

JULY 31, 2016

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



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Catholic Church

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the kingdom of God
by being Christ
to the world.



Then he said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." - Lk 12:15

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

FR. BILL BURKERT

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JOHN MONDAY

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Parish Support - July 11-17, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic)	\$10,115.00
Offertory	\$987.72

Budget Updates Fiscal Year: July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

Contributions Received	\$39,553.78
Contribution Budget	\$35,100.00
Difference as of 7/17/16	\$4,453.78

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

Operating Income	\$944,218.16
Operating Expenses	\$961,305.68
Balance as of 6/30/16 (Tentative)	(\$17,087.52)
Budgeted Balance as of 6/30/16	(\$18,850.00)

Improvement Fund Updates

Beginning Balance 7/1/16	\$103,671.52
Donations	\$2,852.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of 7/17/16	\$106,523.52

Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

KOVG Cash Balance as of 7/17/16	\$159,356.90
Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016)	\$190,267.00
Expenses already paid	(\$33,403.25)
Remaining Project Expenses	\$156,863.75

COMMUNITY LIFE

Our Condolences

...to the families and loved ones of **Raymond Luther, Delores Ruesch**, and all others who have died. Please keep them in your prayers.

In Memoriam

In loving memory of
Paula Szydel

From
John & Jean Talken

GASIC is Back!

After a brief hiatus for summer activities, Gay and Straight in Christ will resume our monthly gatherings on Wednesday, August 10, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm in Room 3. Questions? Kindly contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316 x13 or chmielewski@ololmke.org. All are welcome at these gatherings.

Primary Election Information

Do you want a community that works for everyone? If so, you have to be an informed voter. Social Justice Committee and Pastoral Council members will be available after all liturgies next weekend (August 6 & 7) with important information and handouts for the August 9 primary election.

CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

Date	Prize	Ticket	Winner
7/17	\$50.00	1084	Michael Kochanski
7/18	\$20.00	0031	Mary Weinfurt
7/19	\$20.00	0368	Sandra Trinastic
7/20	\$20.00	0249	Lisa Antkowski
7/21	\$20.00	0717	Nicholas Wittry
7/22	\$20.00	0731	Erin Cook
7/23	\$20.00	0254	JoAnn Davis

SUN 31

Blood Drive Sign-up
Festival Sign-up
Children's Sock and Underwear Collection
8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy Church
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

MON 1

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9
6:30 pm Centering Prayer Rm 9

TUE 2

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9
6:45 pm Boy Scouts - Tr. 612 Hall AB
7:00 pm St Vincent de Paul Mtg. Rm 3

Mercy Moment

"There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

[Mt 14:16]

FORMATION

Healing in Separation and Divorce

Divorce is a reality for many. At OLOL, we want to offer you a safe space to talk about and process this new place in life with others who are also in this same life change. Consider joining us Tuesday evening, August 9, at 7:00 pm, or Wednesday morning, August 10, at 10:00 am, in Room 3, for an hour to discuss your needs and to talk about times for future meetings. If neither of these opportunities works for you, kindly contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316 x13 or at chmielewski@ololmke.org

The Elect?

This is the term used for our Catechumens as they enter the final weeks leading to full initiation into the Catholic Church; this is a time of deep prayer and reflection. Do you know someone who is searching for more? Perhaps you were baptized in another faith tradition or never completed your sacramental journey? Contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316 x13 or at chmielewski@ololmke.org to learn more.

Discipleship of All!

Our Discipleship Institute is ready to roll out Year 2 of opportunities to grow as disciples! Watch for more information on a 6-week program on the Gospel of Matthew as well as many other great experiences.

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, and bring a friend!

Week 4 (August 1) Topic: 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.

VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

DETACHMENT

Detachment is experiencing our feelings without allowing them to control us. We step back and look at things objectively.

We let go and accept what we cannot change. We detach from others' choices, knowing that their spiritual work is not ours to do.

We step away from harmful cravings. With detachment, we see our mistakes honestly, make amends, and start afresh.

It frees us to live our lives with grace.

How would it be to live your life as your soul chooses? Which impulses or cravings can you free yourself from?

WED 3

9:30 am Liturgy Church
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C

THU 4

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9

FRI 5

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

WORSHIP

The Mass: Part 5 – The Liturgy of the Word: Part I (continued)

“Our ‘Book,’ the Bible, that we use has within it a great many smaller books. And they contain all sorts of writing: legends, myths, histories, genealogies, laws, customs, wise sayings, humor, poetry, songs of every kind from love songs to war chants, prophecy, letters, sermons, parables, biography. Through the course of three years, the ‘Book’ is opened on Sundays to many parts of this collection.

“The first readings, except during Eastertime, come from the Hebrew scriptures: from Genesis, Exodus, Deuteronomy, Kings, Wisdom, Isaiah, Jeremiah and many other books. These first readings often give us a word or an image that will be reflected in the Gospel reading.

“Sometimes, for week after week, we read in order from one book. We do this especially with the second readings.

“In the Gospel readings, through much of each year, we go in order through Matthew, Mark or Luke. This order is broken when we come to the seasons of Advent, Lent, and Eastertime; on some of those Sundays we do our reading from the Gospel of John. Every three years, then, the Sunday readings give us most of the New Testament.

“Each week we fix our eyes and attention on the lector, and we listen. When the reading of God’s word is taking place in front of us, it is the spoken words of the reader we want to hear, not printed words on a page. This is why we no longer provide the readings in the form of booklets. It is common sense and simple respect that tells us to look at the one reading before us and focus our minds and hearts upon the words being proclaimed.”

(Gabe Huck, *Celebrations*, June 2016)

NOTE: Lectors spend much time in preparing the proclamation of the scriptures before they come to liturgy. They are entrusted to make every effort in helping us all to hear and receive the words of scripture and to “bring them to life” for us. Often this includes reading the surrounding scriptures to give better context as well as commentaries.

For our part as a worshipping community, we are meant to cling to these words and to allow God’s Spirit to reach our spirits. Sometimes it can be a simple word, a phrase, or an image, that may feed our hungry spirits

OUTREACH

Blood Drive

The next St. Vincent de Paul sponsored blood drive is August 8, from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm.

You can schedule your donation after any Mass or through the Blood Center of Wisconsin’s website: www.bcw.edu/OLOLO808

Walk-ups are always welcome. Refreshments are provided.

Children’s Sock & Underwear

Human Concerns Committee is sponsoring its 4th annual Children’s Sock & Underwear drive to benefit the less fortunate children of the greater Milwaukee area. Packages of socks and underwear sizes 4 – 18 (new only, please) can be dropped off in the classroom hallway collection box from July 30 through August 7. All donations will be delivered to the Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for distribution to families for the new school year.

2016 Friends of the Poor® Walk/Run

Marquette University Campus - Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am

Come walk/run and have fun! All proceeds benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program!

Bring out the whole family and enjoy music, inflatable games, and a picnic lunch!

Register at: <http://www.svdpmilw.org/walk1.aspx>

Sharing Weekend

Next weekend, **August 6/7**, 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.

SAT 6

Voter Information
Blood Drive Sign-up
Festival Sign-up
Children’s Sock and Underwear Collection
5:00 pm Liturgy Church

SUN 7

Voter Information
Blood Drive Sign-up
Festival Sign-up
Children’s Sock and Underwear Collection
8:00 am Liturgy Church
10:30 am Liturgy Church
6:00 pm Liturgy Church

PSA (Parishioner Service Announcement)

For a number of years, we have incorporated the use of our Worship Space camera into our Masses on a regular basis. We began with showing sacraments and eventually, after many parishioners requests, the Eucharistic Prayer. These additions were made to help people enter into more full, active, and conscious participation in the liturgy, especially those who have a difficult time seeing when everyone is standing.

We are happy to announce that after many requests, we will begin showing the reading of the Gospel on the screens. Parishioners and visitors have been inquiring about this possibility for some time. We are pleased to add this new aspect to our A/V ministry during Mass to serve the OLOL community.

Pastoral Council Update

We are pleased to announce the election of Lucy Birschbach, Jacqueline Dombrowski, and Brian Neal to the Pastoral Council. Their initial orientation occurred in June. During the meeting on September 21, 2016, we will commission them and all council members. If you see Lucy, Jackie, or Brian (or any other council members), please thank her or him for the service each person offers.

You may know that the state of Wisconsin corporate law requires that we elect two persons as officers of the parish corporation. Chuck Thimmesch was re-elected for a three-year term during the June 2016 meeting; Roger Julga was elected in June 2015.

The Pastoral Council's primary role is fostering and supporting pastoral activity. Each year, the council sets goals to accomplish these responsibilities. Please let us know your thoughts about the coming year's goals, especially as we try to discern how to respond to society's intense needs to face our divisions and to move forward with clustering.

You are most welcome to attend Pastoral Council meetings. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. (We've added a half hour so that we have more discussion time.) We will **not** meet in August as we will be involved in preparations for the festival - and we hope you'll join us!

Judeen Schulte, SSSF, Pastoral Council

CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 12:13-21

"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." This isn't a message that gets much advertising. On the contrary, just about every advertised message we hear comes from someone who wants to make money by selling us possessions. In today's culture, it's hard to remember that life isn't about possessions. But in this Gospel, Jesus reminds us that there is more to life. Unlike the fool who spends all of his time, energy, and money building larger barns, we should focus our resources on becoming "rich in what matters to God." This means cultivating virtue instead of vice. It means sharing our money with those in need instead of hoarding it out of selfish greed. The call is a challenging one, and countercultural too. But Jesus never said that the Christian way was the way of the world. Instead of falling for the marketers' messages, may we have the wisdom to store up our treasure in heaven.

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SUNDAY READINGS

Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23:

How does "vanity" play in your life?

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11:

How do Paul's words ("seek what is above") challenge you?

Luke 12:13-21:

How does the parable of the rich fool speak to you personally?

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Support for Our Travelers



OLOL in
Mission

On August 2-8, 2016 five parishioners (Tanya Gross, Ralph Stewart, Cate Sullivan-Konyn, Colleen Sullivan-Konyn, and Grace Sullivan-Konyn) from Our Lady of Lourdes will be visiting Outreach to Haiti, in Port au Prince. We are asking for our parish to support them as they represent us in Haiti.

First, and most importantly, we are asking you to commit to praying for our travelers during their trip. Can you pledge 5-10 minutes a day to keep these people and the people of Haiti in prayer? We will be trying to do daily reports on OLOL's website again this year, so as you are praying for the group you can see updates of what they are doing.

Secondly, we are asking for financial support. In recent years the cost of the trip has really increased (mainly due to higher airline fares) and is harder and harder for our travelers to cover from their personal funds. If you would be willing to contribute anything to offset the cost of the trip, it would be greatly appreciated.

-----cut here-----

Support Form for Haiti Travelers

Your Name: _____

_____ Yes, I will commit to pray 5-10 minutes each day for our travelers and the people of Haiti during their journey August 2-8, 2016.

_____ Yes, I would like to financially support our travelers. (checks can be made out to OLOL)

Amount: \$ _____

Envelope # _____

Please return this form to the parish office or put it in the collection basket



Oktoberfest



BASKET RAFFLE

Our Lady of Lourdes is known for the variety of music in our church. As Oktoberfest begins to send strains of oom-pah-pahs and dancing rhythms, we again ask for assistance on creating new baskets for our raffle.

Last season's basket harvest was overwhelming. We cannot cease singing praise and thanks for all of you who donated baskets and basket items. It was your efforts that made our raffle a wonderful harvest of generosity. Now with our feet tapping and our brains whirling we are creating new songs for our Oktoberfest Basket Performance.

Are you or someone you know able to donate a unique or "priceless" service or product? Here are some examples: special artwork, unique home decorations, family events (outings, movies, game night). Theme baskets could be home, kitchen, crafting, car clean-up, hotel or resort. The items for the raffle basket could be assembled by one person, a family, or even a group. If you do not want to assemble a basket, you can donate the items. We can do the assembly. Donations of big baskets and cellophane for wrapping will also be greatly appreciated.

Throughout your summer redecorating, vacationing, and shopping, look for items that could enhance our Oktoberfest raffle baskets. If you are not sure what might be a useful donation, think about what types of items you would like to see in a basket. Also, watch for a list of possible items in the near future. So for now...listen for the music starting as a quiet tune.

What can you do to compose more wonderful Oktoberfest baskets? Can we again create a beautiful song? Maybe a concert?

Kris Strnad
Oktoberfest Raffle Basket Songstress



Connect!

Uniting Word & World



Studying God's Word

- Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23
- Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11
- Luke 12:13-21 [114C]

In the Gospel reading for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus warns against the dangers of greed. Jesus invites would-be followers not to place too much emphasis on personal possessions and monetary wealth.

As Jesus continues on his journey to Jerusalem, someone from the crowd makes a request of him: "Teacher, tell my brother to share the inheritance with me." Rather than get involved in family matters between siblings and inheritance rights, Jesus offers two responses. Jesus' first immediate response is to give some simple advice, a warning against greed and the desire for material possessions. Jesus' second and more measured response is to tell a parable to the crowd. This is the second parable that Jesus delivers on his journey to Jerusalem. Throughout the travel narrative, Jesus will deliver a total of twelve parables, nine of which are unique to the Gospel of Luke. The parable of the rich fool in today's Gospel reading is one of the parables found only in Luke.

Discipleship in the Gospel of Luke carries a very clear set of expectations. Among other things, a disciple must keep a proper attitude toward wealth and possessions. This is a prominent Lucan theme, more so than any other Evangelist (see, for example, today's reading, 12:13-21; 12:22-34; 14:25-38; 16:19-31; 18:18-23; 19:1-10).

Jesus sought to challenge the crowd in his presentation of the parable of the rich fool.

For Jesus' ancient audience, the rich man would have been judged as foolish and even dishonorable because he chose not to share his surplus wealth with others who would have granted him public praise and earned him an honorable reputation as a generous patron to others within his community. But Jesus discourages this typical reaction by inviting the crowd to go beyond the desire for material possessions and the acquisition of a higher honor rating; seek instead the spiritual treasure offered by God—eternal life through his Son.

The first reading is taken from the Book of Ecclesiastes. Thought to have been written in the third century BC, Ecclesiastes belongs to Israel's wisdom tradition. The reading for today reflects Israel's long-standing tradition on the futility of material possessions: "Vanity of vanities! All things [i.e., possessions] are vanity!" Vanity here means emptiness or futility. For the author of Ecclesiastes, the "toil and anxiety of heart" that is spent on the pursuit of material possessions is simply not worth it.

In the second reading, Paul picks up on this wisdom tradition in his letter to the Christian community in Colossae. He tells the Colossians to "think of what is above, not of what is on earth." For Paul, what is "on earth" can only bring futility and emptiness; but what "is above" (Christ) brings spiritual fulfillment. "Earthly" things, such as "immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and the greed that is idolatry" bring only self-destruction and personal suffering.

From the perspective of the ancient Israelites, American Catholics live in a land of unimaginable material possessions and wealth. The readings for today are an important

reminder to us not to let material possessions and wealth be our ultimate concern. We should seek rather God's spiritual possessions.

Dr. Daniel J. Scholz

Inspiring Your Homily

The 1944 Alfred Hitchcock film *Lifeboat* depicts shipwreck survivors adrift on the sea. The castaways included a glamorous and spoiled journalist, who made it into the lifeboat bedecked with a mink coat and diamond bracelet. These items were the only things that seemed to matter to her, until there was a greater need. The mink coat made its way to warm a fellow castaway grieving the loss of her baby. The journalist expressed her wish that the diamond bracelet was made of ice, which would have provided some drinking water for the parched castaways. She eventually surrendered her bracelet to be used as a fishing lure. However, before the catch of the day could be boated, the bracelet sank to the sea's bottom. The pretentious items lost their glitz in the drifting boat. Her cherished symbols of wealth became potential lifesavers in the most unexpected ways. Their value increased dramatically when they were given over to help others.

The Gospel story of the foolish rich man challenges our attitudes toward worldly things. This parable does not necessarily denigrate the rich. It addresses attitudes toward one's possessions and encourages wealth to be the vehicle to charity. Possessions can cut us off from concern about others, or they can be the means to selfless giving. The richest person alive, if of the right disposition of heart, could very well be the most loving and generous person alive.

The foolish rich man exemplifies a life without God. He was a poster child for Qoheleth's vanity warning. The rich man had his life well organized, however, it was organized without any thought of God. It was all about his own survival. That very night his life was to end and his wealth would become valueless, at least to him. He condemned himself to spiritual death.

Consider the rich man's words: "*He asked himself, 'What shall I do, for I do not have space to store my harvest.' And he said, 'This is what I shall do: I shall tear down my barns and build larger ones. There I shall store all my grain and other goods.'"* His words are self-centered: myself, I, my. The Lord's part of the dialogue does not speak of "I," but is oriented toward the other. The contrast between the foolish rich man and the loving and altruistic Lord is obvious. The Lord is concerned about the eternal state of the foolish rich man and so he challenges him.

The parable is as applicable today as when it was first uttered by Jesus. Our culture is a breeding ground for narcissism. We inventory our material securities and seek to protect and increase them to the fullest sense. Would that we spent the same energy and ingenuity for our spiritual riches.

Our world seems to suffer from an ongoing spiritual epidemic. The Lord offers a cure for potential spiritual death through love and charity. What is the spiritual condition of our lives? The rich man's bounty yielded but only sighs and concerns. It brought only worries about what to do with all he had. He was greatly blessed, but so down and out. His blessings brought such lament to his heart. Imagine such success bringing such misery. Does Qoheleth's vanity of vanities warning apply to us?

A responsible steward recognizes the blessings of life to be shared. The foolish and vain approach stores the bounty and locks the door, much like jumping from a sinking ship into a lifeboat bedecked with minks and jewels. A faithful Christian is not overly concerned with storing bounty, but more so with throwing a lifesaver to those in need. This is the how God has dealt with us. God's love is not stored and locked away. It is extended to all. His love is a lifesaver for those adrift on the sea of sin and materialism. Possessions and wealth are not to bloat our egos and bank accounts, for they only get old, wear out, devalue, and deteriorate. Basing one's life on such things is sheer foolishness.



The lesson is clear. Our blessings are a means for us to be good stewards. Recognize who has given the gifts and why you have been blessed and who can benefit from those blessings. Appreciate the gifts the Lord has given you and use them for God's honor and to help others.

Recently, this pastor had a conversation with a seven-year-old on his birthday, which further illustrates the theme of today's Gospel parable. After a Sunday Mass, Stuart was happy to announce that it was his birthday. He provided a rundown of all the special treatment he would be receiving that day. His mother was preparing his favorite dishes for the family to enjoy. The menu was to include pork loin, risotto, beets, corn, and grilled pineapple. There would be a chocolate cake, topped with KitKat candy bars that would form a nest, only to hold as many M&Ms as possible. He further announced that he received a card from his grandparents in the mail, which couldn't be opened until later that day. With eyes as big as pizzas, he exclaimed, "It feels like there is like forty dollars inside." He quickly added, "So next week, I will have some money for the poor box."

How is it that a seven-year-old possesses such generosity of the heart, while the rich man in the parable and the castaway journalist in the lifeboat, and perhaps we, exhibit such foolish attitudes? Life is futile if lived apart from God. Share what blessings come your way and be rich in the sight of God. Whatever you have to offer others could very well be a lifesaver for them. Clear out your storage barn. Keep excesses out of your lifeboat. And enjoy your cake. But don't be a fool.

Rev. Donald W. Cieniewicz

Quoting from Tradition

For when in the Gospel the Lord was discoursing concerning almsgiving, and faithfully and wholesomely warned us to make to ourselves friends of our earthly lucre by provident good works, who might afterwards receive us into eternal dwellings, the Scripture added after this, and said, "But the Pharisees heard all these things, who were very covetous, and they derided Him." Some suchlike we see now in the Church, whose closed ears and darkened hearts admit no light from spiritual and saving warnings... The gloom of barrenness has besieged your mind; and while the light of truth has departed thence, the deep and profound darkness of avarice has blinded your carnal heart. You are the captive and slave of your money; you are bound with the chains and bonds of covetousness; and you whom Christ had once loosed, are once more in chains. You keep your money, which, when kept, does not keep you. You heap up a patrimony which burdens you with its weight; and you do not remember what God answered to the rich man, who boasted with a foolish exultation of the abundance of his exuberant harvest: "Thou fool," said He, "this night thy soul is required of thee; then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?" Why do you watch in loneliness over your riches? Why for your punishment do you heap up the burden of your patrimony, that, in proportion as you are rich in this world, you may become poor to God? Divide your returns with the Lord your God; share your gains with Christ; make Christ a partner with you in your earthly possessions, that He also may make you a fellow-heir with Him in His heavenly kingdom. You are mistaken, and are deceived, whosoever you are, that think yourself rich in this world.

*Cyprian, Treatise VIII, On Works and Alms.
Translation from The Ante-Nicene Fathers of the
Christian Church. Volume 5. Edited by P. Schaff et al.
Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 2001.
Research by Jay Martin*

Building Your Liturgy

July 31, 2016

The entrance antiphon today is from Psalm 70, “O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me!” When one prays the Church’s Liturgy of the Hours, it is the verse that we begin with every time. This Sunday the antiphon continues, “You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.”

This need to trust in the Lord and call upon him for help is the way to be firmly grounded in the Lord. Ecclesiastes reminds us that without God it is all “vanity of vanities” and the Gospel’s parable speaks of the one with large grain bins dying. “Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one’s life does not consist of possessions.”

Similarly, our second reading from Colossians reminds us to “seek what is above, where Christ is” and put to death all of us that is earthly. We are given so many clues in the liturgy. The psalm ties it all together: “Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart.”

It is important to use a good setting of the psalm, with the correct verses chosen for today’s readings. There is one very popular refrain that has been on the musical market for some time, but the verses are pretty far away from this. Check your psalm texts against the Lectionary when choosing between arrangements.

This same trust and hope in the Lord is found in the Collect: “That, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored.” There is surely no “vanity” in that prayer, but pure and simple confidence in God. May we have that same confidence, and convey it to our congregations.

Rory Cooney’s “We Will Serve the Lord” might be a rousing way to end your liturgy. Michael Joncas’ beautiful “Love of the Lord” reminds us, “All that I counted is loss...” without the love of the Lord, and ties to the readings nicely. “How Can I Keep from Singing” and “This Is

the Feast” also put things in perspective well. Trevor Thompson’s “We Belong to You” is a nice contemporary choice. St. Bernard of Clairvaux’s “O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts” would be good whether it was placed with the traditional chant melody or the hymn tune QUEBEC.

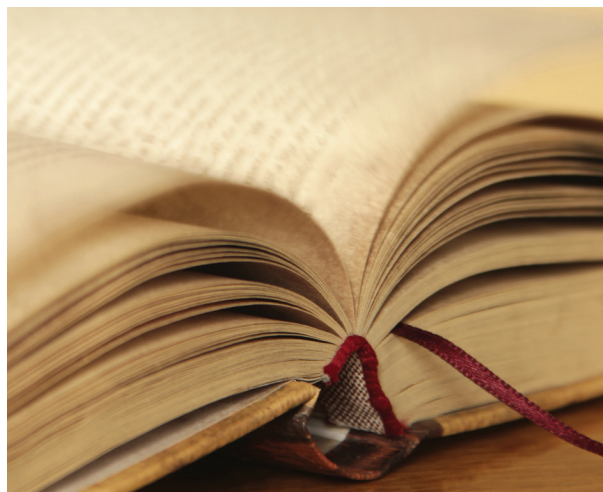
Planning Your Week

Monday is the memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori, one of the doctors of the church. He was a bishop, lawyer, and wise man. You may use the proper of Saints, Preface 1 or 2 of Saints, or Holy Pastors.

Thursday is another great priest, St. John Vianney. He is the patron saint of parish priests, though he barely became one himself. He was a rather simple man, but became a wonderful confessor and spiritual guide. People still flock to the French village near Lyons in pilgrimage.

Saturday is the Transfiguration of the Lord. White, with a Gloria. Everything for the feast is self-contained, along with the preface, “The mystery of the Transfiguration.” There are a number of hymns particular to this day, including “’Tis Good Lord to Be Here” (SWABIA), Carey Landry’s “Transfiguration,” Bob Hurd’s “Transfigure Us,” and the old Joe Wise piece, “We’ll Just Say that We’ve Been to the Mountain.” There isn’t space to go into the prayers for the day here, but they are beautiful. Prepare them well in advance.

Jill Maria Murdy



Raising Your Prayers

Introductions

For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).
We all struggle with the illusion that happiness is found in our possessions. God constantly reminds us that we will never find happiness through the possession of earthly things but only in the things of heaven, the things that matter to God. What matters to God? Care for the poor, the widow, and the marginalized; pursuing love at all costs; and raising our thoughts to what is above are the things that matter to God.

Penitential Act

With God's kindness,
our lives can be blessed with gladness.
Seeking to take off our old self
and put on a new self,
we ask God to cleanse us of our sins.
(Pause for silent reflection.)

Lord Jesus,
you teach us to number our days aright so that
we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you fill us with your kindness so that we may
shout with joy and gladness all our days.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus,
you ask us to return to you and not harden
our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.



Prayer of the Faithful

We now take this opportunity
to raise our thoughts to what is above
and realize that we are being renewed
in the image of our Creator.
Seeking happiness in what matters to God,
we now voice our prayers to him.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis,
and for all clergy and ministers of the faith,
that they will show the world, by example,
what it means to pursue the things of heaven,
guarding against greed in all its forms.
We pray to the Lord.

For each of us,
that we may gain wisdom of heart,
realizing that our days on earth are numbered,
that the riches of this world are empty
and our true treasure is found in heaven.
We pray to the Lord.

For those who are homeless, poor, weak,
and those who are alone today,
that we will not dismiss or ignore them
but extend to them a genuine helping hand,
knowing that this is what God wants us to do.
We pray to the Lord.

For those who have died,
that, now seeing God as he is
and becoming like him,
they may experience the happiness and joy
for which they always longed.
We pray to the Lord.

Compassionate God,
the fleeting pleasures of this life
can appear so attractive
and even appear to fill our emptiness.
But believing this is foolish
as there is futility in pursuing pleasure in this life
as it all can be taken away in an instant.
Give us the wisdom to see as you see
and to value and love what you love.
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 12:13-21

"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." This isn't a message that gets much advertising. On the contrary, just about every advertised message we hear comes from someone who wants to make money by selling us possessions. In today's culture, it's hard to remember that life isn't about possessions. But in this Gospel, Jesus reminds us that there is more to life. Unlike the fool who spends all of his time, energy, and money building larger barns, we should focus our resources on becoming "rich in what matters to God." This means cultivating virtue instead of vice. It means sharing our money with those *in need* instead of hoarding it out of selfish *greed*. The call is a challenging one, and countercultural too. But Jesus never said that the Christian way was the way of the world. Instead of falling for the marketers' messages, may we have the wisdom to store up our treasure in heaven.

Questions of the Week

Luke 12:13-21:

How does the parable of the rich fool speak to you personally?



Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23:

What role does "vanity" play in your life?

Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11:

How do Paul's words ("seek what is above") challenge you?

Everyday Stewardship

In the Church we like to build things. We build churches, parish centers, schools, and many more brick-and-mortar structures to carry on with our mission. We also build things that are not as tangible. We build engagement. We try to increase the offertory. We work to increase the number of people in programs. We try to fill more seats on a Sunday. Hopefully, we do all these things to help fulfill our mission, which is to bring people to Jesus Christ and assist them in becoming mature and intentional disciples. But having spent over twenty years in parish ministry, I realize that is not always the case.

As individuals we can fall prey to the same temptations as a parish community. We begin to lose sight of why we live a stewardship way of life and why we were called in our baptism to share with others the good news. We compete with others, much like a parish sometimes competes with the parish across town. We may find ourselves doing things without thought or reflection, performing these tasks simply because that is what we have always done. Finally, we may limit our role in God's plan because we fear not having the time, talent, or money to accomplish what God has asked of us. We become more practical and less trusting in God's promises.

The reality is that there will come a day when all our churches, parish centers, and schools will be no more. All we have stored up as communities and individuals will cease to exist. All that will remain is God and those who love him. We can never lose sight of why we do what we do: eternal life with Jesus Christ. Will there be a list at the end of your life of all those you helped lead to the Father? I do not know. But if there is one, my prayer for each of us is that it is very, very long.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS