

Friday, June 25, 2021

Friday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Abram becomes Abraham and Sarai, his wife, becomes Sarah. The name change designates their role now as followers of God's covenant, as God fulfills His promise in granting to the barren Sarah a child, Isaac. Isaac means laughter, as they rejoiced that life could come forth from Sarah's supposedly dead womb! "See how the Lord blesses those who fear him." Jesus has come down the mountain after concluding the Sermon on the Mount and he brings life back to the leper, isolated from the rest of society because of his incurable and contagious illness. Great joy today, as God shows He is the giver of life! He restores all of us through Jesus and the Resurrection!

God Love You!

Fr. Jim Staranovich



Church Vandalism

Religious Freedom Week 2021: June 25

Pray that Christian witness in the face of attacks on our churches will convert hearts to faith in Jesus Christ.

Reflect

Recent years have seen a number of high-profile attacks on houses of worship. Beginning in May of 2020, there was a [wave of attacks on Catholic churches and statues](#). Vandals entered churches and desecrated sanctuaries. A man in Florida even attempted to set a church on fire with people inside. There have been at least 75 attacks so far, and that number continues to grow. The precise reasons for these attacks are often unknown. In some cases, they are tied to anger at perceived injustices from the past. Other cases may involve mental illness. In all cases, Catholics must remember that we worship the Lord who reveals the truth and beauty of the gospel in his suffering and resurrection, and that we are called to respond to aggression with compassion.

Act

The recent vandalism of churches and their sacred art gives us the opportunity to bear witness to our hope in the Lord whose beauty is revealed on the Cross. The USCCB Beauty Heals initiative invites us to learn about works of devotional art significant to local churches and how they inspire Catholics to live beautifully. Learn more at www.usccb.org/BeautyHeals.