

Abiding Press

Abiding Presence Faith Community

A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

July 2023 VOLUME 2 #8
5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792
321-594-4922
Office info@apfcwp.com

Sunday Mass is Celebrated at 12:30 pm
The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ
4605 Curry Ford Rd., Orlando, Florida 32812

Social Media

Web Site www.apfcwp.com

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1386619738179316/?ref=bookmarks>

YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP9i133esG31IRPfgk-Jn4w>

Clergy Serving the People of God

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins pastor@apfcwp.com

Kingsport TN Ministry: Rev. Fr. Lucas G. Brown RevLBrown@apfcwp.com

Palm Coast FL Ministry: Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen DcnCLarsen@apfcwp.com

Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish

Gene L. Thompson II - Technology

Dennis East - JMB Crock Pot Ministry

Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

Please email the bishop if you want someone remembered at Mass or added to the Prayer Lists. It is at your discretion how much you donate to the support of our community. We also have Mass Cards for you to send to the recipients.

Upcoming Dates

- July 2 **JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE WITH FIRST UCC 10 AM**
 Intention: That all may be one
- July 3 Divine Worship Feast of Saint Thomas 6:30 PM – Bishop’s Residence
 Intention: Available
- July 4 Divine Worship Fourth of July 5:00 pm at a private home
 Intention: People of the United States
- July 5 At Home with the Word Lectionary Discussion Group 7 PM
- July 9 Divine Worship 14th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Happy Birthday Erica Cavins
- July 12 At Home with the Word Lectionary Discussion Group 7 PM
- July 16 Divine Worship 15th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Happy Birthday Suzannah Seibert nee Cavins
- July 19 At Home with the Word Lectionary Discussion Group 7 PM
- July 23 Divine Worship 16th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: RIP Marie Dolores Ballaera
- July 25 Prays for successful hip surgery for Bishop Cavins
- July 26 At Home with the Word Lectionary Discussion Group 7 PM
- July 30 Divine Worship 16th Sunday of the Christian Year 12:30 PM
 Intention: Eugene Castaldo

SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

Financial Update as of 6/30/2023

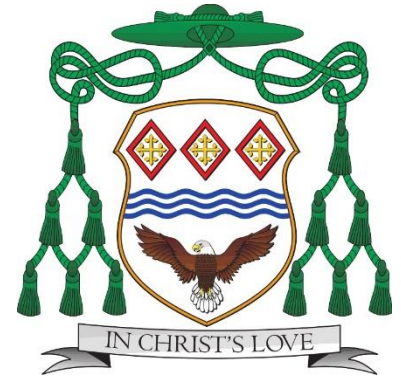
Total Income Year to Date: \$5024. Total Expenditures Year to Date: \$4550.16
Difference +473.84 Balance on hand: \$1563.00.

Online Giving

Donations can now be made online through our website. To make sure we get your full donation please utilize the **Zelle** method. If you choose one of the others, please send it as if to an individual. Our email address for all giving platforms is bkpg@apfcwp.com. Thank you for your generosity.

From the Bishop's Desk

We have just finished celebrating PRIDE Month here at Abiding Presence. Throughout the month you have seen the colors of the rainbow adorn the altar. We had members distributing literature at Gay Days. We have distributed ribbons from the Orlando Ribbon Project to worshippers at both our own parish and the congregation at First UCC to commemorate the 7th Anniversary of the Shootings at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Individuals have shared they have displayed PRIDE flags in front of their homes. But Pride doesn't end on the 30th of June. It continues every day of the year.



As we mark the 247th year of the Independence of the United States many politicians are attacking smaller groups within our population. We have seen an increase in Antisemitism, Racism, Homophobia, Misogyny, and Xenophobia. Efforts are being coordinated across state legislatures to ban books, restrict women's right to make their own healthcare choices, restrict access to polls, and suppress freedom of expression.

We at Abiding Presence strive to be a place where ALL are welcome. We stand for the rights of all people to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. We invite you to come, visit, and join us in Making God's Love Known in Central Florida.

In Christ's Love

+ *William*

Pastor

Exploring Our Faith

We continue to break open the Word for the upcoming Sunday each Wednesday at 7 PM. The class dates are found in the calendar. The book *At Home with the Word 2023* may purchase directly from Liturgical Training Publications at www.ltp.org.



Happy Fourth of July

The Clergy and Board of Directors of Abiding Presence Faith Community wish its members and supporters a very Happy Fourth of July!

Deacon Data by Deacon Chris Larsen

St Alpius Of the Caves



In the Eastern Orthodox tradition, icons are venerated in prayer. Most of them depict Jesus, Mary and the Babe (Theotokos = God-Bearer), Saints, and religious events. Churches are adorned with these beautiful icons that are used to bless the believers who venerate them or tell the story of Jesus and other biblical stories. These were used because illiteracy in the Middle Ages was high and so they were told through images.

People who made these images are called iconographers. The icons have to be prayerfully created and the artists ask God to lead them through the process. Some icons have miracles attested to them. Such as the icon of the Theotokos

One such iconographer was St Alpius of the Caves. Little is known of his birth, but he was tonsured by Igoumenon of Kiev in 1088. He saw a vision of an icon of the Mother of God that just appeared on the wall of a cave church, and it was said it glistened like the sun. He took part in creating the icon of the Dormition of Mary in the Cathedral of the Lavra, which is a monastery with a cluster of caves for hermits that usually have a church attached to it.

One great event that is reported was a man who built a church in Kyiv and commissioned some monks, including Alpius to paint icons. Two monks hid the money without telling Alpius. When the man complained of Alpius, it was discovered that he had no knowledge of the money and found the icons already created. There was a fire that destroyed the church, but the icons created by Alpius were unharmed,



He was known for healing people from many diseases including leprosy. Alpius felt that he was aided by angels and saints in creating the icons. These icons also had healing effects as well. He would go to anyone wishing for an icon and create them. Often, he received little to no payment He felt that it was a duty that God gave him.

When he passed away, he was found with his fingers fixed as if he were making the sign of the cross. In orthodoxy, they fix their finger to where they make the initial “IC XC) which stands for (Iisous Christos) , Greek for Jesus Christ. His feast day is September 28, but he is also remembered on the Second Sunday of Great Lent.

This is truly a remarkable story of a Saint that gave up his time and strength in the service of God. It is almost foreign to the Western world how images have such an effect on people. It is important because only a certain type of “artist” is able and chosen to be an iconographer. It is almost comparable to being called to Holy Orders. In fact, to many of the Orthodox Faithful, it a holy order.

I am adding a Hymn (Troparion) attributed to Saint Alpius.

Troparion — Tone 8

Depicting the faces of the Saints on boards as a skillful artist, / you wrote their good deeds diligently on the tablets of your heart, / and therefore, like an icon, you were beautifully adorned with the grace of the priesthood as with a golden oklad, / by Christ God, the Savior of our souls, O Alypios praised by all.

JMB Crockpot Ministry

While the ministry had hoped to utilize the summer break to test recipes and stockpile crockpots, we hosted two classes in June. To donate a crockpot or volunteer to conduct a class contact Dennis Last at 321-388-1572.

Wouldn't It Be Nice

It would be nice to enhance our weekly liturgy with actual musicians and cantors now that we have such a beautiful space in which to worship. Of course, we couldn't afford to hire

folks at this time. However, if you know of anyone willing to volunteer and help us start and grow a music ministry and the parish, please invite them to contact the pastor by email or phone.

Prayer for Vocations

Creating God and Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Let's Get to Know the Liturgy by Rev. Lucas G. Brown

Are you a spectator or a participator?

As we think about worship, it would do us well to consider the fact that God has called us to be worshippers. We must not raise another generation of young people who will grow up with the false idea that they come to church to:

Watch the worship.

Watch the preaching.

Watch the singing.

Watch the praying.

We are to be participants—not spectators in worship!

When we treat Church like a movie theater or a sporting event, it turns it into something other than what God intends a service to be in the first place. When you hear people talking about going to a church because they're attracted to their "worship", their fine "architecture", or their "singing" you should have red flags going up all in your mind. For instance, when was the last time you heard someone say they were going to a church because of their praying or the depth of their sermons? Remember, God has not called you to spectatorship—God has called you to church membership. Such membership involves personal engagement and participation in worship.

At the end of the day, we must have this firm understanding that Christians are worshippers of the one true and living God. We must gather and participate in worship.

We should never gather with the idea that we watch other people do the singing, or other people say and respond to the prayers just because the worship makes us feel a certain way. Worship is not about us. Worship is about God.

As you prepare to attend Church with your family or friends, have a conversation with them about how you intend to participate in various ways through engaging your mind, heart, voices, and even finances through giving. Worship is about God receiving glory from God's people. It's not about us, our preferences, our desires, and our feelings. Christian maturity will lead us away from such a consumerism mentality to Godly worship.

Joyous July Saints

The month of July provides us with numerous opportunities to reflect on the lives of the saints in heaven. You may use Google or an encyclopedia to research each. Let us know which one of these saints is your favorite for this month. Go to our Facebook group or page and post your answer with a picture of your favorite.

We begin the month with the celebration of Saint Junipero Serra on July 1. He is followed by Saint Thomas the Apostle on the 3rd and Saint Elizabeth of Portugal on the 4th. Saint Anthony Zaccaria is celebrated on July 5 followed by Saint Maria Goretti the 6th. July 11 honors Saint Benedict. Saint Henry is commemorated on July 13. July 14 marks the feast of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha (pictured). July 15 marks the Feast of Saint Bonaventure. Our Lady of Mount Carmel is remembered on July 16 and Saint Camillus de Lellis on July 18. July 20 honors Saint Apollinararus while Saint Lawrence of Brindisi is celebrated on July 21. Saint Mary Magdalene is celebrated on July 22. Saint Sharbel Makhlef is honored on July 24. Saint James the Apostle is honored on July 25. Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of Mary are celebrated on July 26 (pictured). Saint Martha's Feast is July 29. We end the month with the Feast of Saint Ignatius of Loyola on July 31.



Pray for us O Holy Saints of God that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.

July Recipes

Greek Chicken Marinade

Ingredients

- 3-4 cups yogurt
- 2T oregano
- 2T Salt
- 3 lemon zest and juice
- Chicken thighs with no bone

Directions:

- Marinade for at least 2 hours (even better overnight)
- Grill on medium-low 7 mins flip, 7 mins flip, 7 mins then eat!

Pesto Sausage Pizza

Ingredients

- Jar of Pesto sauce
- 1/2 lbs. of sausage, browned.
- Fresh Mozzarella cheese
- Naan bread

Directions:

- Bake at 400 degrees for 8 -10 mins

MEXICAN STREET CORN PASTA SALAD

Servings 6-8

Prep time: 15 Minutes

Cook time: 10 Minutes.

Total time: 25 Minutes

Ingredients:

- 3-4 ears of corn on the cob
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 8 ounces of rotini pasta
- 1 red bell pepper seeded and chopped.
- 3 green onions, chopped.
- 2-3 tablespoons seeded, chopped jalapeno.

- 1/2 cup Cotija or feta cheese, crumbled.
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro.
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 tablespoons lime juice

Directions:

1. Preheat the outdoor grill to medium-high heat.
2. Brush corn with olive oil. Grill, turning frequently, until lightly charred all over, 10-15 minutes; cool and cut corn from the cob.
3. Cook pasta according to package directions. Rinse under cool water and drain.
4. In a large bowl, combine pasta, grilled corn, red pepper, green onions, jalapeno, cheese, and cilantro. In a small bowl, whisk together the ingredients for the dressing.
5. Stir dressing into pasta and corn mixture. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Refrigerate until serving.

Family Faith Activities

Courtesy of LTP's At Home With the Word 2023.

July 2, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

◆ Why do you think the woman goes to so much trouble to make Elisha comfortable in her home? Have you ever known someone you thought was holy with whom you wanted to spend time?

◆ Have you ever thought about your baptism as a kind of death? Or as a way of dying with Jesus so that you could rise with him? And so that you could live your life here as “dead to sin”? What parts of Paul’s teaching in this reading make sense to you at this moment in your life? What parts seem strange or challenging?

◆ These are tough but essential words about discipleship. They require us to put Christ before everyone and everything else and to carry our personal crosses alongside him. Which parts of this seem most challenging for you at this moment? Which parts do you think you understand better now than earlier in your life? What do you think it means (in the second half of the reading) to “receive” someone or something?

◆ Elisha is an important prophet in the long history of the people of God and there is more to his story than what we heard today. Learn about him with some additional readings from chapters 2 to 9 and chapter 13 in 2 Kings. What is your favorite Elisha story? Does knowing more about him add meaning to the reading we heard today? Post it on the Facebook Group.

◆ To put Paul's teaching about baptism in context, read all of chapter 6 (only twenty-three verses) of his Letter to the Romans. Discuss with others or write in your journal about what Paul might mean by being "dead to sin." How have you experienced a sense of being "dead to sin"?

◆ Think of three people you know whom you consider wise in faith and open to conversation about it. Arrange to talk with them about some aspects of this reading. In light of their experience, how do they now interpret any of these intriguing but challenging statements?

July 9, 2023

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

◆ The king who will come brings peace, banishing war and its accouterments. We remain a globe peppered with violence and conflicts. Even so, can you believe this promise?

◆ Reflect on the contrasts between flesh and the Spirit drawn by Paul. What does it mean to you to live as an embodied being, but be called to living the life of the Spirit?

◆ This Gospel has three parts. The first is a prayer, the second is an assertion by Jesus of who he is and his mission, and the third is an exquisite invitation. What does each section mean to you?

◆ Zechariah's depiction of the coming king is in stark contrast to the expectations of the people, who long for a conquering liberator. Think about these images and compare them to the description Matthew offers of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

◆ The final paragraph of the Gospel is a source of solace to all those in need of release from their suffering. Over the centuries, the humblest people have embraced Jesus with great enthusiasm. Is it easy for you to go to Jesus when you are suffering and in dire need? Why or why not? Write your thoughts in your journal.

July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

◆ Isaiah reminds us that God's Word is showered on us as naturally and productively as water in the form of rain and snow. Is your heart open to receive the words of this great prophet? What place does God's inspired Word have in your life?

◆ Paul reminds us that we are given the "first fruits of the Spirit." Offering the "first fruits" is a spiritual practice of many ancient religious traditions, including Judaism and

Christianity. In the Middle Ages, this was adapted by the Church into the tithing or the giving of one-tenth of one's goods. What does offering "first fruits," mean to you?

◆ The kingdom parables of Jesus are profound glimpses into our relationship with God and God's work. This seemingly pastoral story would have been quite challenging to both the disciples and the listeners, who would each be called to ask themselves, "Who am I in the story?" This week, reflect on this question and your spiritual disposition at this point in your faith journey.

◆ Isaiah describes poetically how God's Word gives life. Think of a time when God's Word brought life to you—when it actually stimulated an important action or brought you a foundational insight. Talk about this experience with a friend or write about it in your journal.

◆ Paul says that "all creation is groaning" as we wait for "the redemption of our bodies." Think of a song, a poem, or other work of literary or visual art that seems to capture this experience of "creation groaning." Reflect on it and share the insights with someone.

◆ Jesus uses agricultural parables throughout his ministry. Spend some time in a garden this week, either in care or appreciation.

July 23, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

◆ Often Christians contrast the God of the Old Testament and the God of the New, claiming that the former was harsh and the latter loving. This is a misrepresentation; after all, this is the same God! In the first reading, we hear about the leniency of God and God's clemency. What is your understanding of the nature of the God of Israel? Does it need development?

◆ This reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans is so reassuring. None of us knows how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit intercedes for us. Do you judge your prayer life? How? Why? How could you come to trust more fully that the Spirit is working in you?

◆ Yet again, Jesus tells parables to speak of the kingdom of heaven. Spend time with each of the three images: the weeds and wheat, the mustard seed, and the woman with the leaven. All describe growth. Reflect on the ways each speaks to you about where you are right now.

◆ While the composed prayers of the Catholic tradition are beautiful, it's also good to speak directly to God from your heart. This week, try letting the Spirit pray in you through a spontaneous form of prayer, privately or in your group.

July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- ◆ King Solomon’s prayer is exemplary for those who are called to leadership—in a family or a community. Have you thought to pray for an “understanding heart” or the ability to discern “right from wrong”?
- ◆ Paul has been telling us in recent weeks about how we might relate to the inevitable suffering of human life. Here, he declares with great certainty God’s plans for us. Notice that the reading uses the plural form of words. Christianity is a group effort. Are you a loner, or are you well-networked in the Body of Christ?
- ◆ Jesus now presents parables about what must be sacrificed in order that we might gain the kingdom of heaven. What do these three parables communicate? What do they add to the other parables we have heard in recent weeks?
- ◆ This week, pray Solomon’s prayer for yourself and for all those in leadership.
- ◆ Can you think of someone who transformed their suffering into great good? What is your reaction to this? Could you do the same? Write your thoughts in your journal.
- ◆ The parables speak of seeking out something of great value—a treasure. Seeking treasures that are not lasting seems to be a theme of this age. What treasures do you seek? Why? Where do you want to place your focus and energy? Write your responses in your journal.



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