

**REFLECTION for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Fr. Don.**

*"The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and it will not rest until it reaches its goal."*

There will come a day when we will all stand before God and receive judgment. This week's readings present to us an attitude which we must adopt in both our prayer and our daily living. There are two essential elements required- faith and humility. Humility and recognition of our flaws, our failures, and our out-and-out sin, are not a sign of weakness but of our openness to a greater strength.

St. Paul recognized this need when he says, *'But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength.'* In our Gospel, Jesus offers the humility of the tax collector as a model for the prayer of a true disciple. He knew he was a sinner needing mercy. The parable reminds us that when we pray, we must remember our need for God in our lives. If we are too full of ourselves, there is too little room for God's grace to work in us. The tax collector is more in tune with the faith tradition of his people than is the Pharisee. Right relationship with God and others is less a matter of who we are or what we do than the spirit in which we do it. There is no room for smugness in God's way of being in the world. By this parable, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray in humility before God. We are called to sweet surrender.

Long ago, St. Augustine in commenting on this Gospel said *'God is better pleased with humility for our sins than pride at our good deeds. God wants prayers that are honest and humble, and voiced by those who truly are the 'poor in spirit.'* And God grant us the grace to know that we are all 'poor in spirit.'

We are called to be aware, be alert, and to continually ask ourselves whether we are the Pharisee or the tax collector. Is our attitude of faith in conformity with the will of God? Are we comfortable to have our will conform to God's will? Can we accept that we are the creature and God is the Creator?

Humility is the gateway to accomplishing this letting go and letting God. We all have met 'virtuous' people who in reality frustrate us by their self-satisfaction at being so virtuous, their feeling of superiority over the rest of us. They know what, how, where, and when, to pray. They fail to notice their own human shortcomings and sinfulness, thereby neglecting the need for God's forgiveness. Indeed, in identifying them, we need to be aware that there are times when they are us (me or you); yes, there are times when we act Pharisical. Yes, there is a bit of Pharisee in all of us.

We cannot fall into the trap of believing, like the Pharisee, that it is acceptable to just accommodate (suck-up to) God by attending Mass, fulfilling the ritual, outwardly performing the prayers, but inwardly lacking the simplicity of faith. God knows us completely, there cannot be pretence; we only fool ourselves. Sweet surrender- meditate upon this- sweet surrender.

Like a child, we have to trust in God, keep faith simple and uncluttered, know right from wrong, and be humbly submissive to our God. We should never disrespect God. Bowing to the centrality of God in our lives, we should never place ourselves at the centre of our prayer. To try to do this reeks of egotism, pride, and false pretence. We might fool others but there is no fooling God.

The message of today is to realize that we are all fellow sinners. Like the tax-collector, we have done wrong and we know it. But in sorrow, we cry out for the mercy of God and hope we will receive it. Leave it to God, and perhaps to others, to recognize our good works, our strengths, *and* even our moral failings. We stand in need of God's mercy.

Let us *'fight the good fight, run the race, keep the faith'*, and then hope beyond our wildest dreams that *'There is reserved for us the crown of righteousness.'* Thank God in prayer every day for this gift!

# 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 10:00 a.m.

**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 23, 2016**

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b><u>RECEIVED WITH THANKS</u></b>	Oct. 15, 16
Collection	\$1,509.00
Mass Stipends	150.00
Bldg. Fund	75.00
Votive Candles	26.00
Windows	1,040.00
Needs of the Can. Church	20.00
World Missions	5.00
Dues	100.00

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Oct 24	No Mass
Oct 25	Paul & Valda Young
Oct 26	Dale & Bill Brake
Oct 27	Felix & Margaret Lewis
Oct 28	Percy/Mary/Bern/Rod/Nicholas Joyce
Oct 29	Bernadette & Anthony George
Oct 30	Parish Community

**MINISTERS** (Oct 29,30)

**READERS**                      **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Gen Quigley	Frank Lewis, Art Hall
Lynette Taylor	Joe Byrne

*\*J/ M Byrne- Communion Minister to the Sick*

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Calvin Gillis	Margaret Dalley, Amelia Dicks
Maureen George	Wayne Dicks

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

The next meeting is this Monday evening at 7:30pm in the parish house. We will discuss the next step in the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Process.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**

All members are asked to attend the meeting on Thursday Oct.27 following the 7 pm Mass. We will examine the third quarter financial report.

**FALL VARIETY CONCERT**

**Friday, October 28 at 7:30 pm in Sacred Heart Auditorium.** Cost \$5. Entertainment will be provided by; Gerry Rowsell, The Griffins, The Hall Sisters, Jack Joyce, Joe Lynch, John & Jennifer Noseworthy, and Midnight Crescent. Come and enjoy!!

**MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**

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. Also we will have a ceremony to honor all our deceased loved ones. Please plan to attend this beautiful commemorative tribute.

**BIBLE STUDY**

The group will meet in the parish house on Sunday evening for this week 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, 2016

**HARVEST SALE**

**Saturday, Nov.5, 1pm to 3pm.**

**Bake Sale** -To donate baked goods/preserves please contact Mary Gallant at 785-5176.

**Crafts Sale** -To donate any home made crafts please contact Patsy Hall at 785-2556.

**Cabbage Roll Dinner** Take out dinners will start at 4pm. Eat in dinners will start immediately following evening Mass. Please put your name on the sheets provided at the back of the church if you plan to attend as we need to know how much food to provide. The cost per plate is \$10.00 which includes cabbage rolls, potatoes,

carrots, dinner roll, dessert, tea or coffee.

**Sunday Nov. 6 BINGO at 2pm.**

The list of donors is posted at the back.

**ROSARY FOR OCTOBER**

To honor Mary and the tradition of the Rosary, the Ladies will be leading recitation of **the Rosary** in the church **each Saturday at 4:15 before the start of Mass.**

**FAMILY CATECHESIS-**

Registration forms are available at the back and have to be returned by the end of the month. The program will begin with a meeting of parents at that time. Spread the word.

**YOUTH INVOLVEMENT**

Our Sunday Readings for the next month focus on prayer. 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 has begun. We realize that many of you could not afford the \$1000 requested to cover the cost of one window. Some have asked for an opportunity to donate what they can afford. So, there are 3 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 make a donation.

**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.

**CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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

**CHURCH ART CALENDARS 2017**

The parish has ordered liturgical wall calendars. These are for 13 months beginning in December this year. Every home should hang one of these to show feast days and holy days throughout the year. Keep an eye out for their arrival.

**FEAST OF ST. SIMON and JUDE- Oct 28**

Other than being named in the Scriptures as Apostles of Jesus, nothing is known of these two saints. Their holiness is simply taken to be a gift of Christ. This is a reminder that we cannot receive too often. Holiness does not depend on human merit, culture, personality, or success. It is entirely God's creation and free gift. Only God can create His divine life in human beings. And God wills to do so, for each and all of us.

**THIS IS MISSION SUNDAY 2016**

The theme this year is **MERCY CHANGES THE WORLD.** World Mission Day is celebrated every year in every country wherever there are Catholics committed to building a better world for all of God's people, a world where everyone has all they need to live a dignified and fulfilling life. It is the day on which we reflect on the urgency to proclaim the Gospel in our times. Today say a prayer for MERCY.

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