

AUG 21, 2016

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



# Our Lady of Lourdes

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



Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate." - Lk 13:23-24a

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**

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**FAX** (414) 541-2251

# FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

## Parish Support - August 1-7, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic) .....	\$13,678.00
Offertory .....	\$1,055.06

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

Contributions Received.....	\$79,835.07
Contribution Budget.....	\$73,250.00
<b>Difference as of 8/7/16.....</b>	<b>\$6,585.07</b>

Operating Income* .....	\$88,460.30
Operating Expenses.....	\$66,732.12
<b>Balance as of 7/31/16.....</b>	<b>\$21,728.18</b>

\*Includes Bequest of Life Insurance Benefit = \$17,488.54

## Improvement Fund Updates

Beginning Balance 7/1/16.....	\$103,671.52
Donations .....	\$6,293.00
Expenses.....	\$0.00
<b>Balance as of 8/7/16 .....</b>	<b>\$109,964.52</b>

## Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

<b>KOVG Cash Balance as of 8/7/16.....</b>	<b>\$158,214.03</b>
Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016).....	\$190,267.00
Expenses already paid .....	(\$34,686.12)
<b>Remaining Project Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$155,580.88</b>

# CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

Date	Prize	Ticket	Winner
8/7 .....	\$50.00 .....	0287 .....	Bruce & Mary Zahn
8/8 .....	\$20.00 .....	0378 .....	Dirk Sattler
8/9 .....	\$20.00 .....	0508 .....	Lucy Birschbach
8/10.....	\$20.00 .....	0652 .....	Barbara Szabelski
8/11.....	\$20.00 .....	1235 .....	Jean Lovo
8/12.....	\$20.00 .....	0702 .....	Maxine Stypa
8/13.....	\$20.00 .....	0285 .....	Rich & Lauren Geigel

# COMMUNITY LIFE

## Wedding Banns

Ill Megan Sajdak & Thomas Holtan

## In Memoriam

In loving memory of

**Joan Juriewicz**

From

**Tom & Nancy Maher**

**Kathleen Schmid**

## Oktoberfest Artisan Fair 2016 Planning Meeting

August 24, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Help plan a party! It's fun!

Topic: Publicity Push - making press packets for churches and communities

## Faith Sharing Group

The Faith Sharing Group will begin its 2016-2017 book discussion sessions on Tuesday, September 6, and continue every other Tuesday evening through May (excluding December). We meet in Room 3 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. This year, we will be reading and discussing the book, *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* by James Martin, SJ.

Author Scott Hahn says, "This book isn't about a pilgrimage. It is a pilgrimage, and we make it in the company of a great raconteur. I didn't want the pilgrimage to end."

All are welcome to accompany us on this pilgrimage with Fr. Martin. The book is available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

For more information, contact Judy Monday at (414) 427-0216 or [judy monday@wi.rr.com](mailto:judy monday@wi.rr.com).

**SUN 21**

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

**MON 22**

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

**TUE 23**

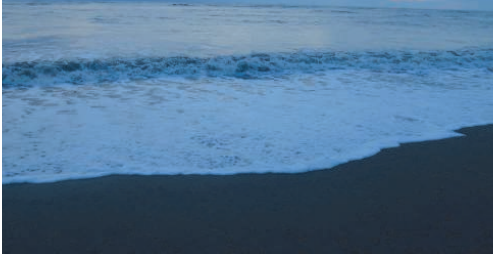
8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9  
3:00 pm Food Pantry Rm 4  
6:00 pm Finance Council Mtg. Rm 9  
7:00 pm GIFT Core  
Team Mtg. Rm 2

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AUG. 19, 20 & 21

## Mercy Moment

“For steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the LORD endures forever.”

[Ps 117: 2]



# FORMATION

## GIFT and Joy!

It's never too early to register for GIFT: Generations in Faith Together, our primary formation opportunity! This coming year, we will explore many aspects of the joy of the Gospel. Learn more about the topics and register by visiting our webpage: <http://www.ololmke.org/gift/>. New to OLOL? Information about GIFT and how it works as well as sacrament preparation can be found at this same site, or contact Steve Szymanski, Mary Osep, or Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316.

## Discipleship of All!

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

## Do You Like to Read, Discuss, and Share?

Here's what's coming up for the independent book group: *Two Dogs and a Parrot: What Our Animal Friends Can Teach Us About Life* – by Joan Chittister.

Joan Chittister, a leading inspirational writer, invites you to embrace and celebrate the deep bond between humans and animals. She illuminates the significance of sharing our lives with a pet and celebrates the great gift of animals in our world.

We will meet beginning Tuesday, September 13, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm and continue through the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Read the first two chapters for September 13. Kindly contact the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316 or see our website at [ololmke.org/bible-and-book-study/](http://ololmke.org/bible-and-book-study/) for more information.

## The Artist Within

The OLOL Art Guild is ready to launch a new year of art opportunities of many forms and shapes! Are you an artist? Do you enjoy dabbling in the artistic? Do you simply have an appreciation for art in its numerous forms? Then join us on Wednesday, August 31, from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm to check us out! Kindly contact the Parish Office at (414) 545-4316 or see our website at [ololmke.org/art-ministry/](http://ololmke.org/art-ministry/) for more information.

## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

### ENTHUSIASM

Enthusiasm is being filled with the spirit. It means “God within.” When we live with enthusiasm, we are excited about life and are open to the wonders each day holds. We do things wholeheartedly, with zeal and eagerness, holding nothing back. We enjoy good humor. We live in the moment and appreciate what we have, finding joy in simple pleasures.

What can you be wholeheartedly enthusiastic about in your life?

**WED 24**

9:30 am Liturgy Church  
6:00 pm Baptism Prep Hall C  
6:30 pm Oktoberfest Planning Mtg. Rm 7  
7:00 pm New Parishioner Cmt. Mtg. Rm 9

**THU 25**

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9  
1:00 pm Cancer Support Grp. Rm 9

**FRI 26**

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9

## WORSHIP

### The Mass: The Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation

Following the Psalm Response, we have the Second Reading, which is usually taken from the New Testament and generally serves as a bridge between the First Reading and the Gospel. Most come from the Letters of St. Paul, but not all.

St. Paul can get, shall we say, a bit wordy and can present quite a challenge to both the lector as well as the assembly. Even with diligent preparation to proclaim the Second Reading with clarity and ease, which can take numerous readings, the lector must strive to help the assembly understand the scripture in just one hearing.

The Second Reading is followed by the Gospel Acclamation—the Alleluia. The Alleluia is our “procession” into the Gospel reading. There are times when the Alleluia is accompanied with sacred movement, incense, candles, and even touch (such as Palm Sunday when it is processed throughout the assembly). The idea is to involve all of our senses and highlight the importance of the Gospel message.

After the Alleluia, the text is announced and we respond by signing ourselves with the cross on our foreheads, our lips, and our heart to show that the Gospel speaks to our minds, forms our words, and changes our hearts.

(adapted from an article by Gabe Huck in *Celebrations*, June 2016)

### Save the Date!

On **Friday, September 16 at 7:00 pm**, we will host **Gaelynn Lea** in concert. Read the Spotlight article for more about this incredible musician. Go to [ololmke.org/concerts](http://ololmke.org/concerts) to watch her Tiny Desk concert and other videos of her music.



### Save the Date!

Join us **Saturday, October 29, from 9:00 am to noon** in the Parish Hall for Fare-Thee-Well — an opportunity to learn about, talk about, ask questions, and make plans for your funeral or that of a loved one. More information to come!

## OUTREACH

### From St. Vincent de Paul

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells us to “strive to enter through the narrow gate.” Our call to be disciples and to follow Jesus demands that we learn to live for the sake of others.

With love for your neighbors who have nothing, look around your house to see which furniture, household items, and clothing you no longer use and prayerfully consider giving it to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

### Thank You!!

Thanks to all who supported the recent St Vincent de Paul sponsored blood drive. A big **thank you** to the 27 donors. Twenty-three units of blood were collected that will help save 69 lives! The next blood drive will be held in February 2017. Hope to see you then.

### Helping Hands Needed!

Aurora at Home is seeking compassionate volunteers to assist our hospice patients and their families in Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.

Our volunteers visit hospice patients in their own homes allowing the caregiver a few hours of respite. Volunteers might read, do light household chores, make or deliver meals. They may make bereavement calls to family members and can also provide clerical support to our office staff. Lastly, if you are a professional willing to share your time and talents, we would like to have volunteers who can offer music, massage, pet therapy, beauty treatments, or other gifts that benefit our patients.

Required skills: compassion, empathy, and a willingness to listen and learn. Aurora at Home provides 15 - 20 hours of training. To learn more, please contact Megan Beine, Volunteer Coordinator, at [megan.beine@aurora.org](mailto:megan.beine@aurora.org) or (414) 328-4453.

**SAT 27**

**SUN 28**

<i>Community Weekend</i>		
9:00 am	Baptism Rehearsal	Church
2:00 pm	Sajdak/Holtan	
	Wedding	Church
5:00 pm	Liturgy (Baptisms)	Church

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

## Take a Breath Before Hitting Send

This weekend, we see the conclusion of another Summer Olympics. As always, there are moments that are joyous and others that are heartbreaking. Sports and patriotism can bring out the best and worst in people. Unfortunately, social media has been abused as a platform for that negative side of humanity: from athletes saying hurtful things to their competitors after a loss to fans bullying an Olympian for not living up to their standard of patriotism or sportsmanship.

Social media is an awesome tool, but it shouldn't be used to broadcast every thought a person has. Take a breath before you send something out to the cyber universe and filter it through how Jesus would respond.

Marc Puechner

## A Concert Like No Other

I first heard Gaelynn Lea on a National Public Radio (NPR) podcast. Once I heard her perform, I had to go to YouTube and see this amazing performer. Gaelynn composes original music and lyrics. She plays the violin using a loop pedal to layer harmonies to accompany her vocals. She performs in the band The Murder of Crows and tours the Midwest. This does not seem that extraordinary until you see Gaelynn. At age 32, she stands about 2 feet tall. Diagnosed with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (Brittle Bones Disease), Gaelynn suffered 30-50 bone breaks before she was born. Because of her small stature, she was unable to play her dream instrument, the cello, but her teacher helped her figure out a way to play the violin like a cello so she could still become the musician she longed to be.

This year, Gaelynn's students encouraged her to enter NPR's Tiny Desk Concert Contest. Her submission won, beating over 6,000 videos! In July, Gaelynn performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. From NPR, to the Kennedy Center, to Our Lady of Lourdes! Gaelynn will be with us Friday, September 16, at 7:00 pm, for a concert. Afterwards, you can meet and talk with her and also purchase copies of her recordings. A freewill offering will be taken to offset the cost of the event.

Gaelynn's website states, "Gaelynn believes that society must make accessibility a priority so people with disabilities can participate fully in their communities and use their talents and gifts without discrimination." What better artist to host as the first performer in our newly renovated, handicap accessible worship space? I am excited for you to meet her and experience her joy and spirit!

Peg Kasun

# CONNECT! WITH THE WORD

## MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 13:22-30

"Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." For Jesus' original audience, this reference was meant for those Jews who presumed their salvation while judging others as being unworthy of entering the kingdom of God. But we should not assume that this Gospel was only for those people in that time and place. Today, there is perhaps a different stratum of first and last. In our Christian era, we can be tempted to have the same presumptuous attitude that afflicted too many of the Jewish contemporaries of Christ. We can think that our salvation is assured just because we bear the title Christian. This simply isn't true. God's mercy is available to everyone who humbly recognizes one's need for it. The minute we become complacent or overconfident, we close ourselves off to the gift of mercy God offers to the repentant sinner. Jesus tells us today that we must "strive to enter through the narrow gate." This means that we must not take the easy road of presumption, assuming that we are in good shape because we look like most of the people around us.

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## SUNDAY READINGS

### Isaiah 66:18-21:

What do you find most challenging in Isaiah's vision of the age to come?

### Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13:

When do you find yourself with "weak knees" in your faith journey?

### Luke 13:22-30:

Why do you think Jesus so often spoke of reversals in the kingdom of God?

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- Luke 6:38  
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It's so easy to get along with people like me but what about:

- those I don't particularly like
- agree with
- are somehow different or threatening

If these thoughts occur to you, then join us for a  
*Six Weeks with the Bible* study as we ponder:

## *Relating to Others as Jesus Would*

The words and actions of Jesus teach us much about how we should relate to others. Anyone interested in making their relationships with others stronger will benefit from this bible study.

If you are a busy adult who wants to study the Bible but doesn't know where to begin, *Six Weeks with the Bible* provides an inviting starting point. All biblical text is printed in the guides, which means no additional study aids are required.

**Morning person?**



**Our Lady of Lourdes**

**Thursdays, September 1 - October 6**

**10:00 am - 11:30 am**

**Night owl?**



**St. Gregory the Great**

**Thursdays, September 15 - October 20**

**6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**

Please contact Nancie Chmielewski at (414) 545-4316 x13 or  
chmielewskin@ololmke.org to register by August 31.

*There is an \$8.00 fee for the book, payable at the first session.*

# Bring **CHRIST** To Election 2016!

Not happy or confused about the Presidential election. There is hope. Your faith can provide insight that leads to making moral choices.



**Night One:** How can we interface spirituality and politics, form our conscience & engage in civil dialogue - Fr. Chuck Schramm ,ThM, MSW

**Night Two:** Join a facilitated small group to share your views, and listen to other members of our faith community in a safe environment.

Being faithful means you take action.

Come. Get Informed.

Join the discussion.

## All Programs Start at 6:30 pm

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# Connect!

*Uniting* Word & World



## Studying God's Word

- Isaiah 66:18-21
- Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
- Luke 13:22-30 [123C]

The readings for the Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time warn believers against the presumption of privilege. The Christian life and the salvation derived from it require more than just a profession of faith; one must put faith into action.

Since the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (June 26), we have taken the Gospel readings from Luke's travel narrative (9:51—19:44). Luke reminds us of the journey in the opening words to today's Gospel reading: "Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem." Throughout the travel narrative, Luke has focused on Jesus teaching to three different groups: the crowds, his disciples, and his opponents (typically the Jewish religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees). In today's reading, Jesus is speaking to the crowds of would-be followers. The conversation begins with a single question from someone in the crowd, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Jesus' answer serves as both a warning and a challenge. Simply acknowledging that you were present and listening to God's word ("We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets") does not secure one's salvation. In fact, passive listeners to the words of Christ will face divine rejection on Judgment Day, condemned as "evildoers!" Further, God's mercy and salvation will be offered not only to Israel, but to people of faith from all the nations who were "strong enough" to "enter through the

narrow gate" through works of justice, mercy, and compassion to all those in need.

The first reading is from the prophet Isaiah. The Book of Isaiah is the longest text of the Bible, sixty-six chapters in length. The final section, Isaiah 56–66, is referred to as "Third Isaiah" and is thought to have been compiled sometime after Israel's return from the Babylonian Exile, post-537 BC. With First Isaiah (chapters 1–39) containing materials dating back to the historical Isaiah, beginning around 735 BC, and Second Isaiah (chapters 40–55) preserving the words and activities of the prophet active during the Babylonian Exile about 550 BC, the entire Book of Isaiah covers over two hundred years of Israel's history. Today's reading is taken from the final words of this prophetic text. It foreshadows a time when all the "nations of every language" will gather together and see God's "glory." The Book of Isaiah ends with Isaiah's vision of the consummation of this age. Isaiah sees God active in this age, bringing together all the nations of the earth, including "the distant coastlands." God gathers people from these vast nations and brings them to his "holy mountain," Jerusalem, even elevating some of them to the roles of "priests and Levites." In his teaching to the crowds on his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus, too, foresaw God's divine intervention at his second coming: "And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God."

In the second reading from Hebrews, we hear the author characterize community members as having "drooping hands" and "weak knees." Throughout this letter, the author is critical of his community, commenting that they are in

danger of ignoring “so great a salvation” (2:3), have become “sluggish in hearing” (5:11; 6:12), do not assemble as a community (10:25), and are not upholding its original confession of faith (4:14; 10:23). The author exhorts his community to view the trials they face as believers as part of the “discipline” of faith. Only with discipline and endurance can one put faith into action and enter into the kingdom of God.

*Dr. Daniel J. Scholz*

## Inspiring Your Homily

When we hear the word “discipline,” different images run through our minds. For some, the word has positive connotations and for others, negative. While many popular definitions of discipline involve some kind of punishment or corrective action, there is more. Merriam-Webster tells us that discipline is “training that corrects, molds, or perfects the mental faculties or moral character.” Based on this idea, it seems that discipline is really necessary to achieve any development or growth.

We have all heard stories of success that are attributed to folks who embraced discipline. These are stories told by athletes, those with physical and mental challenges, people who struggled with addiction and even of saints who found themselves drawn into a relationship with God. It is no secret that practicing a life of discipline can produce great results. In fact, achieving greatness in anything depends upon one’s willingness to accept some measure of discipline.

Any athlete will tell you that in order to excel you have to get in shape. This requires eating properly, working out, getting proper rest, maintaining balance, and positive thinking. Pursued together, these things produce the focus necessary to obtain your goal. They also produce endurance. As an athlete begins to increase his abilities, endurance increases. Prior to training and working out, walking a mile may have been a difficult challenge. A few months later, walking

three miles is accomplished with ease. The better we train, the more we can endure.

As true as this is for matters of physical endurance, it is even truer for matters of life. Life can easily bring us to a point of despair, especially when we are trying to live our life with faith. There is this little expectation in the back of our heads that if we are faithful enough, behave ourselves, and do what is good and right that God is going to reward us with a smooth sailing, pain-free life. If this is our expectation, we will be quickly disappointed. Life is difficult, even for the most faith-filled person!

We tend to focus on the physical more than the spiritual or emotional because it is more readily visible. For the long road of life, however, the spiritual and the emotional are actually more important! We can easily lose heart when it comes to matters of God and discipleship. Sometimes it may seem like we are fighting a losing war and question whether there is any purpose served in standing up for something we believe.

When life forces us to face our limitations and weaknesses, the tendency is to run in the opposite direction rather than learn from them. When we stumble over ourselves, God uses these opportunities to put correctives into our lives by allowing us to see the truth of who we are and fine-tune how we see ourselves and relate with one another. Even hardship can be a cause for joy if we allow those opportunities as moments God can use to refine and purify us. We must surrender, however, and let God do what God does best.

God sees our potential. God knows the best that we are capable of producing and his love is available to help us achieve that goal. However, it requires discipline. As the athlete requires discipline to run the best race she can, so do we require discipline if we are going to encounter life as best we can. The Letter to the Hebrews says it so well: “All discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it.”



Our choices can change us into someone who is weak or someone who is strong. They can also give us a depth of vision whereby we begin to see things as God sees them and fine-tune and develop those three eternal virtues he places within us: faith, hope, and love. If we discipline ourselves so that these things increase within us, then there will be no trial life can bring that cannot be endured and overcome. We will be confident and strong and constantly in pursuit of greater results and fine-tuning. We will also possess another precious gift: freedom. While still acknowledging our limitations and weaknesses, we will not be held bound by them but rather become more willing to step out of the way so that God's Spirit can work more freely in and through us as well.

It is easy to spiritually and emotionally coast along and most likely end up, because of God's awesome mercy, in heaven. But simply choosing to coast, we will miss a depth of wisdom and strength that God has to offer through the unfolding of our lives. Choosing whether we simply want to live or whether we want to live well will determine how much, if any, discipline we choose to place in our lives. Seeking God through a life of prayer, allowing him to fine-tune our sight and developing a strong moral character through obedience to God's word will serve us well in encountering all that life can bring and keep us faithful to the life of discipleship we have chosen to pursue.

*Rev. Mark S. Suslenko*

## Quoting from Tradition

Knowing these things, therefore, let us of our free choice go on strict principles, and not be like the unwise, who think that they are then not wronged, when their suffering wrong is the result of a trial. But, quite on the contrary, that is the greatest harm; and so in every case when we exercise self-restraint in these matters, not willingly, but after being worsted in that other quarter. For it is no advantage that a man defeated in a trial endures it; for it becomes thenceforth a matter of necessity. What then is the splendid victory? When thou lookest down on it: when thou refusest to go to law. "How say you? Have I been stripped of every thing," saith one, "and do you bid me keep silent? Have I been shamefully used, and do you exhort me to bear it meekly? And how shall I be able?" Nay, but it is most easy if thou wilt look up unto heaven; if thou wilt behold the beauty that is in sight; and whither God hath promised to receive thee, if thou bear wrong nobly. Do this then; and looking up unto the heaven, think that thou art made like unto Him that sitteth there upon the Cherubim. For He also was injured and He bore it; He was reproached and avenged not Himself; and was beaten, yet He asserted not His cause. Nay, He made return, in the contrary kind, to those who did such things, even in benefits without number; and He commanded us to be imitators of Him... For his own passion he hath aggravated, his covetousness I mean; but yours, he hath alleviated, taking away the food of the wild beast. And besides all this, he hath set you free from cares, agony, envy, informers, trouble, worry, perpetual fear; and the foul mass of evils he hath heaped upon his own head.

*John Chrysostom,*

*Homily XVI, 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

August 21, 2016

"...Grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found." Thus says a portion of our Collect, and today we start to feel those uncertainties. There is an unease as the disciples begin asking Jesus, "Who can be saved?"

If one takes a quick tour of the Internet, there are thousands of churches and self-proclaimed prophets who think they have the answers to this question.

Our entrance antiphon from Psalm 86 reminds us none of us may be saved without the grace and the everlasting trust in God's mercy. That is certainly not a free pass to act as we wish, but in this Year of Mercy, we know that the Church has indeed been calling us to receive the graces of God's mercy. It would be a good week to preach on reconciliation, or remind the parishioners when regular confession is held. Perhaps you may consider offering a Holy Hour and confessions.

Look at the Eucharistic Prayers for Reconciliation. The first one reminds us, "For you do not cease to spur us on to possess a more abundant life and, being rich in mercy, you constantly offer pardon and call on sinners to trust in your forgiveness." It continues in a similar fashion. Even if you choose not to use it, take a few minutes to read and pray with it.

For your music, any of the Year of Mercy hymns we have spoken about in the past might be good, or browse through your Lenten section again. Psalm songs are also great for days like today, for example, "With the Lord There Is Mercy, and Fullness of Redemption." Heed the Gospel antiphon's message to "Go Out and Tell"; there are half a dozen contemporary songs based upon that very call to discipleship.

When will schools start in your area? Is this the week to do a blessing of teachers and students?

College students are heading off, so an insertion in the general intercessions would be nice

## Planning Your Week

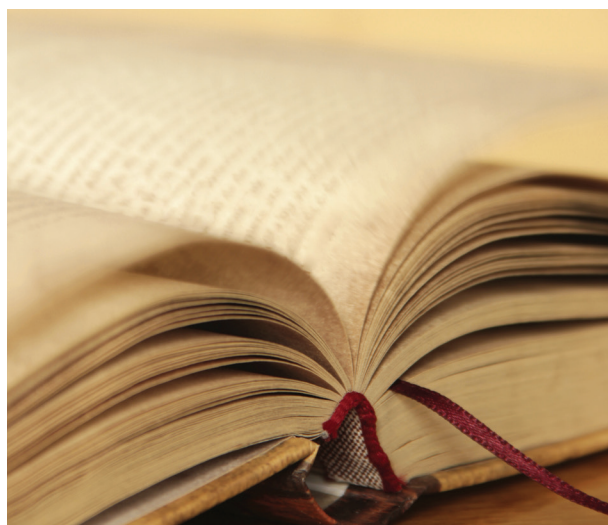
St. Bartholomew is Wednesday, August 24. Nathaniel and Bartholomew are often considered the same person, if the readings seem strange to you. We use a Gloria, and red vestments for the day. Use Eucharistic Prayer 1 and the Roman Canon, as well as the Solemn Blessing for Apostles.

Saturday is the memorial of St. Monica, the mother of St. Augustine. Her fervent prayers for her wayward son are thought to be a big part of his conversion.

Do you have new training sessions scheduled and advertised for liturgical ministers? This is a big time to push for new people. In this day of busy families, many will not respond to notes in the bulletins or e-mails, but personal invitations work. We have also noted that scheduling families to be involved in ministries together has been helpful.

Go through your parish directory, and make lists of those who might join your choir, or be extraordinary ministers of Communion. Get some existing volunteers to help! Make it a fun afternoon or evening!

*Jill Maria Murdy*



## Raising Your Prayers

### Introductions

*For the Mass of the Day (to use after the Greeting).*  
God always respects our choices and never forces his love and mercy upon us. We choose to open the door and receive God's gift. We must constantly make choices that lead us to salvation so that we can become the best we can be. Making good choices will keep us in touch with God's love, which is available to all.

### Penitential Act

God's mercy and love know no bounds and are available to all people at all times. Eager to receive the forgiveness and salvation God desires to give, we call to mind our sins.  
*(Pause for silent reflection.)*

Lord Jesus,  
you are mighty God and Prince of Peace.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you are the Son of God and Son of Mary.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus,  
you are Word made flesh and splendor of the Father.  
**Lord, have mercy.**



### Prayer of the Faithful

God does not place stumbling blocks before us but always guides us through our trials. Like an ever patient Father, he provides the strength, courage, and hope to grow through all that life brings to us. Trusting in God's loving guidance we now bring our prayers to him.

For all of us,  
that we will continually seek  
the mercy and love God desires to give  
and commit ourselves  
to the values and lifestyle that Jesus models.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who are in hospitals and homes,  
that as they endure life's painful difficulties  
they find hope in the example of others  
who have walked similar paths.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For our youth,  
that they will see that there is much more to life  
than what is immediately before them  
and that struggles can be opportunities  
to discover greater peace and deeper love.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For all those who have died,  
that with their earthly journey behind them  
they may discover God's salvation  
and the joy of eternal life.

**We pray to the Lord.**

Compassionate God,  
help us to make the good choices  
that will mold us into the people  
you created us to be.  
Poor decisions can close us off  
from your loving mercy.  
Assist us in desiring the healthy discipline  
necessary for us to grow  
and keep our feet straight on the path of life.  
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 13:22-30*

“Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.” For Jesus’ original audience, this reference was meant for those Jews who presumed their salvation while judging others as being unworthy of entering the kingdom of God. But we should not assume that this Gospel was only for those people in that time and place. Today, there is perhaps a different stratum of first and last. In our Christian era, we can be tempted to have the same presumptuous attitude that afflicted too many of the Jewish contemporaries of Christ. We can think that our salvation is assured just because we bear the title Christian. This simply isn’t true. God’s mercy is available to everyone who humbly recognizes one’s need for it. The minute we become complacent or overconfident, we close ourselves off to the gift of mercy God offers to the repentant sinner. Jesus tells us today that we must “strive to enter through the narrow gate.” This means that we must not take the easy road of presumption, assuming that we are in good shape because we look like most of the people around us.

### Questions of the Week

**Luke 13:22-30:**

Why do you think Jesus so often spoke of reversals in the kingdom of God?

**Isaiah 66:18-21:**

What do you find most challenging in Isaiah’s vision of the age to come?

**Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13:**

When do you find yourself with “weak knees” in your faith journey?



### Everyday Stewardship

Facebook, Twitter, and other forms of social media can be powerful tools of communication. They allow people to stay in touch. They provide an avenue for fresh ideas. People can be engaged in conversations and be exposed to issues of the day in ways few could have dreamed of just a few decades ago. But social media can also give the false sense of really knowing someone, when only the surface has been scratched about who a person is in reality.

You don’t really know someone just because you know a lot about him or her and are linked to a profile online. Unfortunately, people develop emotional attachments to the idea of a person all the time. If they do find themselves fortunate enough to meet the person face-to-face one day, they can often find out they never really knew the person in the first place.

There are people who believe they know Jesus so very well. They can readily share their view of what Jesus would do or wouldn’t do in a given situation. They own items like crosses and Bibles that seem to provide evidence of this person they know so well. Sometimes, they even strongly admonish others because their view of Jesus is certainly not in line with their own.

But in Luke 13, Jesus speaks about those who claim to know him, but they really do not belong to him at all. They make claims based upon what they have seen and heard, but they have never allowed Jesus to truly change them. They are like Facebook followers; seemingly close, but with no real relationship at all.

Do you know Jesus? Don’t just be a fan. Invite Jesus into your life and let the real relationship begin.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*