

Sunday, September 3, 2023
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

- 1) Jeremiah 20:7-9
- 2) Romans 12:1-2
- 3) Matthew 16:21-27

FOCUS: *Take up [your] cross, and follow me.*

Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he would have to suffer, die, and be raised on the third day. The disciples did not immediately understand, but we know that those who wish to follow Jesus into eternal life must take up their cross as well. For whoever loses their life for Jesus' sake will find it.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Jeremiah bemoans the suffering he endures because of his faithfulness to the word of the Lord. In the reading from Romans, we are urged to offer our bodies *as a living sacrifice* and be transformed. In the Gospel, Jesus urges his disciples to take up their cross and follow him.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

PRIEST: Trusting in the boundless generosity of Christ who took up his cross out of love for us, let us offer our prayers before God.

- 1) For all the Church, may the wisdom of the Lord continue to guide her every action, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Holy Spirit be their guide in discerning *what is good and pleasing and perfect*, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For all those who suffer for their faithfulness to God's truth, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For this community of faith, may God strengthen us in seeking fullness of life in Christ's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For all who have passed away, may they rejoice forever in the Father's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: God of life and goodness, receive these prayers we offer you today through Jesus Christ, our Lord.