd Sunday in OT through Christ the King, Year C

Theme is: ***Christ is our host.***
Theme Song : ***Build us a table, Gather # 754. (All Verses)***

September 6/7 23rd Sunday in OT

"If you consider me your partner, welcome him (Onesimus) as you would welcome me." (Philemon 9: 17)

While Paul is in prison, he has a slave named Onesimus taking care of his needs. During his imprisonment, Onesimus begins to see Paul not as his master, but as his father and Paul seeks to have others see Onesimus, not longer as a slave, but as a brother in the Lord, and to be welcomed as if it were Paul himself they were welcoming. This reflection then calls us to see if we truly welcome strangers in our midst as brothers and sisters in the Lord or whether we keep barriers of social class and privilege between us.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Green plants and some seasonal flowers

September 13/14 Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross

"Being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." (Philippians 2: 8)

Christ could have stayed in heaven, but he chose to live among us on earth as our Emmanuel. He could have kept all his knowledge to God and the Kingdom to himself, but instead chose to proclaim it by word and deed and to invite all people to join him as beloved sons and daughters. God has no room in his heart to exclude, only to include all who want a living relationship with him. The Cross is the great symbol of his unending love.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Green plants and some seasonal flowers with a Crucifix in the center.

September 20/21 25th Sunday in OT

"There is one God; there is also one mediator between God and the human race, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself, a ransom for all." (1 Timothy 2: 5)

Jesus didn't exclude anyone from God's invitation to be a part of the Kingdom. It's our own sinfulness at times that keeps us apart from God. It's our own laziness in not responding to the Lord's invitation to service that often results in our disordered affections and desires. It's our own desire to build walls rather than bridges to other people that keep us from fully embracing God's vision of the Kingdom and the Church.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Green plants and some seasonal flowers

September 27/28 26h Sunday in OT

"They have Moses and the prophet; they should listen to them." (Luke 16: 29)

Sometimes, we don't feel worthy of the blessings or faith God has placed in us to do his will. Sometimes, we need a little reminding that all it takes is an openness to the grace that comes from Christ through the Holy Spirit to do what may seem impossible in the eyes of others. Sometimes, we too may feel like Peter in today's gospel who sees himself as a sinful man for not believing in Christ's promise of a big haul of fish, if we but place our faith in him. When he opens himself up to .

Liturgical Art & Environment: Holy Spirit Fire

Feb 15/16 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man."* (Luke 6: 22)**

Where others may see only failure, gloom and despair, Jesus sees blessedness ready to bloom! He sees blessedness for the poor, the hungry, the mourning and for those who are excluded. He knows that his Kingdom will be for such people and that all who want to be a part of that kingdom are warned about the danger of being exclusive and elitist. How do we bring hope to such people? How do we invite them to have a foretaste of the Kingdom? In what ways do we allow the Holy Spirit to inspire us to action on their behalf?

Liturgical Art & Environment: Holy Spirit Fire

Feb 22/23 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

***"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."* (Luke6: 27b-28)**

The true test of the authenticity our faith is when we aren't triggered to return evil for evil to those who hate us, curse us, and abuse us. The true test of our faith is forgiveness. We're motivated to forgive, not for their sake, but for ours. We're empowered to forgive, so that we may witness to the love which the Holy Spirit has poured into our hearts and allows us to transform what we've endured by nailing it to the Cross. When we forgive, we witness to the hope that is within us, that all people are called by God to be members of his kingdom and it is God's place to judge, not ours.

Liturgical Art & Environment: Holy Spirit Fire

Mar 1 / 2 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"The kiln tests the potter's vessels; so the test of the just person is in tribulation." (Sirach 27: 5)

Discernment of spirits. Testing the waters. Reading a person's reaction to what you have to say. These are the tools that the Spirit gives us in order to know the approach we need to take or the way we need to speak in order to reach even the most hardened of hearts. God wants everyone to have hope in his Good News. How can be convey that Good News to those most hard to reach?

Liturgical Art& Environment: Holy Spirit Fire