

Sacred Heart Yokosuka

Religious Education



Rosary: The Third Sorrowful Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns

The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head and arrayed him in a purple robe. They came up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and struck him with their hands.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

At this, Jesus said to him, "Get away, Satan! It is written: The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve."

Main Topic: The Seven Precepts of the Church

#1: 0-61 #2: 65-77 #3: 63-0 #4: 125-130

1. The precepts of the Church are rules all Catholics follow
2. There are 7 precepts, but some lists only have 5 or 6
3. The precepts set a minimum which we must meet, but should exceed if we can
4. The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day and rest from activities which impede such a sanctification
5. The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of penance
6. The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts
7. The fourth precept ("You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church") requires abstaining from the meat of warm-blooded animals every Friday and fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
8. The fifth precept ("You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church") means that all the faithful are obliged to assist the Church, by money and volunteering, each according to their ability
9. The sixth precept requires all Catholics to follow the marriage laws of the Church, getting married in a church before the Church's official witness
10. The seventh precept requires all Catholics to fulfill their prophetic mission by evangelization, "the proclamation of Christ by word and the testimony of life", convincing others of the Gospel and bringing them to church
11. The seventh precept also requires us to learn about our faith, since no one can teach what they have not learned

Faith Focus: The 3 Eminent Good Works

1. Fasting – saying “no” to ourselves, giving up food or games or other things we do not need
2. Almsgiving – saying “yes” to others, helping to feed the hungry, visit the sick. and otherwise being a good neighbor by providing things that people do need
3. Prayer – saying “yes” to God, spending time with him, praising him, thanking him, and adoring him

Saint: Blessed Justo Takayama Ukon *February 3*

Ukon Takayama was born in 1552 in Japan. His father was a samurai who lived in a small castle in the mountains near Nara. Ukon grew up learning how to fight, ride horses, and live like a warrior. When he was 11 years old a missionary came to teach about Jesus. Ukon was baptized and given the name Justo. When Ukon was 16, he fought in battles as a samurai. By the age of 21, Ukon was already a respected leader with his own castle, a Christian daimyo. Many of his soldiers and servants became Christians too. He welcomed missionaries, built churches, and even helped start schools. He also loved the tea ceremony, a special Japanese tradition. Ukon studied under the great tea master Sen no Rikyū.

But in 1587, Ukon was told to give up his faith if he wanted to keep his land and position. Ukon refused. Because of this, Ukon lost his land and became an exile. He moved to Kanazawa under the Maeda family. He built churches in Kanazawa and Noto, and even invited priests to live there. In 1614, the new ruler ordered all missionaries to leave Japan and punished Christian leaders. Ukon was exiled with his family. He gave away gifts, including gold and tea bowls, to show gratitude before leaving. He crossed snowy mountains with his family. Finally, he sailed to Manila in the Philippines with 300 Japanese Christians. In Manila, Ukon was welcomed as a hero. But only 44 days after arriving, Ukon became sick. On February 3, 1615, he died at the age of 63. His last words to his grandchildren were to stay strong in their Christian faith.

Keyword: Asceticism – suffering that helps us be saints

When we choose to suffer by denying ourselves things that we could have like treats or video games, it helps us become free from our addictions. Only when we are free from sin will we be free to follow God.

Prayer: Prayer before the Crucifix

Look down upon me, good and gentle Jesus, while before Thy face I humbly kneel and, with burning soul, pray and beseech Thee to fix deep in my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity; true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment. While I contemplate, with great love and tender pity, Thy five most precious wounds, pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words which David, Thy prophet, said of Thee, my Jesus: "They have pierced My hands and My feet, they have numbered all My bones." Amen.

Next time... Rosary: The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery:

The Carrying the Cross

Luke 23:26-34

As they led him away, they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus. And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. But turning to them Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children. For behold, the days are coming when they will say, 'Blessed are the barren and the wombs that never bore and the breasts that never nursed!' Then they will begin to say to the mountains, 'Fall on us,' and to the hills, 'Cover us.' For if they do these things when the wood is green, what will happen when it is dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.