

NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2023 XXXI SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Today's Gospel continues to elaborate on the tension between Jesus and the Scribes and Pharisees. Our Lectionary sequence at this point, however, is not quite a continuous Reading of Matthew. In between last week's reading from Matthew and this week's, we find Jesus' question to the Pharisees about the Messiah being "*David's son*." Having concluded a series of dialogues with the Pharisees and other religious leaders, Jesus now directs his words to the crowds, warning them not to follow the example of the Scribes and Pharisees.

The Scribes and Pharisees were teachers of the Mosaic Law. They were entrusted with its interpretation and, thus, were influential in determining Jewish practice. In order to appreciate the conflict that is evident in this passage, we must understand that Jesus was basing his teachings on the same laws and traditions available to the Pharisees. Both were interpreting the Law of Moses in order to better adapt it to contemporary Jewish life. The differences between their teachings, therefore, are often highlighted and amplified by Matthew.

This part of Matthew's Gospel reflects aspects of the conflict between his Christian community and Pharisaic Judaism. Matthew's Church is thought to have included many Jewish Christians who may not have believed that a break with the synagogue was necessary to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus tells the crowd that it is correct to do and observe what the scribes and Pharisees teach; it is their example that is to be avoided, namely, their love of being honored and exalted. Hence, the Gospel reflects the tension of an active internal debate within the early Church.

Jesus references two aspects of Jewish spiritual life prescribed by the Law of Moses. *Phylacteries* are small boxes which contain Scripture verses that are placed on the left forearm and forehead. *Tassels* refer to the fringes worn on the corners of a person's garments; the tassels help to remind those who wear them to keep the commandments.

The warning Jesus gives against seeking places of honor in the community was directed as much toward the Christian community as the named Jewish leaders. Indeed, it is a warning that resonates with us today. Christian leadership is a call to service for the glory of God; those who would be leaders among us must, like Jesus, be servants of all.

PLENARY INDULGENCES FOR THE POOR SOULS

Praying for the dead is amongst the oldest traditions in Catholicism. It is something we all should do as often as possible. But, obviously, just because we should do something that does not mean we do it. Sometimes we need an incentive to do something we know is good for us. This is true in all aspects of life, including our faith.

This is why the Church in Her wisdom grants indulgences. Indulgences are ways to essentially incentivize Catholics to do things we should just ordinarily do. In this case, the incentive is the partial or full remission of temporal punishment for sins whose guilt is already forgiven (**CIC c. 992**).

Indulgences **DO NOT** forgive sins, nor are they ways of buying, literally or figuratively, our way into Heaven. They simply remit whatever temporal punishment has not yet been remitted for sins we have already received sacramental absolution for.

Temporal punishment can be understood as the "*debt*" we still owe God for our sins. It is analogous to a child stealing money from a parent. The child steals the money, feels bad, confesses the theft to the parent, and asks forgiveness, promising to never do it again. The parent forgives the child. But the money still needs to be returned. If the child already spent the money and has no way to raise the money necessary to pay the parent back, then he or she offers to do chores or something as way of erasing the debt.

When we sin, feel contrition, and have a firm resolve to amend our life, confess our sins to God through a priest, and receive God's forgiveness, we still "*owe*" God for the inequality our debt has caused. That's why we are assigned a penance every time we go to confession. It is us "*paying*" God back in the only way we can; in a way He wants us to, offering prayers to draw us closer to Him, or on behalf of others so they draw closer to Him.

Indulgences are ways the Church has identified that we can "*pay*" God back for our sin and erase whatever "*debt*" remains outstanding. We can also apply them for the dead (**CIC c. 994**).

A partial indulgence partially frees from temporal punishment due to sins and a plenary (*from the Latin plenus meaning full*) totally frees from temporal punishment due to sins (**CIC c. 993**). Indulgences can only be gained by someone who is baptized and not excommunicated and is in the state of grace "*at least at the end of the prescribed works*" (**CIC c. 996 §1**).

To receive an indulgence, a Catholic must have the interior disposition of complete detachment from sin (*even venial sin*), go to confession and receive Holy Communion within 20 days before or after the indulged work is performed, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Any prayers can be offered for the intentions of the Holy Father, but traditionally they are an Our Father and a Hail Mary.

There are two indulgences that are able to be fulfilled on behalf of the souls in purgatory as part of the commemoration of All Souls Day. Anyone who visits a cemetery and prays, even if only mentally, for the departed between Nov. 1 through 8 can gain a plenary indulgence for the souls in purgatory. This indulgence only applies to the souls in purgatory, not the one who does it. It's the same with the second indulgence available, which is piously visiting a church on All Souls Day or All Saints Day, or the preceding or following Sunday and saying an Our Father and reciting the Creed.

Why do we have to pray at a cemetery or visit a church? Why can't we simply pray anywhere? Doesn't God hear our prayer wherever we are? Yes, He does, but putting the effort in to go to a cemetery or visit a church is part of the overall act of offering our prayers for the dead.

The whole point is that it is inconvenient and therefore doing it is more redemptive. We offer the sacrifice of our time and energy along with our prayers. Besides, every able-bodied Catholic should be in a church on All Saints Day (as well as the preceding and following Sunday), so we might as well say an Our Father and recite the Creed while we are there so some poor soul in purgatory can behold the Face of God. When compared with getting a poor soul out of the purifying fires of purgatory, a little inconvenience is worth it.



SPECIAL ENVELOPES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

The month of November is traditionally the month we remember our beloved dead. This memorial begins on All Souls' Day, Thursday, November 2nd and continues throughout the rest of the month of November. All Souls Day reminds us that we are a Church of community. We are the Church Militant here on earth because we are still waging the fight. During this month, we remember and pray for the Church Suffering (Purgatory). Be sure to turn in your envelopes with names of loved ones to be remembered at all Masses during the month of November. Please fill them out and return them either in the collection basket or directly to the Parish Office.



Daylight saving time in the U.S will end on Nov. 5 at 2 a.m. local time, pushing clocks back an hour.



BESIDES HAVING CONFESSIONS EVERY SATURDAY AT 4PM. **THERE WILL BE CONFESSIONS THIS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH, 2023, FROM 6:30PM – 7:30PM** BEFORE PRAYER GROUP. FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.



WE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT: Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish now provides "ParishSOFT Giving," an online giving software!

To get started, you can go to olgcinfb.org.

From this link you will be allowed to manage your own account online, set up gifts on a schedule that you choose or a one-time donation, and can be set up with a credit card, debit card, checking or savings account!

If you have any questions, please contact the Parish Office at 964-0229.



IN THE VESTIBULE OF THE CHURCH, ON THE SOUTHERN WALL IS A BEAUTIFUL MEMORIAL TREE.

ITS BRIGHT LEAVES REPRESENT PERMANENT MEMORIALS TO THE DEPARTED OF OUR PARISH. FOR THE SUM OF \$200.00, YOU CAN GIVE TO THE PARISH SECRETARY, THE CORRECT SPELLING AND DATES OF THE DEPARTED AND IN DUE TIME THE LEAF IS PRINTED AND ATTACHED TO THE TREE, AS A PERMANENT REMINDER OF A LOVED ONE WHO IS GONE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE AT 707-964-0229.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

When a parishioner is homebound or hospitalized and would like Father Pacheco to pay them a visit to receive Holy Communion and/or Anointing of the Sick, please call the Parish Office at 707-964-0229 and after office hours, please call 707-813-4188.

MASS INTENTIONS NOVEMBER 4 - 10, 2023

Saturday (04)	9:00am	Cuco, Gabriel, Isidro & Patty Yáñez † Ezequiel, Rafael & Cynthia Cruz †
	5:00pm	Fred & Clara White † Thomas Galemba †
	6:30pm	Juan Bermudez † Felipe Chi † Mauricio Escobedo † María del Refugio Flores † Trinidad Nieto † Ramiro & Ligia Soto † María del Refugio Rodríguez † Silvia Durán † Victor Martín & Raquel Dzul † Oscar Tamayo † Gerardo Escobedo (healing) Marisa Chan (b-day)
Sunday (05)	8:00am	All Souls in Purgatory
	10:00am	Missa pro populo
Monday (06)	—	NO MASS
Tuesday (07)	12:05pm	Souls in Purgatory
Wednesday (08)	12:05pm	Severo Cuevas †
Thursday (09)	12:05pm	Souls in Purgatory
Friday (10)	12:05pm	Souls in Purgatory

WEEKLY COLLECTION

OCTOBER 28 & 29, 2023...\$1,767.00
SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL'S MINISTRY....\$823.00

THIS WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR LIABILITY INSURANCE

NEXT WEEKEND OUR SECOND COLLECTION WILL BE FOR MAINTENANCE FUND

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT & CHRISTIAN GENEROSITY!!

LET'S PRAY FOR ALL OUR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS IN THE MILITARY

Jovany Baez, Justin Mertle, María de la Luz Ramírez, Rebeca Sánchez, José Araiza, Jr., Marina González, Alondra Jara, Sonia Jara, Matt Mills & Jared Schroeder.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK PARISHIONERS

Carole Shoptaw, Gina Pivrotto, Antonia Rentería, Angie Gómez, Judy Halren, Rose Cortez, Fidela Jara, Felix Santillán, Martha Sánchez, Gerardo Escobedo, Angie Freitas, Russel Bryant, Derrick Heater, Ann Gallagher, Brianna Lopez, Margaret Milliken, Gina Pivrotto, Nick Quin, Mary Servis, Matty Walker, Ofelia Ybarra.



EVERY THURSDAY @ 11:00AM,
WE HAVE THE EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION OF
THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
FOLLOWED BY MASS AT 12:05PM.

**A RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF
DIVORCED/SEPARATED PARENTS**

The Archdiocese of San Francisco will be hosting a Life-Giving Wounds retreat in Menlo Park on November 17-19. Dealing with your parents' divorce is not easy but confronting this wound with faith can allow you to find great healing. Attending this 3-day retreat is a great way to start your journey of healing. The retreat focuses on overcoming the effects of parental divorce, forgiving our parents, and connecting with others from this background. This Life-Giving Wounds retreat has something for any adult child of divorce or separation, no matter how much healing you have received or need. Go to: lifegivingwounds.org and click on the "Retreats" heading to find the San Francisco retreat. Or you can contact Ed Hopfner of the Archdiocese at (415) 614-5547.