

REFLECTION for the Thirty- First Sunday in Ordinary Time Fr. Don.

'You are merciful to all, for you can do all things, you overlook people's sins, so that they may repent.'

We are nearing the end of this special YEAR of MERCY. It would be a good exercise to review the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. How are we doing, have we achieved any success, have we shown mercy? Will we, because of our good works, be shown mercy? There's still time to start.

The extent of the mercy of God is unimaginable to the human mind. We find it unfathomable that the depth of God's love and mercy is such that He forever seeks out the vulnerable and failed of His children- you and me- to lift us free of evil and to redeem us for a new life. There is no person who cannot be transformed; God loves/ seeks repentant sinners. We must have the wisdom to turn to God in prayer.

Most of us view ourselves as sinners. We realize that despite our best efforts, we fail to live up to the Christian ideal. On this journey called life, we stumble time after time. Sometimes we are tempted to just give up. But, thank God, that inner voice, the Holy Spirit, urges us to persevere, to pick ourselves up and to journey onward. And just maybe, we will encounter that special someone who inspires us, who embraces us, and who leads us home. If we do, let us give thanks to the Holy Spirit for this gift.

Genuine prayer has four characteristics. It should be devout, be full of faith, be said with utmost humility, and be persistent. Prayers of this type warm God's heart and unleash His bountiful love.

In this week's Gospel, Jesus embraces the reviled, sinful tax collector Zacchaeus, who then, transformed by love, responds by becoming the good man God created him to be. Jesus explains, *'The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.'* The God of Love conquers hopelessness and sin; everyone who believes in Him is capable of being saved. Notice that Jesus waited until Zacchaeus took the first step.

Prayer is needed. Living faith isn't easy. That's why God sent Jesus the Son. He was, and is, the WAY. Jesus knew the fragility and fickleness of humanity. By ourselves we can do nothing. We are called, by always praying for others, to lift each other up. We are called to climb our tree to see Jesus, to make ourselves known to Him. Then He will invite us to dine with Him. A listening heart will hear the invitation to come gather often and to partake of the Eucharistic Banquet- to be filled with the *food that endures*.

The word Eucharistic means thanksgiving. Zacchaeus believed that Jesus had forgiven him and he confidently believed Jesus was his savior and redeemer. He cast off his old ways and became a new creation. Are we worn-out by our old life of sin, do we desire new life in Christ? Believe in the power of God. Jesus wants us to believe it and to be part of it; even today when we see our world shaken and divided by apathy, spitefulness, violence, and hatred. It starts with us; souls are saved one at a time.

Because we ourselves are blessed and redeemed by God, when we encounter a person in the torment of evil or otherwise lost from God, we need to remember that here is someone precious, made and loved by God. Then Jesus' mission becomes ours: to seek and save the lost. Let us accept the invitation:

'Zacchaeus (insert your name), hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.'

Sacred Heart Parish



A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ

Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Fr. Don Leonard

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m. Sunday 11:00 a.m.

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
Friday at 2:00 p.m. at Lohnes

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m. at Sacred Heart Church

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

October 30, 2016

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

<u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u>	Oct. 23,24
Collection	\$2,833.75
Mass Stipends	60.00
Bldg. Fund	45.00
Votive Candles	56.25
Windows	220.00
World Missions	200.00
Certificates	10.00

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

Oct 31	No Mass
Nov 1	Paul Young
Nov 2	Mass of Remembrance
Nov 3	Nathan & Elizabeth Noseworthy
Nov 4	Intention Rita Hall/John Mendes
Nov 5	Edward Buckle/ Paul Bruss
Nov 5	Michael & Ada George
Nov 6	Parish Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS (Nov 5, 6)

<u>READERS</u>	<u>EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS</u>
Jen Noseworthy	Marie Byrne, Joan Penney
John Noseworthy	Eileen Moore

**Joan Penney- Communion Minister to the Sick*

Mike Leonard	Donna Mitchell, Barbara Neville
Hedy Kenny	John Carroll

HARVEST SALE NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, Nov.5 at 1pm

Bake Table -To donate baked goods/preserves please contact Mary Gallant at 785-5176, Kay Musseau at 785-1793

Harvest Table -To donate any home-made crafts please contact Patsy Hall at 785-2556, Amelia Dicks at 388-1048

Cabbage roll supper. We may need a little help in the kitchen or serving tables. If you can help, call Veronica at 639-7216.

Dinners can be purchased in advance form the

office or any member of the Ladies Group. The cost per plate is \$10.00. This includes cabbage rolls, mashed potatoes, carrots, dinner roll, dessert, tea or coffee. Take out supper begins at 4pm. Eat in dinner will be served following evening Mass—about 5:30 pm. Please spread the word to friends & neighbors to help make this fundraiser a success.

Sunday Nov. 6 BINGO at 2pm.

The list of donors is posted on the bulletin boards. Please try to get your donations in to the office or to one of the lady's grp. before next weekend.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE This Wednesday

All Souls Day is **Wednesday November 2**. At our 7 pm Mass, we will remember all those who have died over the past year. Family members will be invited to come light a candle in their memory. We will mention the names of all those as well. Also, we will have a ceremony to honor all our deceased loved ones. Please plan to attend this beautiful commemorative tribute. We must remember for one day our children will gather to honor our passing, hopefully to that heavenly abode.

BIBLE STUDY

The group will meet in the parish house on Monday evening at **7:00 pm**. We encourage newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word of God' as found in the Gospels.

SUNDAY MISSALS 2017

Our new **Missals** are now available. They cost \$5.00 each and begin on Nov. 27, the first Sunday in Advent.

CHURCH ART CALENDARS 2017

We have ordered 150 of these beautifully illustrated wall calendars. They have our Parish information on the bottom and are for 13 months, beginning in December. They have feast days and daily readings. They will sell for \$5.00 each.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY

Will be held on the **first Friday** of each month at **the Immaculate Heart of Mary School Chapel from 7:00-8:00 PM.** [for world peace]

LARGE PRINT BIBLES---are still available at a cost \$30 each. Please see John or call the office.

KNIGHTS of COLUMBUS MEETING

It will take place at All Hallows on Tuesday evening at 7:45. Members are urged to attend.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

These are also available for a cost of \$20.

FAMILY CATECHESIS- MEETING- Nov 6

Registration forms are available at the back and must be returned by the end of the month. ***Parents and children are asked to meet in the church on Sunday Nov 6 after 11 am Mass.***

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT

Please join us in prayer for our young people to come join us at Sunday worship. We are looking for youth to serve as Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, and any other capacity. Spread this message of welcome to our young people. Tell them we need them with us to keep us young at heart.

OUR CHURCH WINDOWS

Installation is near done. Some have asked for

an opportunity to donate what they can afford. So, there are 2 windows in the Chapel that have no donors. We are proposing to have one large plaque placed in there with all the names of loved ones from all those who donate \$20 or more. If this meets with your approval, please donate.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS, Nov 1

This feast first honored martyrs only. Later, when Christians were free to worship, the other paths to sainthood were acknowledged. Early on, the only criterion was popular acclaim, even when the bishop's approval became the final step in placing a commemoration on the calendar. The first papal canonization occurred in 993; the lengthy process now required to proclaim saints took form in the last 500 years. Today's feast honors the obscure and the famous—the saints each of us have known.

ALL SOULS DAY, Nov 2

Praying for the dead is borrowed from Judaism, as indicated in 2 Maccabees 12:41-42. (*Our 1st reading this past Sunday.*) In the New Testament, St Paul prays for mercy for his departed friend (2 Timothy 1:18). It may interest you to know that in the Philippines customs for this Feast include praying novenas for the holy souls, and ornately decorating relatives' graves. On the eve of All Souls, parties go door-to-door, requesting gifts and singing traditional hymns representing the liberation of holy souls from purgatory. Here, we gather for the great prayer called the Mass to honor the memories of our deceased loved ones.

Jesus, have mercy upon us; we are sinners seeking divine redemption only you can give.