

JUNE 26, 2016

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

... a pilgrim church  
coming to know  
the kingdom of God  
by being Christ  
to the world.

*Jesus answered  
him, "Foxes have  
dens and birds of  
the sky have  
nests, but the  
Son of Man  
has nowhere to  
rest his head."*

*- Lk 9:58*



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

3722 S. 58th Street | Milwaukee, WI 53220-2053 | (414) 545-4316

## 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

**FR. BILL BURKERT**

Office: (414) 545-4316 x 20

Home: (414) 645-8053

## DEACON

**JOHN MONDAY**

(414) 550-6053

## CONNECT:

**ONLINE** [ololmke.org](http://ololmke.org)

**FACEBOOK** [/ololmke](https://www.facebook.com/ololmke)

**TWITTER** [@ololmke](https://twitter.com/ololmke)

**EMAIL** [olol@archmil.org](mailto:olol@archmil.org)

**FAX** (414) 541-2251

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Parish Support - June 6-12, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic) .....	\$13,183.50
Offertory .....	\$973.50

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

Contributions Received.....	\$705,365.12
Contribution Budget.....	\$735,750.00
<b>Difference as of 6/12/16 .....</b>	<b>(\$30,384.88)</b>
Operating Income .....	\$882,278.40
Operating Expenses .....	\$902,132.49
<b>Balance as of 5/31/16 .....</b>	<b>(\$19,854.09)</b>

## Improvement Fund Updates

Beginning Balance.....	\$97,733.99
Donations .....	\$49,065.29
Expenses.....	(\$44,525.66)
<b>Balance as of 6/12/16 .....</b>	<b>\$102,273.62</b>

## Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

<b>KOVG Cash Balance as of 6/12/16.....</b>	<b>\$168,706.90</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

## In Memoriam

In loving memory of  
**Howard E. LePine**

From

**Katie and Al Vandenack**

## Oktoberfest Planning Meeting

October 13, 14, and 15

Plan a party! It's fun! Next meeting: June 29 from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm.

Topic: Raffle! All those beautiful baskets!

## Wednesday Morning Faith Group

Mark your calendar! On July 6, the Wednesday Morning Faith Group presents Jessica Michna as Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The program begins with Mass at 9:30 am, with the entertainment and a picnic to follow.

Admission is \$5.

If you do not regularly attend the Wednesday socials, call JoAnn Godkin at (414) 828-7172 for reservations.

## Hall of Honor Photo Pick-up

Thank you to those who donated photos and everyone who stopped to visit the Hall of Honor display. The Human Concerns Committee takes pride in honoring our veterans.

Photos will be taken down on July 5th and will be ready for pick up on Sunday, July 10, from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm in the gathering area.

# CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

<u>Date</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Ticket</u>	<u>Winner</u>
6/12.....	\$50.00 .....	0044 .....	Claudia Porter
6/13.....	\$20.00 .....	0099 .....	Harold Miller
6/14.....	\$20.00 .....	0306 .....	Allen Marifke
6/15.....	\$20.00 .....	0854 .....	Sandra Alseth
6/16.....	\$20.00 .....	0479 .....	Stephanie Gibart
6/17.....	\$20.00 .....	0522 .....	Nancy Jahn
6/18.....	\$20.00 .....	0028 .....	Mary Weinfurt

**SUN 26**

*Repairers of the Breach Collection*  
8:00 am Liturgy Church  
10:30 am Liturgy Church  
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

**MON 27**

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9  
6:30 pm Centering Prayer Rm 9

**TUE 28**

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9  
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 7  
6:00 pm Finance Council Mtg. Rm 9  
6:30 pm Discipleship Institute  
Cmte. Mtg. Rm 4  
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Tr. 612 Hall AB

Mercy Moment



“Go and learn the meaning of the words, I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

[Mt 9:13]

FORMATION

Theology on Tap 2016

Grab a beer. Meet your neighbor. Hear a message.

Young adults (20s + 30s) of any faith (and no faith) are invited to a pub in your neighborhood for community and conversation. Free—this round is on us! Join us at Natty Oaks Pub, in West Allis, at 7:00 pm every Monday, July 11 - August 1, to learn how you can make a difference in our community, our nation, and our world - and bring a friend!

Week 1 (July 11): Love Local: Help Your Neighbor in Crisis

Job loss. Health emergency. Unexpected disability. Poverty. Many of your neighbors (as in, people who live in your actual neighborhood...) face crises like these every year. Your local Catholic Charities outreach specialist helps you be aware and get equipped to help your neighbors access the resources they need.

Week 2 (July 18): Love Global: Change the World Right Now

Nearly 1/2 the world's population survives on less than \$2 a day. Nearly 1 billion are illiterate, and 1 billion do not have access to safe water. Learn how Catholic Relief Services makes an actual difference in the lives of the poor and vulnerable overseas and how you can too.

Week 3 (July 25): Love the Stranger: Protect the Dignity of Immigrants

Families divided. Migrant workers exploited and abused. Human beings dying unnecessarily in American deserts. A representative from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Office of the Dignity of the Human Person explains the human consequences of a broken immigration system and how you can advocate for actual solutions.

Week 4 (August 1): Live Mercy: Make it Real

In this Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has invited the world to reflect on mercy, compassion, and the power of forgiveness. Come hear how one local young adult's encounter with God's mercy and a need in our community inspired real action that's making a real difference, and be inspired to do the same.

Visit brewcitycatholic.com for more information and to see the full list of all Theology on Tap sites! Follow us on Instagram @brewcitycatholic.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

EXCELLENCE

Excellence is giving our very best to any task we do and any relationship we have. Within us are many possibilities.

Excellence hones our talents and turns them into gifts for the world.

Excellence requires us to practice humility by learning from mistakes. Each time we do something, we seek to improve it, to keep raising the bar.

Excellence in our lives brings our gifts to fruition.

How can excellence bring you satisfaction and peacefulness?

WED 29

9:00 am PrayArt© - Terce Hall A
9:30 am Communion Service Hall B
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C
6:30 pm Oktoberfest Planning Mtg. Rm 7

THU 30

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

FRI 1

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

## WORSHIP

### The Mass: Part 1 - Becoming the Assembly

“When we meet here on Sunday, a lot of what we do is centered on a book and a lot of what we do is centered on a table...Because this is so central to our identity as Catholics, so important to our lifelong striving to be good Catholics, we need now and then to think on the liturgy and how we do it together.

“The most basic thing is that there has to be an assembly: The liturgy is not done by a priest-presider with help from a musician and a lector. The liturgy is done by an assembly—people gathered. We do not come to be an audience, to be spectators while the specialists do their work. None of us is here to watch. Somehow we are all both privileged and obliged to come to liturgy—not to “go to” Mass, not to “attend” Mass, but together to celebrate the Mass, together to do the Mass. Each baptized person of a parish is needed to attend. What we do here takes all of us. We aren’t obliged to come and watch, but to come and do.

“During our time together the Church is doing what the Church needs to do, hungers and thirsts to do, in order to be the Church. The body of Christ—you and me—is identifying itself, remembering itself, preparing itself to live as Christ all week long. When we come (together) we do not come to pray alone, but to place ourselves beside sisters and brothers and to give all that we have to give to the work the Church has to do here. It is the Church that listens to God’s loving word, it is the Church that then intercedes...that gives God thanks and praise over bread and wine...that takes and is the holy Communion. None of us does this alone, yet the Church does nothing without each of us doing all we can.

“In a world with so many worries, agendas, and prayers, how can there not be a church? How can we not be filled with an eagerness for this one time a week when we can gather all that worry and agenda and prayer and so much else up into the very body of Christ?”

(Gabe Huck, *Celebrations*, April 2016)

## OUTREACH

### From St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel, we see how Jesus, on his way to Jerusalem, sent “messenger on ahead of Him.” To be the messengers of God, we must know well what it is God wants to say and do through us, as he sends us out to bring his love to others.

In the month of June, you were the “messenger of God” in bringing hope to the poor. Through your gifts, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul provided families with food and financial assistance for utility and rent bills, etc. Thank you!

### Pull Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House

Now that summer has arrived, there will be lots of picnics and family gatherings. Please take a moment before recycling aluminum cans to pull the pop tops off for the Ronald McDonald House. The Human Concerns Committee will collect tabs year round for this charity. Please look for the collection “house” in the classroom hallway near the Food Pantry box.

### Sharing Weekend

Next weekend, **July 2/3**, is our next sharing weekend. Please bring non-perishable food items for our pantry, and place them in the boxes by the doors at any Mass next weekend. Our current list of **items most needed** includes canned vegetables (all varieties), condensed soups, baked beans, bottled juice (no tomato), and canned meats.

### Social Justice: An Invitation

The Social Justice Committee seeks to educate and awaken people to the issues of justice that confront society today. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Room 4. Join us for the next meeting to learn more about our mission and activities.

**SAT 2**

5:00 pm Liturgy Church

**SUN 3**

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

## Goodbyes and Hellos

It is with sadness that we inform you that Toni Gradisnik has accepted an offer of a full-time position with another employer. Her final day with us was Monday, June 13, but she continues to be a parishioner here at OLOL. Please join us in thanking Toni whenever you see her around church for the thoughtfulness, caring, and joy she brought to OLOL in her time here.

Thankfully, Sue Machajewski, who formerly held the position, has agreed to return to work at OLOL. Sue assumed the full responsibilities of the position as of Thursday, June 16. Please extend a courteous welcome to Sue as she rejoins us. You can contact Sue at extension 22 or machajewskis@ololmke.org.

## In Gratitude for ~~Good~~ Great Stewards!

It is amazing how the work of a small group can benefit so many people! A team of five committees volunteered their time over eight years to bring our **Keep Our Vision Growing** capital campaign projects to fruition. They worked many hours, linking with Father Mick Savio, Father Bill Burkert, and the Finance Council to make sure that all funds were spent wisely and well. This included the **Building Committee**, the **Phase I Worship Space Committee**, the **Parish Hall Committee**, the **Signage Committee**, the **Phase II Worship Space Committee**, and the **Campaign Follow-Up Committee**. Many thanks to all of those parishioners who visioned, investigated, implemented, and revised. Thanks to those who attended the Town Hall meetings that began this process. Thanks to you parishioners for your patience and flexibility in the construction phase, and for the trust you have placed in the process and the people. And of course thank you to all who shared financially in support of all of the KOVG Improvements. Whereas some churches spend millions on renovations, our entire worship space was done for under \$350,000. All of the KOVG projects including Hall, Signage, and Worship Space were done for under \$650,00. These are monies well spent as an investment in the prayer life, safety, and future of our beloved parish.



# CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

## MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 9:51-62

“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” What have we left behind? What have we traded in to become faithful followers of Christ?

The answer is different for all of us. Whatever the case, Jesus instructs us today to keep our focus on what lies ahead, namely, life in Christ and the ultimate hope of union with him in heaven. Keeping this focus can be quite a challenge. So often, it’s tempting to think that the grass is greener somewhere else. As Christians, we can fall into the trap of imagining that it might feel better to be ... something else. But thoughts like these are not fit for our new life as disciples of Christ. As St. Paul says in today’s epistle, “For freedom Christ set us free.” May we embrace the gift of this true freedom and follow Christ without looking back.

© 2016 Liturgical Publications Inc

## SUNDAY READINGS

### 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21:

Which questions do you think Elisha had for Elijah?

### Galatians 5:1, 13-18:

How do you use your Christian freedom?

### Luke 9:51-62:

Why do think Jesus reacted so strictly to his would-be followers?

*Kathy's Shade Shop*  
Full line of Custom Window Treatments  
Professional Installation & Repairs  
9034 W. National Ave • West Allis, WI 53227  
414-321-1850 • www.kathysshadeshop.com

**YOUR ONE STOP AUTO REPAIR SHOP**  
Transmissions Tune-Up Brakes A/C  
**DAVE'S GARAGE**  
Alignment • Engines-Repair/Rebuild Brakes & Computer Diagnostics Maintenance Service  
5454 W. Forest Home Ave. 321-5450

**RAY'S BUTCHER SHOPPE**  
SUNDAY SPECIAL  
6 ROLLS FREE WITH THE PURCHASE OF 1 # HOT HAM  
4640 W. Loomis Rd., Greenfield 423-1322

**LEMBERG**  
www.lembergelectric.com • 262.781.1500

**HENRY P. FONS**  
Attorney At Law  
Estate Planning  
Wills • Probate • Trusts  
Real Estate • General Practice  
Personal Injury  
7115 W. Forest Home Ave.  
414-327-2323

**EUGENE L. KALUZNY** ATTORNEY AT LAW  
~ 40+ YEARS EXPERIENCE ~  
Phone: (414) 321-1449  
Wills, Living Trusts, Probates of Estates, Real Estate Transactions  
KALUZNY LAW OFFICES, S.C.  
6510 WEST FOREST HOME AVENUE STE. 1

**Rural Mutual** Insurance Company  
**CHARLIE REITZ** - Agent  
675 N. Brookfield Rd., Suite 209 • Brookfield, WI  
(262) 786-0600  
Life • Home • Auto • Business

**CHRISTOPHER & DE LEÓN** LAW OFFICE  
Abogados con amplia experiencia en leyes de inmigración  
1578 West National Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53204 • 414-751-0051  
www.christopher-law.com

**GIVE**, and gifts will be given to you.  
- Luke 6:38  
Donate online to Our Lady of Lourdes  
www.ololmke.org

**Advance Overhead Door, Inc.**  
Providing Quality Service, Repairs & Installation for over 28 Years  
Prompt Service on All Makes & Models of Garage Doors & Openers  
414-321-0500  
6510 W Forest Home Ave  
www.advohd.com  
We are also a proud member of the Better Business Bureau (A+ Rating)

**Linda The Barber**  
3150 S 46th St  
414-541-1010  
Hours: Tues-Fri 8am-5pm & Sat 8am-2pm

**TRI CITY NATIONAL BANK**  
Large Enough to Serve You. Small Enough to Know You.  
**Oklahoma**  
7525 W. Oklahoma Ave  
(414) 546-3210  
www.tcnb.com • 1 (888) TRI-CITY (874-2489) • Member FDIC

**Your Ad Here**  
SUPPORT OUR PARISH THROUGH LOCAL ADVERTISING  
Contact Dennis Thompson to place an ad today!  
DThompson@4LPi.com or (800) 950-9952 x2470

**MAX A. SASS & SONS**  
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE  
Pre-Need Lunch & Learn Seminars Held Monthly  
Call 414-649-1739 for more info  
www.maxsass.com

**AM ACCOUNTING & TAX SERVICES LLC**  
**ALICE ZAGANCZYK** CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT  
INDIVIDUAL AND BUSINESS TAX RETURN PREPARATION  
Starting at \$50 (\$75 with \$25 Off New Clients, Seniors, Students) For W2 Wages and 1 State Filing  
1123 N Water St. Ste 305 Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-231-9138  
www.amaccountingonline.com

**SEBRING GARAGE**  
American & Foreign Auto Repair  
• Brakes • Clutches • Shocks & Struts  
• Starters • Alternators • Batteries  
• Mufflers • Lube & Oil Service  
• Computerized Wheel Balancing  
6005 W. Howard Avenue • 321-9235  
60th & Howard Avenue

**Discount LIQUOR INC.**  
Beer - Soda - Wine - Liquor  
Daily 9 - 9 • Sunday 10 - 2  
5031 W. Oklahoma 545-2175  
WWW.DISCOUNTLIQUORINC.COM

**BRUSKIEWITZ**  
FOREST LANE FUNERAL CHAPEL  
Family Owned & Operated  
Celebrating 100 Years of Service 1912 - 2012  
Funeral & Cremation Services  
5355 W. Forest Home Ave.  
414-321-1700  
Parish Member

Compliments of **Zaganczyk Family**  
Parish Members Since 1964

Find out how far your heart can reach  
Millions of people overseas depend on you. PLEASE HELP.  
1-888-354-0060  
CRS.ORG/cb  
**OCRS** faith. action. results.  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

**Stan's**  
FIT FOR YOUR FEET  
S. 74th and Layton  
Brookfield • Glendale

**YOUR FAMILY. OUR PRIVILEGE.**  
Bridge Way Transitional Care at Clement Manor  
Short-term customized care, private rooms, physical and occupational therapies - all supporting quick recovery times

**Schaff Funeral Home**  
Family Owned & Operated  
5920 W. Lincoln Ave.  
414-541-7533  
www.schafffuneralhome.com

See What's in Store!  
JEWELRY • ROSARIES • BOOKS AND MORE  
www.parishstore.com

**Baychar Auto Service, Inc.**  
Emissions • Computer Diagnostics  
Air Conditioning • Complete Auto Repair  
Leo - Owner  
3rd Generation Fair & Honest Service  
6733 Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53219  
543-4111 • 543-4112 • Fax 543-3909

**Clement Manor** Sponsored by the School Sisters of St. Francis  
3939 S. 92nd St. Greenfield, Wis. • 414.321.1800  
clementmanor.com

**AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE**  
LORENE A. HIRSCH  
3927 S. 76th St. • Milwaukee, WI 53220-2320  
Office: 414-329-3999  
E-Mail: lhirsch@amfam.com

Complete line of Hispanic & American Groceries. We specialize in fresh corn tortillas, Mexican bakery and our famous El Rey Tostadita Chips.  
**El Rey** Serving Milwaukee Since 1978  
El Rey El Rey Family Market El Rey Plaza El Rey Food Mart  
916 S. Cedar Grove 1020 W. Oklahoma Ave. 3524 W. Burnham St. 1320 W. Burnham St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53214 Milwaukee, WI 53219 Milwaukee, WI 53214 Milwaukee, WI 53214  
414-643-1640 414-541-5200 414-643-1616 414-383-7786

**EL REY Family Market**  
Buy 1 Taco Get 1 FREE (cannot be combined with other offers)  
414-541-5200  
5200 W. Oklahoma Ave.

**SAVING OLD CAMERAS**  
Call before you toss your old Cameras & Photographic Items.  
Antique to Present  
Cash Paid. Donations Accepted. Will pick up.  
**John Saller, Reflex Images**  
Photographer & Parish Member  
414-481-3747

**Tower Chicken Farm, Inc.**  
Fresh Turkeys, Chickens, Duck, Geese  
• Kielbasa Polish Sausage  
• Great Variety of Chicken Sausages  
• Summer Sausage • Beef Sticks  
• Chicken Burgers • Pierogi  
4111 S. 6th St. • 744-7151

**STOCKS • BONDS • CDs IRAS • MUTUAL FUNDS**  
**Jay Landreman** Financial Advisor  
www.edwardjones.com  
3555 S 27th St., Suite A Milwaukee, WI 53221  
414-383-5347  
**Edward Jones** MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**EL REY Family Market**  
Buy 1 Taco Get 1 FREE (cannot be combined with other offers)  
414-541-5200  
5200 W. Oklahoma Ave.

**SCHWEITZER'S LAWN EQUIPMENT SALES & SERVICE**  
6437 W. Forest Home Ave. Greenfield, WI 53220  
Phone: 543-2557  
www.schweitzersservice.com

**HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY CALL NOW! 1-888-891-6806**  
**ADT AUTHORIZED DEALER**  
**HOME SECURITY TEAM**

**CatholicMatch Wisconsin**  
CatholicMatch.com/WI

**HALE PARK AUTOMOTIVE SERVICES, INC.**  
• 414-425-1441 •  
"Complete Domestic & Foreign Service"  
10983 W. Forest Home Avenue Hales Corners

**ROMAN ELECTRIC**  
Plumbing, Heating & Cooling  
Residential Work  
640 S. 70th St. 414-471-8565

**ANDREA'S PIZZA & FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
BUY 1 LUNCH OR DINNER GET 2ND 1/2 OFF WITH 2 BEVERAGE PURCHASE.  
7520 W. Oklahoma Ave. • 414-321-2233

**CatholicMatch Wisconsin**  
CatholicMatch.com/WI

**ANDREA'S PIZZA & FAMILY RESTAURANT**  
BUY 1 LUNCH OR DINNER GET 2ND 1/2 OFF WITH 2 BEVERAGE PURCHASE.  
7520 W. Oklahoma Ave. • 414-321-2233

# Connect!

*Uniting* Word & World



## Studying God's Word

- 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21
- Galatians 5:1, 13-18
- Luke 9:51-62 [99C]

The readings for the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time speak to the cost of discipleship. The challenge lies in weighing and covering the cost against all the other pressing commitments in one's life.

In the first reading we hear about Elisha, the successor to Elijah as the prophet to the people in the northern kingdom of Israel. The prophet Elijah was active during the reign of King Ahab (869–850 BC) and the prophet Elisha during the reign of King Joram (849–842 BC). In today's reading, Elijah follows the command of the Lord and seeks out the young man Elisha to be his successor as prophet to Israel. Elisha accepts Elijah's invitation to follow him and prepare to be a prophet to Israel. Judging by the description of Elisha "plowing" fields with "twelve yoke of oxen," scholars believe Elisha and his family came from considerable wealth. In other words, it was no small sacrifice for Elisha to give up his family and former way of life to follow the call of Elijah. Nonetheless, Elisha does so willingly and generously.

The Gospel reading for today is the beginning section of Luke's long travel narrative, Luke 9:51–19:44. Luke significantly expands Mark's version of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem (Mk 8:21–10:52), incorporating much of his own source material into this section and developing some of his favorite theological themes: discipleship, repentance, mercy, and forgiveness.

Luke begins his narration of Jesus' long journey to Jerusalem by commenting that Jesus "resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem." The journey begins with a rough start in a Samaritan village. As Jesus and his disciples continue the journey, would-be followers of Jesus approach him and quickly learn the high price to be paid for discipleship. Following Jesus must be unconditional: "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God." (This is in stark contrast to the first reading with Elijah's reaction to Elisha putting his house in order before accepting his call to prophecy). As the travel narrative continues, Jesus will teach his followers that a disciple must also have a proper attitude toward wealth and possessions (see, for example, 12:13-21; 14:25-38; 18:18-23), be willing to serve others (10:29-37; 12:35-48; 17:7-10), be humble (14:7-14; 18:9-14), and, of course, "carry his own cross" (14:25-33).

In the second reading from Paul's Letter to the Galatians, we hear Paul speak of the "freedom" that Christ offers all who believe in him. This is an interesting concept that Paul develops, especially in light of the Gospel reading, which seems, on the surface, to take one's personal freedom. But Paul contrasts the freedom that many desire (freedom for the "flesh," i.e., self-indulgence) with the freedom that Christ offers: life in the Spirit. The freedom that comes from the Spirit releases one from the "yoke of slavery"; that is, the burden of the law that weighs one down (the many written and oral traditions that ruled and regulated daily life for the Jewish people in the days of Jesus and Paul) and prohibits one from being "guided by

the Spirit.” For Paul, those guided by the Spirit freely “serve one another through love.”

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

## Inspiring Your Homily

I have never plowed a field and can say with a great deal of certainty that I never will. However, as I considered this Sunday’s first reading and Gospel, I realized that if we are going to get to the heart of these complementary readings, we have to understand the imagery at work—a farmer plowing a field.

So, to gain a better perspective on these texts, I talked to an old farmer named Art. A Wisconsin native and lifelong farmer, Art was taught to plow by his grandfather.

I learned that in plowing, the first furrow was most important. It had to be straight, especially if there were acres of land to be turned. Art’s grandfather told him that he had to be get the wheels on the right side of the tractor into the furrow that was just plowed. If that first furrow was straight, it would guide you as you progressed, allowing for straight, squared lines; even with modern farming equipment this rule holds true. If that first furrow was crooked, however, every subsequent furrow would be crooked and you would lose valuable space in the field or end up spending time trying to fix the crooked rows later in the day.

Part of Art’s lesson was his grandfather’s insistence that he never look back while plowing. The young farmer was told to focus on an object at the far end of the field—a tree, a building, a fence post—and to *never take his eyes off of it*. Stay focused. Keep looking forward. Don’t look back.

Art remembers that he struggled with this idea. After all, how can you know you’re getting straight rows if you *don’t* look back? But he soon realized that he couldn’t steer well if he was looking back. And, he also learned, you can’t easily correct a crooked furrow once it’s been plowed.

As I think of Art’s story, I realized that this is what’s at the heart of this Sunday’s readings: we have to live our lives—particularly our commitment to faithful discipleship—looking ahead, keeping our focus on God’s kingdom.

This focus was certainly at work in Jesus’ own understanding of, and commitment to, the mission that had been entrusted to him by the Father. We can really see this dynamic at work when we recall that Luke’s Gospel is built around one long, single journey to Jerusalem, a journey that will end with a cross on a hill and an empty tomb. Jesus had set his sights on Jerusalem and the fulfillment of his mission. There would be no turning back.

It seems that preachers will often use this Sunday’s readings as an opportunity to reflect on the demands of a religious, diaconal, or priestly vocation, highlighting that each of us is called, like Elisha, to take up the master’s mantle and follow after him in a life of committed service. That is certainly true of those vocations of commitment—it also holds true of the call to married life. But if we limit these wonderfully challenging texts to those particular vocations, we can quickly lose sight of the fact that these texts are teaching us an essential lesson in discipleship.

When St. Luke tells us that Jesus “resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem,” he is demonstrating for us how we are to live as Jesus’ followers. Our attention must always be focused on the future, on the potential and possibilities of building up God’s kingdom in the world here and now. And this places certain demands upon us. In this, Jesus is calling us to be disciples after his own heart: women and men who are open to sacrifice and who are determined to move forward with the kingdom of God as our quest and our aim. This is why Jesus is so emphatic that he says that *we aren’t to look back*. St. Paul restates this teaching in his Letter to the Philippians: “Forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus” (3:13-14).



While the Gospel also includes three encounters with would-be disciples, it's important to note that these meetings are left open-ended. St. Luke doesn't tell us how these individuals responded or what they thought of Jesus' responses to their reasons for holding back. And that's okay because, in a sense, each of Jesus' answers is directed toward us.

Faced with the challenge contained in this Gospel passage, who among us wouldn't feel some hesitation or try to buy more time or leave an "out" if things get too tough? But we can also find encouragement when we read the words of St. Paul in this Sunday's second reading: "For freedom Christ has set us free... For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve on another through love." It is up to each of us to discern how we will move forward... or if we will move forward at all. Jesus is simply telling us what is at stake if we choose to say yes.

To look back means that we run the risk of losing sight of what is essential and it also means that we risk faltering in our mission. The challenge for us is to consider what it is in our lives that we are holding on to, to realize what we keep looking back upon, and to resolutely choose to move forward. In the end, Jesus is inviting each of us to follow him as free persons, without constraint and without fear.

*Silas S. Henderson, MTS*

## Quoting from Tradition

The first virtue, yea the whole of virtue, is to be a stranger to this world, and a sojourner, and to have nothing in common with things here, but to hang loose from them, as from firings strange to us; As those blessed disciples did, of whom he says, "They wandered about in sheepskins, and in goat-skins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented: of whom the world was not worthy." They called themselves therefore "strangers"; but Paul said somewhat much beyond this: for not merely did he call himself a stranger, but said that he was dead to the world, and that the world was dead to him. "For the world" (he says) "has been crucified to me and I to the world." But we, both citizens and quite alive, busy ourselves about everything here as citizens. And what righteous men were to the world, "strangers" and "dead," that we are to Heaven. And what they were to Heaven, alive and acting as citizens, that we are to the world. Wherefore we are dead, because we have refused that which is truly life, and have chosen this which is but for a time. Wherefore we have provoked God to wrath, because when the enjoyments of Heaven have been set before us, we are not willing to be separated from things on earth... And as those who are under the power of sweet sleep lie on their bed not only during the night, but even when the morning has over-taken them, and bright day has come ... so truly we also, when the day is drawing near, when the night is far spent, or rather the day; for "work" (it is said) "while it is day"; when it is day we practice all that belongs to the night, sleeping, dreaming, indulging in luxurious fancies; and the eyes of our understanding are closed as well as those of our body ... even if a person inflict a deep wound upon us, if he carry off all our substance, if he set the very house on fire, we are not so much as conscious of it.

*John Chrysostom, Homily XXIV, Sermons on Hebrews.  
Translation from A Select Library of the Nicene  
and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church.  
Series II. Volume 14. Edited by P. Schaff et al.  
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 1978–1983.  
Research by Jay Martin*

## Building Your Liturgy

June 26, 2016

Both our Old Testament and Gospel readings speak of how we respond to God's call, and Galatians reminds us, "For freedom Christ set us free." At times it may be challenging to hear God's voice and know what we are called to do. Elisha is allowed to go back and say farewell to his parents, while the young person in the Gospel is chastised for making rash decisions and statements. This may be true with our parish volunteers as well.

Some are filled with zeal and good intentions, and may make promises that they cannot keep. The Gospel cautions us to count the cost of becoming a follower of Jesus. This can be true for ministries as well. Sometimes people are just stretched too thin, and are unable to fulfill commitments they have made.

In other instances—musicians, cantors, or lectors, for example—perhaps some have the desire and are willing to do the ministry, but simply do not possess the skill to do these jobs. Or maybe their health has taken a toll, and they can no longer take the steps to the sanctuary to be an extraordinary minister of Communion, and the congregation is watching breathlessly to make sure they don't fall.

One of the tasks I dislike the most in my ministry is when it is time to have a heart-to-heart talk with someone and remove him or her from ministry. While it may be difficult, it is important to recall that this is about serving the larger needs of the parish, the Church. Perhaps you can suggest an alternative ministry to be involved in. If these people are reluctant to leave, an audio or video clip may show them what they sound like, or how unstable they are, and help them come to peace with the decision.

"Where Charity and Love Prevail" and other hymns of service may be fitting today. Ben Walther's "Make Your Home in Me" (OCP) is taken directly from Luke's Gospel today and could be easily sung in any parish. Be cautious

of how many hymns you have in a given service that either put words into God's mouth (e.g., "Here I Am Lord" or "I Heard the Voice of Jesus") or songs that simply celebrate us and what we are doing (for example, "We Are Called"). These are ok, but we don't want all the hymns to be of this nature. Try to find a balance between them and those songs that do offer praise to God, without petitions.

Sunday Preface 2 would be my choice for the day: "For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours he humbled himself..."

### Planning Your Week

Tuesday is the celebration of St. Irenaeus, who spent his life writing against Gnosticism, or the "secret" knowledge of God. He was quick to remind us there was no easy way out, or work-around, that "the business of the Christian is nothing else but to be ever preparing for death." The color is red. There may also be a vigil Mass for Sts. Peter and Paul tonight.

Wednesday we celebrate the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles. The day is also red, and there is a Gloria and its own propers. The Common of the Apostles is used.

Perhaps you do not change liturgical environment for different celebrations within the week, and the only change is the priest's vestments. Depending on your architecture, you might be able to incorporate those seven-day vigil candles into the liturgical environment. It would be easy to change out the globe color to match the liturgical day.

*Jill Maria Murdy*



## Raising Your Prayers

### Introductions

*For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).*  
Very often, we get very distracted by looking back on our past: what we have done, what we didn't do, mistakes we have made, and opportunities that were missed. Dwelling on the past takes us away from the possibilities before us today and ones available tomorrow! What Christ is calling us to do today and going forward from today are what is important. Constantly looking back limits our ability to say yes to his call.

### Penitential Act

Knowing that God is the One in whom we take refuge and find our strength, we seek his forgiveness for what we have done, freeing us to do what he asks today.  
*(Pause for silent reflection.)*

Lord Jesus,  
you show me the path to life.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
the fullness of joy is found in your presence.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
in you my heart is glad and my soul rejoices.  
**Lord, have mercy.**



### Prayer of the Faithful

God calls us to a life of love.  
But we cannot fully love  
if we are constantly looking back  
to the unfinished business of our lives.  
Seeking to be free from the burdens of our past,  
we look to the needs of our brothers and sisters  
and to the future coming of God's kingdom.

For all leaders in the Church,  
especially Pope Francis, all bishops,  
priests, deacons, religious, and lay leaders,  
that they will place complete confidence in God,  
listen to Christ's call to follow him,  
and proclaim the good news of salvation.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For all baptized Christians,  
that we will find unity in our common mission  
in service of the Gospel,  
truly loving our neighbor as ourselves  
as Jesus taught.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who have accepted the call  
to ministry in the Church,  
that they will find the courage to be open  
to the Holy Spirit calling them  
to tend to the needs of those they serve.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who have died,  
that now in full possession of God's kingdom  
they may delight in God's presence forever.

**We pray to the Lord.**

Loving God,  
your words, "follow me,"  
ring in our ears and echo in our hearts.  
Give us the courage  
to place our trust and confidence in you.  
Help us realize that you are ever before  
us giving us the wisdom and counsel  
we so desperately need.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Rev. Mark Suslenko*



## Engaging Your Parishioners

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

### Message of the Week

Luke 9:51-62

“No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God.” What have we left behind? What have we traded in to become faithful followers of Christ?

The answer is different for all of us. Whatever the case, Jesus instructs us today to keep our focus on what lies ahead, namely, life in Christ and the ultimate hope of union with him in heaven. Keeping this focus can be quite a challenge. So often, it’s tempting to think that the grass is greener somewhere else. As Christians, we can fall into the trap of imagining that it might feel better to be ... something else. But thoughts like these are not fit for our new life as disciples of Christ. As St. Paul says in today’s epistle, “For freedom Christ set us free.” May we embrace the gift of this true freedom and follow Christ without looking back.

### Questions of the Week

**Luke 9:51-62:**

Why do think Jesus reacted so strictly to his would-be followers?



**1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21:**

What questions do you think Elisha had for Elijah?

**Galatians 5:1, 13-18:**

How do you use your Christian freedom?

### Everyday Stewardship

The world is a very busy place. Our lives are sometimes very complicated. Everywhere we turn there are distractions. Add to all this the increasing number of people with virtually no attention span or diagnosed ADD and you have a reality where it can be quite hard to stay focused and committed to any task at hand.

When you were called to follow Jesus, he knew that the call came in the midst of all this chaos. He understood that you would be pulled in every direction. That is why he urges you, as he did his first disciples, not to look behind, but to forge ahead, proclaiming the good news to all who can hear. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the German Lutheran, described it in *The Cost of Discipleship*, Jesus asks for a “single-minded obedience.”

Bonhoeffer wrote, “The actual call of Jesus and the response of single-minded obedience have an irrevocable significance. By means of them Jesus calls people into an actual situation where faith is possible. For that reason his call is an actual call and he wishes it so to be understood, because he knows that it is only through actual obedience that a man can become liberated to believe” (Translated by R. H. Fuller. New York: Macmillan, 1963).

The reality is that we cannot, on our own, believe in and follow Jesus without turning ourselves over to him completely. The aspect of this that the world will never understand is that through giving all over to God, a person finds true freedom. By forsaking everything else for God, we gain everything. Good stewardship and mature discipleship needs this “single-minded obedience” to flourish. Without it, we will be constantly distracted and tempted to change course. A person with severe ADD may need a prescription. Any Christian seeking to follow Jesus needs something too: the grace that comes from giving over one’s self to God.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS