

JUNE 5, 2016

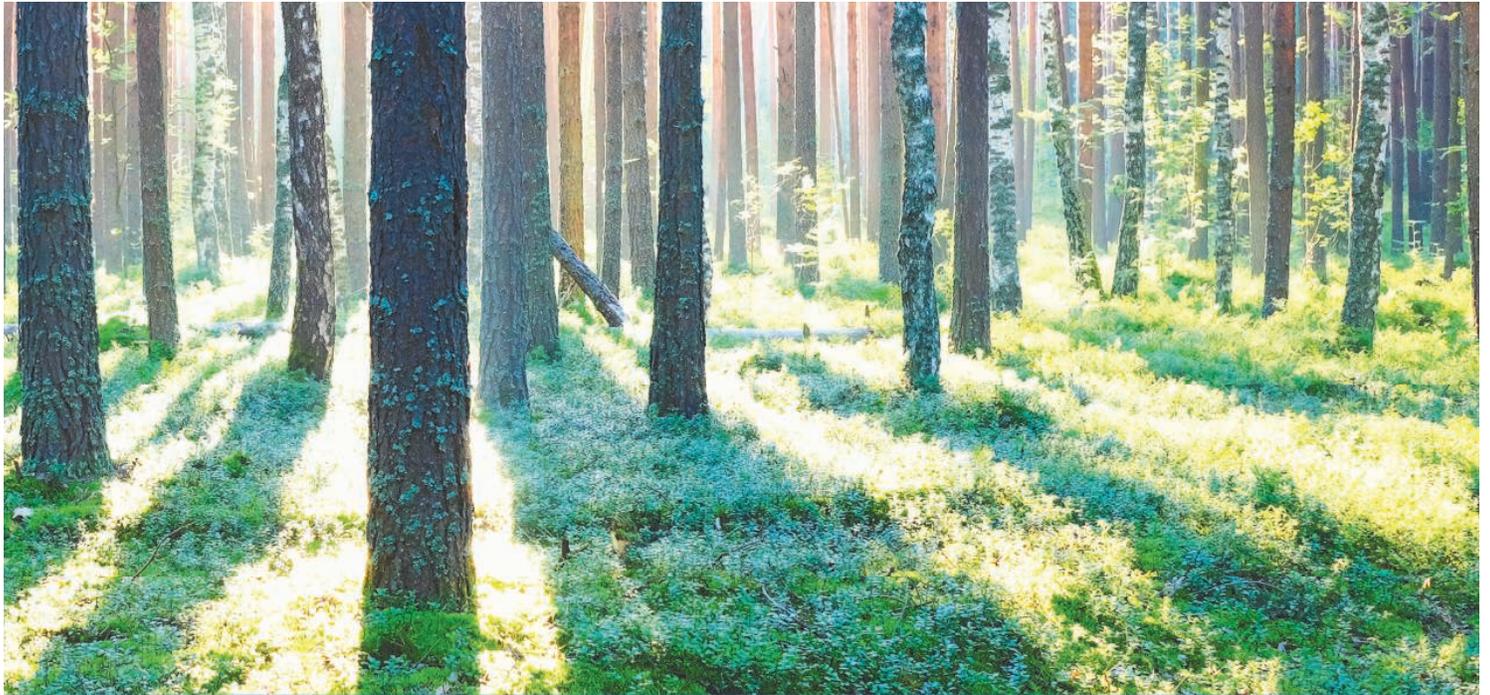
10th Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Our Lady of Lourdes

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coming to know  
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by being Christ  
to the world.



He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted,  
and he said, "Young man, I tell you, arise!" - Lk 7:14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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## EUCCHARIST:

**SAT** 5:00 PM

**SUN** 8:00 AM/10:30 AM/6:00 PM

**MON** 8:00 AM

**WED** 9:30 AM

**THU** 8:00 AM

## PRIEST

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# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Parish Support - May 16-22, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic) .....	\$12,580.00
Offertory .....	\$1,011.12

## Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016

Contributions Received.....	\$659,770.65
Contribution Budget.....	\$693,600.00
<b>Difference as of 5/22/16 .....</b>	<b>(\$33,829.35)</b>
Operating Income .....	\$816,188.52
Operating Expenses .....	\$828,588.90
<b>Balance as of 4/30/16 .....</b>	<b>(\$12,400.38)</b>

## Improvement Fund Updates

Beginning Balance.....	\$97,733.99
Donations .....	\$45,617.29
Expenses.....	(\$32,506.66)
<b>Balance as of 5/22/16 .....</b>	<b>\$110,844.62</b>

## Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

<b>KOVG Cash Balance as of 5/22/16.....</b>	<b>\$168,541.90</b>
Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016).....	\$190,267.00
Expenses already paid .....	(\$23,613.25)
<b>Remaining Project Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$166,653.75</b>

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## Welcome to Our New Parishioners! May 2016

Christine Marie Kin

## Hall of Honor

We invite you to take a moment between the weekends of Memorial Day and Independence Day to visit, pray, reflect, and/or thank the veterans from our parish posted on the Hall of Honor display in the meeting room hallway.

## Common Ground of Grief How to Go On Living When Someone You Love Dies

Tuesday, June 7

11:00 am - 12:30 pm and repeated  
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

San Camillo, 10200 W Bluemound Rd., Wauwatosa 53226.

Cost: Free and open to everyone

Patrick Dean, Director of Grief Education Services with Catholic Cemeteries and a professional photographer, will be presenting this grief program. The session will consist of photographic images and grief education content followed by a period of questions and answers. This program is for anyone who has been affected by the death of a loved one.

For further information, visit [www.cemeteries.org](http://www.cemeteries.org) or contact (414) 438-4420 x302 or [patrickdean@griefwork.com](mailto:patrickdean@griefwork.com).

# CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

Date	Prize	Ticket	Winner
5/22.....	\$100.00.....	0706 .....	Mary K Khabunde
5/23.....	\$20.00 .....	0431 .....	Sr. Judy Vander Grinten
5/24.....	\$20.00 .....	0502 .....	Todd & Kristen Brost
5/25.....	\$20.00 .....	0607 .....	Lizzy Van Rixel
5/26.....	\$20.00 .....	0808 .....	Jean Halvorsen
5/27.....	\$20.00 .....	0230 .....	Michael Lamping
5/28.....	\$20.00 .....	0505 .....	Don & Marge Lirette

## SUN 5

<i>Community Weekend</i>	
8:00 am Liturgy	Church
10:30 am Liturgy	Church
6:00 pm Liturgy	Church

## MON 6

8:00 am Liturgy	Rm 9
6:30 pm Centering Prayer	Rm 9
6:30 pm Human Concerns	
Cmte. Mtg.	Rm 7
6:30 pm Monday Night	
at the Movies	Hall A

## TUE 7

8:00 am Communion Service	Rm 9
11:30 am Bereavement Potluck	
Lunch	Hall C
6:30 pm Spring Bible Study	Rm 6
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Tr. 612	Hall AB
7:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul	
Mtg.	Rm 3

## Mercy Moment

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.”

[Matthew 5:7]



## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

### WONDER

Wonder is being open to the beauty and mysteries of life. It is our soul's appreciation for what is precious and inspiring. When we live reflectively, we delight in the signs and wonders that appear in our lives. When we look at the grandeur of nature, fully present to the moment, it can move us deeply.

Anne and Joe Schmidt gave birth to beautiful twin girls on May 18. Their passion and commitment to their family was a sign of wonder. No matter what news came next, they embraced the challenge with faith and hope. To be surrounded by a caring community was a blessing — another sign of wonder. Please keep all parents in prayer.

## FORMATION

### TERCE – A Mid-Morning PrayART© Break...Celebrating the Blessing of Being Alive!

*“Terce celebrates the third hour of the day. It comes in the middle of the morning and is one of the so-called little hours, the upbeat mid-morning hour...Terce reminds us of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost...We experience the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit in blessing. Blessing is that Spirit, that life-breath, that aliveness, that we celebrate at this hour...”*

[from: *Music of Silence - A Sacred Journey through the Hours of the Day* by David Steindal-Rast with Sharon Lebell.]

As Catholic/Christian artists and craftspeople, we believe that the Holy Spirit fuels our creativity with the fire of love, energy, enthusiasm, caring, and power. What better way to celebrate the start of summer than by taking a “spirit break” at mid-morning to truly enter into the joy of being alive through the creation of contemplative art. Through a combination of walking meditation and other bodily practices, we will observe with greater awareness our inner and outer world. We will take the joy we find in summer's arrival and transform it into prayer through the creation of artwork.

Join Mary Ann Logic, from 9:00 am - noon on Wednesdays from June 8 to June 29.

To register: contact Mary Ann Logic at [jmlogic@wi.rr.com](mailto:jmlogic@wi.rr.com) or Nancie Chmielewski at [chmielewski@ololmke.org](mailto:chmielewski@ololmke.org) or (414) 545-4316. A supply list will be distributed shortly after registration.

### The Power of Prayer

Prayer takes on many forms and occurs in various situations. Prayer is the formal Eucharistic Liturgy and the simple breathed expression of “Oh God...” It is the soul aching, longing, rejoicing. Regardless of form or words, prayer is powerful. Our desire to pray and to trust in the work of the Spirit may bring healing to someone we don't even know. Here at OLOL, we have the opportunity to ask for prayers via our prayer box (in the parish lobby) and on our website (<http://www.ololmke.org/prayer-request/>). We also have a group of parishioners who take these requests into their own prayer time, so that we are praying for and with each other!

Would you like more information? Kindly contact the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316.

**WED 8**

8:00 am St. Ben's Prep Kitchen  
9:00 am PrayART© Terce Hall B  
9:00 am St. Matthias 7th Grade  
Retreat Hall A  
9:30 am Liturgy Hall C  
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C  
6:30 pm Communion  
Distribution St. Luke's  
7:00 pm GASIC Mtg. Rm 3

**THU 9**

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9  
9:00 am Stewardship Mailing  
Prep Rm 4

**FRI 10**

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

## WORSHIP

### Phase II Renovation and Funeral Liturgies

As you probably know, renovations to the music platform have begun. Because of the work being done, the times available for funeral liturgies will be limited during the week; however, St. Gregory the Great and St. Matthias parishes have graciously opened their doors to us for daytime funerals working around their own funeral liturgies. The times available for a service here at Our Lady of Lourdes are **tentatively** the following depending upon the renovation schedule:

#### During the week:

- 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm without a social following in the Hall
- 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm with a social in the Hall following the service
- Family arrival: can begin no earlier than 4:30 pm
- Visitation: can begin no earlier than 5:00 pm
- Hall Socials: all should be out no later than 8:15 pm

Thank you in advance for your patience as we complete this next phase of renovation.

### Ministry of Lector and Server

If you are a lector or a server, or would like to be part of these ministries, now is the time to sign up for the new schedule from July 2 - October 30. Forms can be found online at:

Lectors: <http://ow.ly/3YJ93003jO8>

Servers: <http://ow.ly/oU4A3003jU1>

Forms are also available in the Ministry Preparation room just off the side hall entrance into church. The hard-copy forms now match the online forms! We ask that you fill out and return your form no later than **Sunday, June 5**.

All are welcome to participate in these ministries. Training is provided for all new ministers. For further information, please contact Chris Deily at [deilyc@ololmke.org](mailto:deilyc@ololmke.org) or at (414) 545-4316 x16.

## OUTREACH

### From St. Vincent de Paul

In the Gospel, we see how Jesus was moved with pity and said to the widow, "Do not cry," and the people knew that "God had visited his people."

When you hear the cries of the poor and reach out to help them, deep in their hearts the poor know that God has visited them.

### Bereavement Potluck

Our next bereavement potluck is this Tuesday, June 7, at 11:30am in the Parish Hall. Kindly bring a dish to pass. Questions? Contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316x13.

### St. Ben's Meal Program

We serve at St. Benedict the Moor's meal program on **Wednesday, June 8**. Please bring fresh cut vegetables, hard-cooked eggs, and bakery to the Parish Office on Monday, Tuesday, or no later than 3:00 pm on Wednesday. To help with food preparation or serving, please call the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316.

You can also make monetary donations to purchase the chicken we serve each month. \$7.00 buys one chicken. Please use your monthly donation slips or go to our St. Ben's webpage:

<http://www.ololmke.org/st-bens/>

### St. Luke's Eucharistic Ministry

On the second Wednesday of every month, OLOL volunteers bring the Eucharist to Catholic patients at St. Luke's Medical Center. We are always looking for new ministers. If you are interested, please contact Joan Hansen at (414) 282-9398 or at [jeffrey\\_hansen@att.net](mailto:jeffrey_hansen@att.net) for more details.

**SAT 11**

5:00 pm Liturgy Church

**SUN 12**

8:00 am Liturgy Church  
10:30 am Liturgy Church  
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

## Emailing from Our Website

We are currently experiencing an issue with receiving emails from anyone trying to contact staff, Pastoral Council members, and Financial Council members via our website. If you have emailed anyone this way recently and did not receive a reply, it probably never was sent. Unfortunately, the problem does not seem to be a simple fix. We will continue to try to solve the issue as quickly as possible. In the meantime, please contact staff directly using the new addresses that were posted in the bulletin over the last month. You can also connect with council members through the staff reps.

We appreciate your patience and flexibility. We will update you when the email function on the website is fixed.

## Message from Your Pastoral Council: Parish Festival

Ah summer! Music festivals, picnics, church festivals all mean that summer has come to Wisconsin.

Our Lady of Lourdes has always pulled out the stops to put on a great church festival party, and it is one of our bigger fund raisers each year. Many families dedicate many hours of time volunteering to make it a successful event. Some of the parishioners plan their vacations around the festival so they can help wherever they are needed. Unfortunately, as time marches on and with an aging parishioners, we have been losing our volunteers over the years. We need everyone's help to make this year a successful church festival.

Everyone is busy at this time of year, but this is not just a church that you attend for an hour each week. It is **our** church. This is where we come to celebrate special occasions in our life, such as Baptism, weddings, and sacraments. We come here when we have problems, in need of help and when we return home to God. We get advice and help from the scriptures, but also from each other, from our community. We grow with each other, and our lives are nurtured by those few 60 minutes a week.

Please consider volunteering for different activities at Our Lady of Lourdes and consider starting with the festival. It is probably the most rewarding way to help the parish and get to know the people you see each week.

This is **our** Lady of Lourdes; take ownership of it. Get involved, meet old friends, make new ones.

You will be so glad you did!

# CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

## MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 7:11-17

A survey of the Gospels reveals many ways in which Jesus upheld the dignity of women. In a culture where women were considered second-class citizens, Jesus was never afraid to encounter women, to affirm them, and to welcome them among his followers. Here we see that his heart was stirred by the situation of this grieving mother. The man who had died was "the only son of his mother, and she was a widow." In this culture, a woman was protected by her father, her husband, or her son. Absent one of those men in her life, she was in an incredibly vulnerable position. This, along with the grief of losing her child, struck the Lord with pity. And then, he did the impossible and restored the dead man to life. After "the dead man sat up ... Jesus gave him to his mother." Jesus made a point to restore and affirm this woman's vocation as a mother. Christ himself reveals, through his ministry to this mother, that her role is vital. May we also find ways to affirm and serve the mothers in our midst.

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## SUNDAY READINGS

### 1 Kings 17:17-24:

On what grounds does Elijah question God?

### Galatians 1:11-19:

What do you imagine Paul and Peter (Cephas) talked about during their fifteen days together in Jerusalem?

### Luke 7:11-17:

Luke tells us that "fear seized" the people who saw Jesus raise the widow's son from the dead. What do you think they were afraid of?

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# Connect!

*Uniting* Word & World



## Studying God's Word

- 1 Kings 17:17-24
- Galatians 1:11-19
- Luke 7:11-17 [90C]

The readings for the Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time present divine encounters. In both miracle stories and the call narrative of St. Paul, new insights are achieved by those most directly impacted by God's intervention in their lives.

The first reading is taken from the First Book of Kings. 1 Kings 17–19 presents the stories of two ninth-century BC prophets from the northern kingdom of Israel, Elijah and Elisha. In today's reading, we hear about the prophet Elijah raising from the dead the son of a widow. In addition to her overwhelming joy, the widow learned two important lessons in the miracle of her resuscitated son. First, her son's death was not divine retribution for the sins she committed in her life—a belief and a fear held by some ancient Israelites. And second, the prophet Elijah was truly a “man of God,” not one of the many false prophets that plagued the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah during this period of the divided monarchy.

Scholars have often noted the similarities between the story of Elijah raising the widow's son and today's Gospel reading—Jesus' raising of the widow's son from the village of Nain. Beyond the obvious parallels in these miracle stories (both widows, both sons of a widow raised, neither widow actually sought out Elijah or Jesus), the reaction of those witnessing the miracle is very similar as well: “A great prophet has arisen in our midst” and “God has visited

his people.” (See the widow's similar reaction to Elijah, 1 Kgs 17:24.) The widow and the crowds both sensed God's divine presence in their encounter with Elijah and with Jesus. Curiously, the village of Nazareth, where Jesus grew up and lived his entire life, was only about five miles north of Nain. Given the extensive networking that existed among the Jewish villages of the lower Galilee, it is very possible that Jesus personally knew this family.

The second reading is taken from Paul's Letter to the Galatians. Over the next five Sundays we will hear from Galatians. Written in late AD 55, the Letter to the Galatians is one of Paul's most emotionally charged letters. He is angry over the news that the Galatian men (Gentile believers in Christ) were having themselves circumcised. Paul saw this action as a direct violation of the Gospel message he preached to them. For Paul, male circumcision, an outward sign (marking) of one's allegiance to the Mosaic law, was not necessary for the Gentiles who professed faith in Christ. The Galatian circumcisions struck at the heart of the Pauline debate on faith versus the law.

Today's reading is part of Paul's autobiographical section in Galatians, 1:11-24. Paul rarely offers autobiographical information in his letters. But here, as part of his argument, Paul presents himself and his Gospel message as divinely authoritative: “I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. For I did not receive it from a human being, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ.” Paul then writes about his transformative encounter with the risen Christ and his call to bring the

good news of the crucified and resurrected Christ to the Gentiles. This direct encounter with Christ, in Paul's view, gave him the authority to refer to himself as an "apostle," and to preach with authority in the name of Christ.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

## Inspiring Your Homily

Words, words, words. So many words! The political campaigns have showered millions of words into our tired ears. Almost six months to go before the election and we are very weary of the words cascading from the mouths of politicians. Repeatedly we try to mine them for nuggets of truth and/or indications of genuine plans for the future of our country. Our spirits perk up when we find these.

Our "word-weariness" disease sometimes presents itself during the liturgy. Passages from Scripture, even stories, can flow over us without our hearing a word of it. We don't really nod off, but our minds travel to faraway places. Even changes of posture don't wake us up. Suddenly we catch ourselves walking up to Communion, almost as automatons. All of this can happen, even with the best of intentions. Because we are exposed to so many words, we become unaware of their power!

Jesus is the Word of God incarnate. As we hear the story of his raising the son of the widow who lived in Nain, we hear *the Word* speak words. These words are so powerful that they bring life back into the body of a young man. Jesus' words are life-giving! They actually bring about what they say. They flow from the mouth of the long-expected Messiah. In this story, Jesus is called Lord for the first time in the writing of Luke. Jesus is, in reality, the Messiah!

The story of Elijah is itself a prophecy. There are contrasts and similarities in the two stories involving two young men, boys, once dead, who receive life back. In both stories, Elijah and Jesus pour out compassion toward the widows. In the earlier story and that of Jesus, the situation of a widow was precarious. Having lost her husband, she no longer had a place in the society

of the day. She had no one to provide for her. She wasn't allowed to own property. She was very vulnerable. But in both cases, there was hope. A son was maturing. A son could provide for her. A son could bring her into his household when he married. The widow's future was hopeful. She would be provided for.

Greater, then, was the tragedy of the death of the only son of these two widows. That boy child was her only secure source of support. At her son's death, the widow too was as good as dead! It's no wonder that God always had a special place in his heart for widows and children. They were totally defenseless, totally vulnerable. God's heart was moved with compassion for them.

By his actions, Elijah was showing concrete evidence of that compassion. Unexpectedly, it was lavished on a non-believer, a widow who lived outside the chosen land and outside the chosen people. God's heart was and is open to all. Besides feeding this little family for a year, God gifted the widow with the life of her son. First God blesses this little family of Zarephath with food, then with restored life. The widow, as well as her son, has been raised from the dead.

All of this is a prediction of what is to come with the kingdom of the Messiah. Jesus, Lord, also has compassion on another widow. He, too, sees her desperate situation. Jesus restores hope in her life by offering new life to her son. Jesus, also, continually teaches the loving compassion of God. How does Jesus do this? Through his actions and his words that effect what they say!

From the very beginning of Genesis, when God spoke, it happened. "Let there be light, and there was light." Jesus, the Word, speaks. "Let there be life" and life reappears! How powerful is the Word of God. Over and over the words of Jesus effect what they say. "Arise and walk!" "Woman, you are healed of your sickness." "Little girl, I say to you, arise!" And at that moment her life returned and she jumped up.

Repeatedly we hear the words of Jesus at Mass. Our priests speak those words and again, they are effective. It really happens! Soon we will



hear him say, "Take this, all of you, and eat of it, for this is my body." "Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood." Jesus, the Lord, is truly present among us *and within us!* Oh, that we can begin to realize this! No empty words, these! No empty promises, these!

Yes, it is too good to be true ... *but true it is!* Just as Jesus' words brought life back into dead and diseased bodies two thousand years ago, so too the words of Jesus bring his very life into our very lives in 2016.

Repeatedly we hear the words of Jesus in the sacraments. How many times in the Gospels Jesus says, "Go, your sins are forgiven." "Go and sin no more." As we receive the sacrament of reconciliation we hear those words again. "I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Can we realize our sins have been forgiven? Can we accept that? Can we let them go *and the guilt?* Can we then live in the present and not be burdened by the past? The words effect what they say. It is too good to be true, but it is true!

With all of this said, in our day, when we are bombarded with words, it takes genuine effort to unblock our ears and our hearts to allow the Word of God to pierce our inner being.

As the hearts of two widows were filled with hope and unbelievable joy, may our hearts, too, fill with hope and joy. St. Benedict says, "Listen, my son, with the ear of your heart." When we can do this, we, too will have new life!

Patricia DeGroot, OBlSB

## Quoting from Tradition

The root of all good works is the hope of the Resurrection; for the expectation of the recompense nerves the soul to good works. For every laborer is ready to endure the toils, if he sees their reward in prospect; but when men weary themselves for naught, their heart soon sinks as well as their body. A soldier who expects a prize is ready for war, but no one is forward to die for a king who is indifferent about those who serve under him, and bestows no honors on their toils. In like manner every soul believing in a Resurrection is naturally careful of itself; but, disbelieving it, abandons itself to perdition. He who believes that his body shall remain to rise again, is careful of his robe, and defiles it not with fornication; but he who disbelieves the Resurrection, gives himself to fornication, and misuses his own body, as though it were not his own. Faith therefore in the Resurrection of the dead, is a great commandment and doctrine of the Holy Catholic Church; great and most necessary though gainsaid by many, yet surely warranted by the truth. Greeks contradict it, Samaritans disbelieve it, heretics mutilate it; the contradiction is manifold, but the truth is uniform. Now Greeks and Samaritans together argue against us thus. The dead man has fallen, and moldered away, and is all turned into worms ... such is the decay and destruction which has overtaken the body; how then is it to be raised? ... Vultures and ravens feed on the flesh of the unburied dead, and then fly away over all the world; whence then is the body to be collected? For of the fowls who have devoured it some may chance to die in India, some in Persia, some in the land of the Goths... To thee, poor little feeble man, India is far from the land of the Goths, and Spain from Persia; but to God, who holds the whole earth in the hallow of His hands, all things are near at hand. Leo the Great, *Cyril of Jerusalem, Lecture XVIII.*

*Translation from A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church. Series II. Volume 7. Edited by P. Schaff et al. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 1978–1983. Research by Jay Martin*

## Building Your Liturgy

June 5, 2016

Our Collect prayer begins today, "O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it." Much of today's liturgy is about calling out to God, or responding to God, to "discern what is right."

God was able to heal and bring back to life for the two widows in our Scriptures today, but the necessary faith response had to be present. The entrance antiphon reflects that belief by using Psalm 27, "The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread?"

Preface 6 of Ordinary Time (57) reminds us that we "possess the pledge of life eternal." And Preface 7 (58) speaks beautifully of God's great mercy and would also be apt. If you wish to do a special prayer over the people, consider 11: "Keep your family, we pray, O Lord, in your constant care, so that, under your protection, they may be free from all troubles and by good words show dedication to your name." It is a nice closing synthesis of all that took place in our liturgy today.

### Planning Your Week

Saturday is the memorial of St. Barnabas, one of the apostles. The color for the day is red, and we use Preface 1 or 2 of Apostles. Barnabas was a missionary who first brought Christ's message to Asia Minor.

For many, summer vacations are beginning, so you may have more guests. Have plenty of hospitality people on hand to help at the liturgies. It is also the season when ministers are notoriously absent. Perhaps you may wish to have a volunteer contact the weekly altar servers and other ministers to remind them they are scheduled. Does your church have any policy on attire? It may also be good to send ministers a note about shorts, or midriff and spaghetti strap tops.

Another element of summer to keep in mind is your parish environment. It is the green of ordinary time, but it also becomes wedding season. You may want to make sure that there is nothing that is going to set an anxious mother of the bride off. Many churches have a policy that existing environment/flowers must stay in place and may not be moved by bridal parties. Be sure that all involved know what is expected.

Speaking of summer, have you made your own plans for vacation, retreat, or educational workshop? There are many fine opportunities to consider. The University of Notre Dame, Saint John's Collegeville, and Rensselaer are all very fine. On the East Coast the Liturgical Music Institute is also a diverse program.

Do you have budget monies to use before the end of a fiscal year? New servers' robes, extra wine, hosts, candles, or a new video are all great ways to use these up, as is sheet music. Go through your music library and clean out pieces you are not likely to use again. Offer them to area church musicians. Similarly, organize a theological book exchange with peers. Give your office a new look for summer too!

Devote an hour each day to reorganizing files, or something you have neglected, and pitching where you can. Build practice times and a walk into your summer days!

*Jill Maria Murdy*



## Raising Your Prayers

### Introductions

*For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).*

When we have a particular need or are experiencing a difficulty, it is natural to reach out to God to help fill the void or help us with our burden. God is a God of love and mercy and a God who knows us better than we even know ourselves. God is not dependent upon our prayers and often acts, not because he was asked, but because he loves.

### Penitential Act

Knowing of God's desire to heal us from our sinfulness and our wounds, we go to him seeking his mercy and forgiveness that flows from his presence.

*(Pause for silent reflection.)*

Lord Jesus,  
you are the One who rescues us and lifts us up.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you are our helper who turns our tears into  
rejoicing.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you heal us and make us whole.  
**Lord, have mercy.**



### Prayer of the Faithful

Seeking to turn our doubt into faith and live the fullness of life you set before us, we bring our needs and those of our world before you with confident trust.

For Pope Francis and all leaders of the church: may they continue to reach out to those who are hurting or lost and bring them the healing touch of Christ.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who are hurting, controlled by an addiction, emotional or spiritual malady, or struggling with illness, that they may experience the touch of God's healing presence and be brought to new life and wholeness.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For each of us, that, empowered with the faith of the Gospel, we may reach out with hands of compassion to those grieving, dying, or experiencing loss, and show them the joy and peace that can come from living with hope.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who have died, that now able to see God with greater vision they may forever give thanks and praise him.

**We pray to the Lord.**

Gentle and compassionate God, doubt and fear often compel us to try to convince you how you ought to act or to assist with our own desires and plans. Teach us that even when we ask selfishly or neglect to ask at all, you are still with us providing the right words, perfect opportunities, prudent decisions, or the correct path to follow.

Hear our prayers and may all know of your mercy and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Rev. Mark Suslenko*



## Engaging Your Parishioner

Reflections to use for your bulletins, website, social media, and more.

### Message of the Week

Luke 7:11-17

A survey of the Gospels reveals many ways in which Jesus upheld the dignity of women. In a culture where women were considered second-class citizens, Jesus was never afraid to encounter women, to affirm them, and to welcome them among his followers. Here we see that his heart was stirred by the situation of this grieving mother. The man who had died was “the only son of his mother, and she was a widow.” In this culture, a woman was protected by her father, her husband, or her son. Absent one of those men in her life, she was in an incredibly vulnerable position. This, along with the grief of losing her child, struck the Lord with pity. And then, he did the impossible and restored the dead man to life. After “the dead man sat up ... Jesus gave him to his mother.” Jesus made a point to restore and affirm this woman’s vocation as a mother. Christ himself reveals, through his ministry to this mother, that her role is vital. May we also find ways to affirm and serve the mothers in our midst.

### Questions of the Week

**Luke 7:11-17:**

Luke tells us that “fear seized” the people who saw Jesus raise the widow’s son from the dead. What do you think they were afraid of?

**1 Kings 17:17-24:**

On what grounds does Elijah question God?

**Galatians 1:11-19:**

What do you imagine Paul and Peter (Cephas) talked about during their fifteen days together in Jerusalem?



### Everyday Stewardship

There have been many times in the Church where we latch onto trends and movements, attracted by a new concept or idea of how we should practice our faith. I think back to the 1970s, where art and environment seemed to explode into so many different directions. We were trying out new liturgical music forms, new ways of setting the tone of a worship space, and new prayer experiences we often labeled as *para-liturgical*. Even though some will look back with nostalgia or even fondness, a lot of it wasn’t very good, for it distracted some from the source and summit of our faith: the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Mass. I mean, how many burlap and felt banners are too many? Some might say, “One!”

Regardless of how one might look back at those days, the reality is that most of it has passed away. It originated from humans and their experiences of the time. It was not some divine revelation of how things should be.

Skeptics will say talk of stewardship in the Church today is really just a trend and it will pass away. In fact, I have been at conferences where presenters have suggested that it is time to leave the term stewardship behind. They think this spirituality has a human origin.

But stewardship is a spirituality that comes out of the parables and the good news of Jesus Christ. It is about more than the simple slogans we have used: The 3 Ts, an Attitude of Gratitude, and Sharing Is Caring. It is about seeing all things as gifts from God, and the use of those gifts for his glory. It is about total surrender to God. It is about a complete lack of attachment to things of this world and the giving of it all for eternal life in the next. It is about being a mature disciple. And you can put *that* on a banner!

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS