

Weekly Bulletin Announcements on Hope:

1.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of all hope.”

“May the God of all hope fill you with joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope” (Romans 15:13). Hope is a theological virtue that we receive from God at Baptism, which disposes us to live in a relationship with our heavenly Father, Jesus – the Son of God – and the Holy Spirit. (See Catechism, paragraphs 1812-1813) We grow in this profound gift when we ask God to increase hope in us. The gift of hope enables us to trust in God’s promises that are expressed throughout Sacred Scripture and fulfilled by Jesus, and to trust in His faithfulness and love.

2.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken” (Psalm 62:5-6). Hope is based on trusting in God’s goodness, infinite mercy and faithfulness. The Act of Hope may be prayed at any time, acknowledging God’s power, promises, and willingness to grant forgiveness, grace, and eternal life through the merits of Jesus Christ.

You are invited to pray the Act of Hope each day during the Jubilee of Hope:

“O Lord God, I hope by Your grace for the pardon of all my sins and after life here to gain eternal happiness because You have promised it who are infinitely powerful, faithful, kind, and merciful. In this hope, I intend to live and die. Amen.”

3.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3). Our hope rests on the faithfulness of God who always keep His promises. We trust with confidence in His plan of perfect goodness as He re-united us with Himself after the Original Sin of our first parents. This union with our Heavenly Father was made possible through Jesus’ death and resurrection. We experience this union with God by receiving His very life into our soul in the Sacrament of Baptism, and through the reception of Jesus in Holy Communion each Sunday (or Saturday evening), as well as receiving any of the Sacraments.

4.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; so great is His faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:21-23). Christian hope is “the theological virtue by which we desire the Kingdom of Heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (Catechism, paragraph 1817). The word “theological” means that the gift of hope is from God and is to lead us back to God.

5.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

Our hope is in Jesus because we know that we can trust Him. Why? The reason is because all the promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled by Christ. The initial promise God made to us was given when our first parents committed the Original Sin. Through their free act of choosing against God, Adam and Eve became separated from Him, with the loss of God’s life within them, which we call sanctifying grace. Thankfully, God promised a Savior to draw us back into union with Himself. Jesus came and gave His life for us on the Cross and rose from the dead, opening the gates of Heaven and allowing for this re-union for us with the Father. Throughout this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us trust that God is a promise keeper.

6.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

The Sacred Scriptures are God’s love letter to us. The Bible reveals God’s unfailing love in keeping His promises to us to bring us back into His family after the sin of our first parents. In the Old Testament promise, God revealed how His plan would unfold through the coming of the Savior and His Mother would be a virgin: “The Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall name Him Emmanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

We see that God fulfilled this promise in the New Testament: “In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin’s name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, ‘Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.’ But she was greatly troubled at what

was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus’” (Luke 1:26-31).

7.

Need Hope? Take a Minute to Get to Know “the God of All Hope.”

Let us pray for an increase in the gift of hope, which is strengthened as we grow in trust that Our Father keeps His promises. In the Old Testament, God made this promise about the birth of our Savior: “But you, Bethlehem least among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me One who is to be ruler in Israel.” (Micah 5:2)

This promise was fulfilled in the New Testament: “When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived.... The star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the Child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh” (Matthew 2:1, 9b-11).