

FAITH AND LOVE

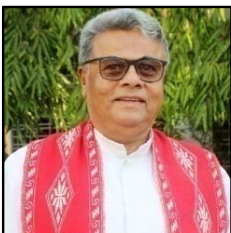
Today, we celebrate the feast of St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. St. Monica is known to pray for the people around her— we know that she was the one who prayed for the conversion of her son, Augustine. She also prayed for her husband, who was not a Christian, and because of her prayers, he was baptised in the faith. Let us pray that each one of us, that we may not only increase our faith but that we may help others around us also to deepen their faith and come closer to God.

Today's First Reading is from the Letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians. It is the earliest of scripture text of the New Testament, written in the year 51 after the death and resurrection of Jesus. This was a time, two thousand years ago, when historical records were not kept accurately. And so, to have written text dating back to this time means that we are reading very authentic text that describes the life of Jesus and the life of Christians.

In this reading, St. Paul and Sylvanus thank God for the Church in Thessalonica. They see that the faith of the people is growing, and also that the people's love for each other is increasing. This should be the balance between two aspects in the life of every Christian – a deepening of faith and, as a result of it, a growing in love.

Let us pray that both faith and love increase in us today.

Let us pray to our Heavenly Father at the start of this week, and let us offer our whole week to the Lord.



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