

Call to Worship – Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sister Pat Torre, DW, Pastoral Associate - Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT

This weekend we are happy to have with us Deacon Charles Gingerich, a member of the Franciscan Friars who is here for the annual mission appeal, and will speak with us about missionary work in Central America. There will be a second collection today for the missions and your generous support is most appreciated.

Our readings today remind us that no matter how bleak life gets, God is with us - so do not be afraid.

In the first reading we see Jeremiah, the reluctant prophet, being the object of others' demise. Instead of responding in fear, Jeremiah sings the praises of God who has rescued his life - and the life of all - from the power of those who would do them harm!

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that though death entered the world through the sin of one person, death is not the victor. God's gracious gift of salvation is!

In the Gospel, Jesus reminds the disciples and us that even in the midst of persecution, and there will be persecution, God is with us, so do not be afraid. We are not only to believe this and live this, we are to proclaim this: God is so intimately involved in our lives that every hair of our head is counted.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray that we may - in every circumstance of our lives - transform our fears into a relationship of trust – giving our lives over to the loving hands of God.