

**AUG 28, 2016**

**22nd 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.



“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him.” - Lk 14:8

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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## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

### Parish Support - August 8-14, 2016

Stewardship Offering (Envelopes/Electronic) .....	\$9,956.00
Offertory .....	\$1,114.04

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

Contributions Received .....	\$90,905.11
Contribution Budget .....	\$88,000.00
<b>Difference as of 8/14/16 .....</b>	<b>\$2,905.11</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 .....	\$7,158.00
Expenses .....	\$0.00
<b>Balance as of 8/14/16 .....</b>	<b>\$110,829.52</b>

### Keep Our Vision Growing Campaign Capital Appeal

<b>KOVG Cash Balance as of 8/14/16 .....</b>	<b>\$158,075.75</b>
Music Ministry Platform Renovation (Spring 2016) .....	\$190,267.00
Expenses already paid .....	(\$34,824.40)
<b>Remaining Project Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$155,442.60</b>

## CALENDAR RAFFLE 2016

Date	Prize	Ticket	Winner
8/14 .....	\$50.00 .....	0658 .....	Debbie Lewandowski
8/15 .....	\$100.00 .....	0121 .....	Bill & Genie Grant
8/16 .....	\$20.00 .....	1068 .....	Robert Kaminski
8/17 .....	\$20.00 .....	1193 .....	Mary Schweitzer
8/18 .....	\$20.00 .....	0700 .....	Mary K. Klabunde
8/19 .....	\$20.00 .....	0578 .....	Mary Beth Javorek
8/20 .....	\$20.00 .....	0319 .....	Karen Streich

## COMMUNITY LIFE

### Welcome to Our New Parishioners July 2016

**Thomas Holtan**  
**Mary Glenzinski**  
**Virginia Rodriguez**  
**Paul Fossum & Toni Robinson**  
**Robert Zaharias**  
**Corinne Estrada**

### From the Archdiocese

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend is a positive and personal experience offering married couples an opportunity to learn a technique of loving communication that you can use for the rest of your lives. It is a chance to look deeply into your relationship with each other and with God. It is a time to share your feelings, hopes, and dreams with each other.

Sign up today to attend one of the upcoming Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends:

- Sept. 9-11 in Crystal Lake, IL
- Oct. 21-23 in Brookfield, WI
- Nov. 18-20 in Rockford, IL.

For more information, visit our website at: [alifetimeoflove.org](http://alifetimeoflove.org) or call (888) 574-5653. Early registration is highly recommended.

**SUN 28**

Community Weekend  
 8:00 am Liturgy Church  
 10:30 am Liturgy (Baptisms) Church  
 6:00 pm Liturgy Church

**MON 29**

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

**TUE 30**

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

"We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms."

[1 Cor 2: 12-13]

## VIRTUE OF THE WEEK

### ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability is the willingness to stand in responsibility for every choice. It is acting with integrity: doing what we say we will do.

When we make a mistake, we do not seek to hide it or avoid it. We have the courage to face it willingly.

With accountability, people can rely on us because we are answerable for our actions. We are guided by our highest standards.

As we prepare for another year of school or work, what do we need most to account for each day? How can you help those around you with accountability?

## 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? Find information about GIFT and how it works as well as sacrament preparation 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.

### ARISE – A Religious Program for Individuals with Disabilities

ARISE (Association for Religious Instruction, Special Education) offers classes geared to meet the special learning needs of children, teens, and adults who have disabilities. The classes are held on Mondays from 6:30 pm -7:30 pm at St. Greg's for 24 weeks beginning in October. We also offer small group classes for those that are confirmed and RCIA preparation for adults. Check out our webpage for more information [www.stgregsmil.org/ARISE](http://www.stgregsmil.org/ARISE). We are also looking for volunteer catechists. Catechist orientation and materials will be provided.

If you are interested in enrolling your child or becoming a volunteer catechist, contact ARISE coordinators Tom and Sue Klawien, at (414) 810-3702 or e-mail at [ariseprogram@gmail.com](mailto:ariseprogram@gmail.com)

## WED 31

9:30 am Liturgy Church  
10:15 am Faith Group Social Hall C  
6:30 pm Eagle Scout Review Rm 3

## THU 1

8:00 am Liturgy Rm 9  
10:00 am Bible Study Rm 3  
6:30 pm The Personality of Groups and Effective Teams Rm 6  
6:30 pm Group Facilitator Training Session Rm 3

## FRI 2

8:00 am Communion Service Rm 9



## WORSHIP

### The Mass: The Gospel, cont'd

After the Gospel, the Presider proclaims "The Gospel of the Lord," and we respond, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ," or sing the Alleluia refrain. All that we do — the standing posture we take; the procession of the Book; the announcement of the text; the small signs of the cross on our forehead, lips, and heart; and the closing acclamation all show the place the Gospel holds in this community, the Church. We surround the Gospel with such signs of reverence and affection because the Gospel is for us the saving power of God.

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

### Meet Gaelynn Lea (LOL concert, September 16, 7:00 pm)

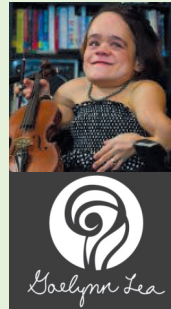
"Gaelynn Lea is a musician and public speaker from Duluth, MN. She has been playing violin for over twenty years. First classically trained, she began learning traditional Celtic and American fiddle tunes at the age of 18. During her college years, Gaelynn started sitting in with various folk/rock musicians and developed an improvisational style all her own. Eventually she also began singing and dabbling in songwriting."

"Gaelynn Lea released her debut solo album entitled *All the Roads that Lead Us Home* in November 2015. It pays homage to the traditional fiddle tunes and beloved standards that Gaelynn has been playing for over a decade. But of course, there is a twist! Gaelynn used her Memory Man looping pedal to create winding layers of sound underneath these familiar melodies."

"On March 3, 2016, Gaelynn Lea was named the winner of NPR Music's second-ever Tiny Desk Contest. The video entry of her original song *Someday We'll Linger in the Sun* rose to the top of over 6,100 submissions from around the nation, chosen as the unanimous favorite among the contest's six judges. The very next week, Gaelynn performed a moving Tiny Desk Concert, at which the show's host Bob Boilen said, 'there was hardly a dry eye.'"

Gaelynn said in an interview with NPR, "*Someday We'll Linger In The Sun* is about, to me, how love might be a struggle now, but that it's worth hanging on, because someday we'll be able to be together and happy and calm. Maybe not in this lifetime, but I believe that someday, people who really love each other will get to experience it on a bigger level."

[Pulled from [www.npr.org/2016/03/03/469034857/meet-gaelynn-lea-the-2016-tiny-desk-contest-winner-and-violinscratches.com](http://www.npr.org/2016/03/03/469034857/meet-gaelynn-lea-the-2016-tiny-desk-contest-winner-and-violinscratches.com)]



## Baptisms

We welcome the following children into our faith community through the waters of Baptism:

Sofia Teresa Arteaga  
Cheyenne Leigh Jordan  
David James Nastulski  
Anya Adele Schmidt  
Naomi Joanna Schmidt  
Alexandra Martha Sheteron  
Nolan Raymond Strauss  
Kervin Luis Velez, Jr.

## OUTREACH

### Sharing Weekend

Next weekend, **September 3/4**, 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 bottled fruit juice, canned peas, beets, carrots, potatoes, tuna, and canned meats. Please watch expiration dates.

### 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!

### 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 3**

5:00 pm Liturgy Church

**SUN 4**

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

**What's New on the Website?**

September means not only that school is starting up again but also all the different ministry opportunities here at OLOL. Make sure that you check our website regularly to keep up on all the programs we have going on. In the next few weeks, GIFT, various Discipleship Institute sessions, and a number of Bible and book studies will begin. Soon other programs will follow. A number of special events will also be taking place, beginning with the Gaelynn Lea concert in September followed by the annual Oktoberfest Artisan Fair.

OLOL is a vibrant and active parish. Stay informed on everything going on. Our website is the one stop shop for all the info you need.

**Oktoberfest Basket Raffle Items**

Our Oktoberfest Basket Raffle board, in the north hallway, is filled with music notes. Theme item lists are on the music notes covering the board. You can help us by picking a music note or symbol and creating a theme basket. There are several ways to accomplish this task. Remember the baskets can be a one person job or a team project. You can also donate the items listed, and we will assemble them. To compose a basket, you can:

1) Pick a theme and fill out the information on the music note or symbol. This will allow us to contact you if needed. Collect the items, assemble the basket, and turn it in with the theme note attached. If you do not want to assemble the basket, bring the items in a bag with the note attached, and we will do the assembly.

2) Create your own theme basket. We ask that you sign the sheet provided so we can make sure proper space will be available to display your basket. We ask that you take a note from the envelope, fill out the needed information on the note, and put the note on your basket when you donate it.

3) Bring individual items to create baskets that we will assemble. Containers on shelves will be in the hallway by the Oktoberfest board. We will use the items to create theme baskets. These items can be anything. Just remember to use that discerning eye to judge the quality of the items before donating them to us.

All Oktoberfest raffle baskets need to be delivered to church by October 1. Anything turned in after that date will be donated to other causes. We also ask that the baskets contain no perishable items.

**CONNECT! WITH THE WORD****MESSAGE FOR THE WEEK - LUKE 14:1, 7-14**

Today Jesus instructs us to be generous enough to serve others without expecting repayment. At least, without expecting to be repaid in this life. It's interesting that the Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise that if we follow this teaching, we "will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." In other words, God will "repay" our generosity on earth by welcoming us into heaven. In essence, Jesus tells us to use our money for the sake of others, not just to assure our own earthly comfort. Instead of investing everything in a bank, Jesus asks us to invest in the poor. After all, no bank on earth can possibly provide the infinite rate of return that Jesus promises. Really, what better investment could there possibly be?

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**SUNDAY READINGS****Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29:**

Why do you think God favors the virtue of humility?

**Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a:**

What would you say is the point of the contrasts offered by the author of Hebrews?

**Luke 14:1, 7-14:**

Do you think the host of the party ("the leading Pharisee") regretted inviting Jesus to his banquet in light of the parable?

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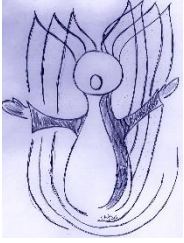
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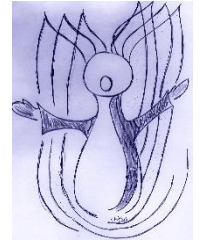
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# Discipleship Institute

OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PRESENTS



## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Thursdays 7-8 pm

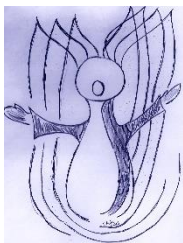
September 22, 20, October 6, 20, 27, November 3

Facilitator: Harry Fleddermann, Professor Emeritus

This series will explore Matthew's Gospel in detail. It will probe all of Matthew's work, especially his literary achievement and his unique grasp of Jesus and Jesus' teaching.



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DISCIPLESHIP IN ACTION.....



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Like to read, discuss & 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, one of our leading inspirational writers, invites us to embrace and celebrate the deep bond between humans and animals. It illuminates the significance of sharing our lives with a pet and celebrates the great gift of animals in our world.

**We will meet starting on Tuesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. We then meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Read the first two chapters for Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>.**

The next book we will read & discuss – dates to be announced.

**The Future of God: A Practical Approach to Spirituality for Our Times – by Deepak Chopra**

For three decades, Deepak Chopra has inspired millions with his profound writing and teaching. With **The Future of God**, he invites us on a journey of the spirit, providing a practical path to understanding God and our own place in the universe. Now, is a moment of reinvigoration, he argues. Now is moment of renewal. Now is the future.



*What's the Independent Book Group?* It's a faith & spiritual sharing group, and it is led by those who read the book and show up. The group also picks the books that we read and share! Maybe you've always wanted to read a particular book, but didn't want to read it alone – then this group could be for you.

Any questions? Contact Lorie at [LNJS1205@gmail.com](mailto:LNJS1205@gmail.com)

# Connect!

*Uniting* Word & World



## Studying God's Word

- Sirach 3:7-18, 20, 28-29
- Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a
- Luke 14:1, 7-14 [126C]

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.

The readings for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time warn of the dangers of self-exaltation and of the importance of humility. Jesus and the wisdom traditions of Israel placed a high value on the virtue of humility in all that we do and say as a believing community.

The first reading is taken from the Book of Sirach, also known as "The Wisdom of Ben Sira" or "Ecclesiasticus." Originally written in Hebrew around 200 BC, this text was translated into Greek in the year 117 BC by the grandson of Joshua ben Sira. The commonly used title of the book, "Sirach," comes from the Greek form of the original author's name. Today's reading is taken from the book's largest section (Sir 1-43), where much of the wisdom material focuses on moral instruction. In particular, today we hear about the importance of humility. Not only does this Jewish sage encourage others to "conduct your affairs with humility," he challenges those in positions of authority and power to "humble yourself the more." According to Sirach, the virtue of humility is cultivated when one discerns the wisdom of the ages ("appreciates proverbs") and listens to others with "an attentive ear."

The Gospel reading is the parable of the invited guests and is found only in the Gospel of Luke. The setting of the parable is significant: Jesus was invited on a Sabbath to the home of "one of the leading Pharisees" for dinner. In other words, this was a dinner party for the religious and social elites of Jesus' day. Being invited to such a gathering would have been considered a privilege. As the other invited guests arrived and sat in places of honor at table, Jesus used this occasion to tell the group a parable he saw applicable to the cultural norms at work in the social interactions around the table. The parable contained a twofold message. The first has to do with the prudence of humility in public arenas. To avoid potential embarrassment, it is best to let others—especially the host—exalt you by giving you a seat of honor ("a higher position") at the dinner table. In fact, one of the marks of true humility is to allow others to define where you rank within their social circles.

This first message sets the stage for the second message of the parable, which Jesus directed to the host of the dinner party (a "leading Pharisee"). Jesus challenged the Pharisee (and by association the other religious leaders at table with him) to invite not their relatives, friends, or wealthy neighbors to the next banquet, but rather invite the socially marginalized in their midst, "the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind." Jesus taught them that in doing so, they would receive divine blessing and be "repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." In a culture that placed high value on the social norm of reciprocity, Jesus' words likely seemed absurd to many of them, at least initially. But Jesus still applied the principle of reciprocity to the

banquet—he simply invited his Pharisaic host to seek repayment from God rather than neighbor or relative. Jesus’ second message was profound: God himself repays the generous host for those unable because of their station or lot in life.

The second reading is once again taken from Hebrews. The author contrasts the experiences of Moses and the Israelites in the desert who encountered God in fear and trembling with those who now experience God through the person of the crucified and resurrected Christ. We can be assured that Jesus, “the mediator of a new covenant,” brings us face-to-face with God almighty. All believers are called by Christ to gather at the heavenly banquet that awaits us.

*Dr. Daniel J. Scholz*

## Inspiring Your Homily

Recently, someone said to me, “I have never heard an entire homily given on humility.” The first reading from Sirach instructs us, “Conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts. Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God.” St. Theresa once asked Jesus why of all the virtues he loved humility. He replied, “I love truth.”

Humility comes from *humus*, which means ground, and humble people are grounded in truth and love. A famous sculptor visited one of the churches in Copenhagen to see a beautiful statue of Jesus, but was disappointed when he saw it. Then he was told, “Just kneel down and look up into Christ’s face from below,” which he did, and he was able to see all the beauty of the artist’s work.

St. Thomas Aquinas believed that of all the moral virtues humility is the closest to the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. St. Bonaventure puts humility on top of his list of virtues because it is so essential to holiness. He calls it the cornerstone upon which the other virtues depend. St. Augustine asks a threefold question: “What is the beginning of holiness? It is humility. How do we grow in holiness? It

is humility. What is the height of holiness? It is humility.” He did not, however, place humility above the theological virtues of faith, hope, and charity. He emphasized how pride is the enemy of humility that breaks the chain of charity and unity. St. Philip Neri told Jesus to place both of his hands on his head, because he was afraid that he might betray him like Judas did.

Pride brings its own punishment, which was true of Cain who wished to surpass his brother Abel and committed fratricide. King Saul was not humble and begrudged David his honors, and ended his life by falling on his own sword. Haman, the main antagonist in the Book of Esther, wished to deliver the Israelites to death, but died a shameful death on a gallows. How true the saying, “Pride comes before the fall.”

In contrast, we have Jesus who said, “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.” He was willing to become like us in all things but sin as St. Paul tells us. He became a baby which is mind boggling when we reflect on this because he was God. He became a defenseless child against the bloody hand of Herod. He went to Nazareth and was subject to Mary and Joseph. He was willing to suffer and die a shameful death out of love for us when he could have sent a legion of angels to destroy his captors in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Here in the Gospel Jesus is at a banquet and noticed how people are jockeying for position, which might indicate how some of us seek for self-promotion or personal gain in our society. This parable is directed at those who seek after status, power, success, and make them their top priority. Pope Francis points out how equality is always a goal in our highly competitive society, especially keeping in mind those who are poor. How many of us prefer the head of line, or in a store how willing are we to allow someone else who has a few articles to go ahead of us? This happened to me recently, and I sincerely thanked the person.

Humble people are not easily hurt, resentful, angry, critical, impatient, or anxious to get their way. They do not return the coin of





uncharitableness, but absorb the barbs that are hurled at them, much like Jesus did during his passion. No wonder that St. Vincent de Paul called humility the touchstone of the spiritual life, and asked why so few practice it.

The real test of holiness is humility. St. Philip Neri was sent by Pope Pius IV to find out if a certain sister who lived in a Roman convent was as saintly as everyone said she was. When he entered the convent and met her, he asked her to polish his shoes. She said that she was not accustomed to do that and refused. Philip returned to the pope and reported that she was not a saint because she lacked humility. Jesus was willing to wash the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper despite Peter's objection. And this was a task reserved to a servant or slave.

Jesus said, "Whoever humbles himself will be exalted." On Haydn's seventy-sixth birthday, his friends arranged a final triumph. They took him in a wheelchair to a special performance of his oratorio, *The Creation*. Among those present was his famous pupil, Beethoven. As Haydn entered the hall, the entire audience rose to its feet. When the chorus reached the radiant passage, "And there was light," the audience burst into a deafening applause. Haydn, overcome with emotion, arose and cried out, "Not I, but a power above created that."

The last part of the Gospel helps us to reflect on who is missing at our eucharistic gatherings. Who is left out? Do we have the humility to invite all, whatever their economic status, racial background, or sexual orientation? When we get to heaven, we will find saints who never performed a miracle or gave away their cloak, but none who were not humble.

*Rev. Richard Hart, OFM Cap*

## Quoting from Tradition

But since we are exiled from the unchangeable joy, yet neither cut off nor torn away from it so that we should not seek eternity, truth, blessedness, even in those changeable and temporal things (for we wish neither to die, nor to be deceived, nor to be troubled); visions have been sent to us from heaven suitable to our state of pilgrimage, in order to remind us that what we seek is not here, but that from this pilgrimage we must return thither, whence unless we originated we should not here seek these things. And first we have had to be persuaded how much God loved us, lest from despair we should not dare to look up to Him. And we needed to be shown also what manner of men we are whom He loved, lest being proud, as if of our own merits, we should recede the more from Him, and fail the more in our own strength. And hence He so dealt with us, that we might the rather profit by His strength, and that so in the weakness of humility the virtue of charity might be perfected. And this is intimated in the Psalm, where it is said, "Thou, O God, didst send a spontaneous rain, whereby Thou didst make Thine inheritance perfect, when it was weary." For by "spontaneous rain" nothing else is meant than grace, not rendered to merit, but given freely, whence also it is called grace; for He gave it, not because we were worthy, but because He willed. And knowing this, we shall not trust in ourselves; and this is to be made "weak." But He Himself makes us perfect, who says also to the Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Man, then, was to be persuaded how much God loved us, and what manner of men we were whom He loved; the former, lest we should despair; the latter, lest we should be proud.

*Augustine, On the Trinity, Book IV.*

*Translation from A Select Library of the Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church.*

*Series I. Volume 3. Edited by P. Schaff et al.*

*Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, reprint 1978–1983.*

*Research by Jay Martin*

## Building Your Liturgy

August 28, 2016

The Gospel today has people arguing over who gets the best place to sit, and relying entirely upon their own ego strength. This is exactly the opposite of what Jesus' message and our prayers call for. The Collects asks God to "put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good, and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured."

With that reverence comes a sense of trust and humility that is shown throughout our readings, especially as to the downtrodden. Those people in need do not always fit a stereotype. The homeless ones may be a family who just had to let go of their home because their jobs were downsized or the honored veteran with PTSD. The alcoholic is not always the wino with a bag, but is frequently the housewife who got depressed, or the business person who stopped for one and then it became a habit. While many have visible physical handicaps, others have emotional wounds and scars that we cannot see. The point is, we often do not know others' stories, nor is it our place to judge them, or their life trajectory.

Sometimes, it is easy to send money and pray for those who are doing great missionary work in Honduras or Haiti, but it is harder when those in need start knocking at the door of our parish, and that call to reach out and respond is now literal.

Preface 7 speaks of God's mercy, and Preface 2 reminds us, "For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours..."

Janet Sullivan Whitaker's "The Least of These" is a beautiful song that flows with the day, as would the old chestnut "Whatsoever You Do." Some version of *Ubi Caritas* or "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy," "Peace Is Flowing," and "There Is a Balm in Gilead" all fit. Michael Joncas' "My Soul Is Thirsting" or Tony Alonso's

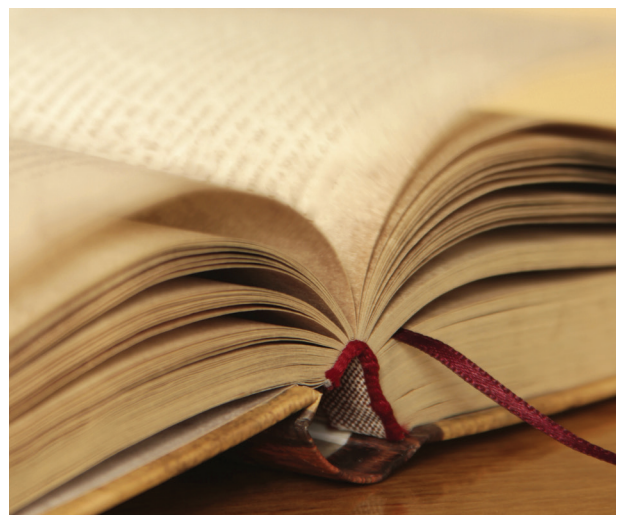
"Come to the Table" also fit. Because it is so overused at funerals, I seldom schedule "Here I Am, Lord" but it would really be a good choice this day.

## Planning Your Week

September 3 is the feast of St. Gregory. From him we have writings on the life of St. Benedict, and the basics of our chant. He also made great attempts to bring together the Eastern and Western Churches.

Things are definitely speeding up now as parishes and families move back into school mode. Do you see a change in your attendance? Perhaps you need to print another hundred orders of worship? When was the last time you compared the number you are printing to the parish census? Similarly, when I realized my parish had decreased it put me into lower price brackets for copyright licenses, ministry scheduling programs, and many things. Or, I don't need to order the same number of choral octavos I did ten years ago. If you print outside, get a couple of bids on projects. Your regular place may drop their prices when they realize you are checking out options. These little things amount to hundreds of dollars over time. Take a moment to review details before renewing on autopilot.

Jill Maria Murdy



## Raising Your Prayers

### Introductions

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

Humility, rooted in a true knowledge of ourselves and our willingness to put the needs of others before us, is the hallmark of the Christian. Being truly humble allows us to bring a depth of wisdom to our relationships with God and others so that they can always be in proper order and on proper course.

### Penitential Act

Heavenly Father,  
your heart always has a special place for the poor  
and you create a home for them.

We come before you, humble and poor in spirit,  
realizing our great need for your love and mercy.  
*(Pause for silent reflection.)*

O Lord,  
the just exult before you and they are glad  
and rejoice.

**Lord, have mercy.**

O Lord,  
you restored the land when it languished and  
your flock settled in it.

**Christ, have mercy.**

O Lord,  
in your goodness you provide for the needy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**



### Prayer of the Faithful

We often desire a privileged place  
rather than a humble one;  
our need for recognition and esteem  
can get in the way of humble service.  
We seek humility by offering our prayers  
not only for ourselves but for others.

For our Holy Father, Pope Francis,  
all bishops, priests, deacons, and religious,  
that they will not allow their positions  
to lead them away  
from a humble embrace of their ministry  
and service of God's poor, vulnerable,  
and marginalized children.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For each of us,  
that we see ourselves for who we are,  
people blessed with gifts and talents  
but also weighed down by weakness and sin,  
so that we can create a space in our lives  
for the needs of our brothers and sisters.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For victims of violence or domestic abuse,  
that, deeply wounded by the anger of others,  
they may find the strength  
to rise beyond their pain and walk with hope.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For the gift of humility.

**We pray to the Lord.**

For those who have died,  
that having reached the city of the living God,  
the heavenly Jerusalem,  
they may sing the praises of God for eternity.

**We pray to the Lord.**

God our Creator and Redeemer,  
you call all of us to the great banquet of life.  
Help us desire the lowest place at the table  
so that status and privilege cannot distract us  
from serving you and our brothers and sisters.  
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 14:1, 7-14*

Today Jesus instructs us to be generous enough to serve others without expecting repayment. At least, without expecting to be repaid *in this life*. It's interesting that the Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise that if we follow this teaching, we "will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." In other words, God will "repay" our generosity on earth by welcoming us into heaven. In essence, Jesus tells us to use our money for the sake of others, not just to assure our own earthly comfort. Instead of investing everything in a bank, Jesus asks us to invest in the poor. After all, no bank on earth can possibly provide the infinite rate of return that Jesus promises. Really, what better investment could there possibly be?

### Questions of the Week

**Luke 14:1, 7-14:**

Do you think the host of the party ("the leading Pharisee") regretted inviting Jesus to his banquet in light of the parable?

**Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29:**

Why do you think God favors the virtue of humility?

**Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a:**

What would you say is the point of the contrasts offered by the author of Hebrews?



## Everyday Stewardship

I really loved watching Tim Russert, former NBC News Washington bureau chief and moderator of *Meet the Press*, who passed away in 2008. I guess what I loved the most about him was his tremendous sense of humility. He was a brilliant political mind, but he always conducted himself as a humble servant of the people and, being a devout Catholic, of his God.

There is a story about Russert's audience with then Pope John Paul II. St. John Paul II said to Russert, "You are the one called Timothy, the man from NBC? They tell me you are a very important man." The response? "There are only two of us in the room and I am certainly a distant second." This story is quite something standing on its own merit, but many say that Russert was like that with most people, whether they be successors to St. Peter or not.

This type of gracious humility is so very important in our walk as good stewards. When it is through God's gifts that we achieve a certain standing in the world, city, or our parish community, we must never lose sight of the generosity of God that made that possible. It is through and because of God that we are parent, son, daughter, spouse, friend, or companion. The constant striving to keep God front and center allows us to more clearly see the opportunities to use our gifts because it is through this gracious humility that our grip on them is loosened.

People like the late Tim Russert serve as examples of the assertion, "God is God, and I am not." To live in right relationship with God means that we have the chance to rejoice in the gifts given to us and share them freely, knowing that we are sharing with others not just ourselves, but God himself. By our stewardship, we become instruments of grace and windows into a reality much greater than ourselves.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*