

OUR LADY OF LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH
AND SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 5, 2023
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME



RECONCILIATION

Available by appointment only.
Call: 919-861-4600

PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

The Adoration Chapel is open 24/7

MASS TIMES

Sat. 5:00pm

Sun. 9:00am, 11:30am,
1:30pm (Español), 5:00pm

Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri. 8:30am

Wed. 9:00am Jueves. 6:30pm (Español)

For Baptism, Matrimony and
Anointing, please call the
parish office.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Patrick A. Keane, Pastor
(919) 861-4604

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Oguzie, C.S.Sp.
Parochial Vicar
(919) 861-4608

Jannine LeBlanc, Principal
(919) 861-4623, jleblanc@olls.org

Deacon Byron Champagne
Adult Faith Formation/Stewardship & Engagement Coordinator
(919) 861-4614, bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Deacon Brad Magill
Business & Facilities Manager
(919) 861-4607, bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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tmack@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4611, jgusman@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4613, alapid@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4600, afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

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(919) 357-2079

Chair: Jeff Yardley
(919) 219-0752

Chair: Reed Murphy
(919) 624-0298

Barbara McMorran
Jason Lemansky
Kenya Reynard
Rachel Vann
Beth Murphy
Chris Fleming
Jason Pedone
Darren Sessler
Terry Bogan

Ellen Crowley
Kate Duncan
Tom Dunham
Jason Sandner
Curt Williams

Den. Byron Champagne
Austin Faur
Cara Fothergill
Cathy Gephart
Anne Holder
Jannine LeBlanc
Chris Morse
Player Murray
Graham Witherspoon

PARISH MEMBERSHIP

Active members of our parish are identified by their generosity of time, talent and treasure.

NOTICE

Confessions are available by appointment and may be done anonymously.
Please call the parish office: 919-861-4600

CALENDAR & MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4

FIRST SATURDAY

5:00pm - Anne Suber

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5

9:00am - Daniel Levine

11:30am - † Ann Marco

(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo

5:00pm - † Susan Koehlar

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6

8:30am - † Patrick J Lundergan

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

8:30am - † Elias Pacheco-Ballesteras
& † Allison Price

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

9:00am - † Mary Lou Abdalla Attayek
& † Youssef Silfani

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

8:30am - † Ron Franzel

(Español) 6:30pm -

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

8:30am - Eileen & † Ed Macko
& Deacon Myles Charlesworth
(Birthday)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

8:00am - **PARISH RETREAT MASS**
5:00pm - Robert Levine

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12

9:00am - † Bill Badore

11:30am - † James & Suzanne Camp

(Español) 1:30pm - Pro Populo

5:00pm - † Susan Koehlar

**Regular
Office Hours**

Monday - Friday
8:30am - 4pm

Website

ourladyoflourdescc.org

OLL Flocknote

ollraleigh.flocknote.com

Adoration Chapel
oll.weadorehim.com

THE MISSION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

is to invite and lead all people to know and love Jesus Christ and to live their Catholic faith through word, sacrament, community, evangelization and service.

MINISTERIO HISPANO

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Oficina Parroquial: 919-861-4600

La Misión de la Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes es invitar y dirigir a todas las personas a conocer y amar a Jesucristo a vivir su fe Católica a través de la palabra, los sacramentos, la comunidad, la evangelización y el servicio.

Enlace Misas en Vivo por Youtube: (Youtube Live stream)

Para unirse en cualquier momento con las misas celebradas en Nuestra Señora de Lourdes en directo por nuestro canal de Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/OurLadyofLourdesCCRaleigh>

Comité Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Commtte

Roderico Roblero: (919) 986-5294

Yulisa Díaz: (919) 798-8338

Alberto Borrayes

Celeny Arreaga

Edvin Chaj

Fernando Velásquez.

Coordinadores Ministerio Hispano

Hispanic Ministry Coordinators

Bautismo (clases): Edilmar López 919-349-5036

Coros: Juan Gómez 919-896-0849

Eventos: Laura Rosas 919-576-6111

Formación Adultos: Filomeno Méndez 919-559-8314

Grupo de Mujeres: Ilda Baltazar 919-601-8032

Grupo de Oración: Celeny Arreaga 919-641-9792

Jóvenes Adultos: José Velásquez 843-492-8103

Lectores: Hortencia Escobar 919-592-3872

M. Extraordinarios: Jesús Méndez 919-819-7007

Monaguillos: Dominica Díaz 919-822-4224

Santo Rosario: Carmela Roblero 919-454-5251

Sacristanes: Orlando Morales 919-338-4384

Visita Enfermos: Darinel Morales 919-428-8691

Ujieres: Maribel González 919-345-1943

HORARIO MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

Jueves 6:30 pm

Domingos 1:30 pm

HORARIO MISAS EN INGLES

Lunes, Martes, Jueves y Viernes 8:30 am

Miércoles 9:00 am Sábados 9:00 am y 5:00 pm

Domingos 9:00 am, 11:30 am y 5:00 pm

CONFESIONES

Jueves (Español): Después de la misa de las 6:30 pm.

BAUTISMOS PARA NIÑOS MENORES DE 7 AÑOS

Requisitos:

- Papás tienen que estar registrados en nuestra parroquia.
- Presentar copia del acta de nacimiento del niño(a)
- Llenar la forma pre-bautismal.
- Papás y padrinos asistir a la platica pre-bautismal y a la misa.
- Los padrinos no pueden estar viviendo en unión libre.

Para más información , comunicarse con:
Edilmar López al: 919-349-5036

VISITANDO Y LLEVANDO
LA COMUNIÓN A LOS ENFERMOS

Pastoral Care

Si usted tiene algún familiar o conocido de la comunidad que se encuentre enfermo y desea que se le visite, bien sea en la casa donde éste reside u hospital, o se le lleve la Santa Comunión, puede comunicarse con **Darinel Morales** al 919-428-8691.

GRUPO DE ORACION

Hispanic Prayer Group

Todos los Viernes a las 7:15 p.m. en el Salón Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Oración tiene como objetivo fortalecer la fe de sus miembros y acercarlos mas a Dios a través de Oración, predicas y alabanzas.

Para más información comunicarse con:

Celeny Arreaga al: 919-641-9792

GRUPO DE JOVENES ADULTOS 18 a 30 años

Hispanic Young Adult Group

El Grupo de Jóvenes Adultos se reúnen todos los domingos de 10:00 am a 12:00 pm en el Salón 202 del Fallon Center

El Grupo Jóvenes de Adultos se reúne para tratar temas diversos que les ayudan en su crecimiento Espiritual, Emocional y desarrollo de liderazgo. Además de organizar diversas actividades que motive a los jóvenes a participar de la vida y misión de la iglesia.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

José Velásquez al: 843-492-8103

GRUPO DE MUJERES

Hispanic Women Group

El Grupo de Mujeres se reúne todos los sábados de 6:30 pm a 8:30 pm en el salón 201 del Fallon Center.

El Grupo de Mujeres tiene como objetivo ayudar a las Mujeres a descubrir y fortalecer su identidad, así mismo incrementar y empoderar su autoestima y por supuesto mejorar su relación con Dios y su relación matrimonial y su rol como madre.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Hilda Baltazar al: 919-601-8032

BODAS / MATRIMONIOS

Wedding

Está pensando en casarse por la Iglesia?

El primer paso, es hacer una cita con el Padre Patrick Keane (el habla español). 919-861-4600

Para más información, sobre el proceso para contraer matrimonio, por favor comunicarse con:
Roderico Roblero: 919-986-5294

ADORACIÓN PERPETUA ANTE
JESÚS SACRAMENTADO

Nuestra Parroquia de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes tiene una Capilla para la Adoración Perpetua las 24 Horas.

Todos estamos invitados a pasar unos momentos orando en silencio ante la presencia de nuestro Señor Jesús Sacramentado.

Clases de Catecismo Para Adultos

Faith Formation Claeses for Adults

Este programa es para personas mayores de 17 años que no estén bautizadas y para personas que solamente les hace falta la Primera Comunión y la Confirmación.

Este programa de formación de adultos es también para personas que deseen convertirse al catolicismo y para aquellos bautizados que deseen aprender un poco mas de su fe católica.

Requisitos:

-Llenar la forma de registro.

-Para los que no están bautizados, presentar el acta de nacimiento.

-Para los que le hace falta la primera comunión y confirmación, presentar el certificado de bautismo.

Para más información, comunicarse con:

Filomeno Méndez al: 919-559-8314

PARISH MATTERS

SANCTUARY CANDLES

A 14-day
CHURCH SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
for the souls of Delma
and Juan B. Rivera
and son

A 14-day
CHAPEL SANCTUARY
CANDLE
will burn
in thanksgiving for
Robbie Watkins
from Anne Suber

Pro-Life Corner

"Pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace."
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



HOLY FACE DEVOTION

You are invited to join your fellow parishioners in the **Fallon Center Lounge** each **Tuesday evening** promptly at **6:15** to pray for 30 minutes the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus.

The Parish Office is in need of
a **part-time bookkeeper**.

20 hours per week, flexible times.

If interested please contact
Deacon Brad Magill, Business Manager:
bmagill@ourladyoflourdescc.org

LOST AND FOUND

Our "LOST AND FOUND" container is located in the church vestibule under the shelf where the TV is located. Please check this container if you have lost an item. After 3 months, a member of the Lourdes Altar Guild will take the items remaining in the container to GOOD WILL.

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY OCTOBER 29 2023	NEEDED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
YTD OFFERTORY (7/1/23-10/29/23)	\$ 539,450	\$ 500,264	- \$ 39,186

OLL SCHOOL EXPANSION FUND:
BUILDING THE LEGACY

\$ 182,462

MASS ATTENDANCE Weekend of October 29

5pm Saturday: 181
9am Sunday: 403
11:30am Sunday: 380
1:30pm Sunday: 414
5pm Sunday: 205

TOTAL: 1,583

Altar Guild Meeting: November 9

All women of the parish are invited to join members of the OLL Altar Guild for their November meeting. Come to the meeting and enjoy fellowship time with the women who lovingly care for our sanctuary.

As the holidays approach the Altar Guild provides many opportunities for women in the parish to get involved with preparing our sanctuary for Advent and decorating for Christmas. Prepare your heart for the birth of our Lord by joining the women who prepare the sanctuary.

The meeting is on Thursday November 9 @ 11:15 AM in the Fallon Center (Downstairs). Bring a brown bag lunch.

Delicious homemade desserts and drinks will be provided. For additional information contact Lisa Dunham: ldunham4@icloud.com

Please Pray for
our Sick &
Suffering

FRANK BELL
KATHLEEN CHARLESWORTH
MYLES CHARLESWORTH
JANET CHIAVETTA
DANA CASH
ELEANORA CEFALU
ANDREW DILILLO
BARBARA GRANT
LOUISE GUYTON

DOUGLAS HOBBS
JOE KORST
CAPTAIN ZACHARY KOUSENS
ANNETTE LEFEBVRE
LIZ LORSCHIEDER
FRANK JANASIEWICZ
DEACON TOM MACK
EILEEN MACKO
CHRISTINE MARTIN

JULIA MEYERS
DON MONROE
LOUISE NANCE
KATIE NOWAK
RICHARD POLLARD
IRMA CRUZ-QUINONES
MARY REDMOND
DAN & KAREN RITCHIE
JOELLE ROEHL

MARY-LOUISE SAUTER
ALLISEN SCHULT
NANCY URBEN

RETREATS & EVENTS

Project Rachel Post Abortion Healing Retreat January 5-7, 2024

If you desire healing from a past abortion, you are invited to experience the love of Jesus Christ at a Project Rachel weekend retreat in the Raleigh area. The weekend retreat is strictly **confidential**, for both women and men and includes discussions, spiritual exercises, the sacrament of reconciliation, a Memorial Service, and a Mass of the Resurrection. Participation offers a beautiful opportunity to experience God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. For more information or to register for the retreat:

project.rachel@raldioc.org - (919) 852-1021.
<http://rachelnc.org>

Cost is \$200 for lodging, meals, and all retreat materials. Discount of \$50 for early registration. If there is a financial burden, assistance is available.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Volunteers are needed for our parish workdays!

January 6 - 15 volunteers
January 13 - 15 volunteers
February 17 - 15 volunteers
February 24 - 10 volunteers

Opportunities to serve include:

1. Help Deacon Byron coordinate Our Lady of Lourdes' participation this year (*training available.*)
2. Sign up to volunteer on the construction site (*must be 16 years old, no experience needed-just a servant's heart.*)
3. Help make lunches for the volunteers.

If you'd like to be involved this year,
please contact Deacon Byron:
bchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Habitat for Humanity
919-833-1999 - www.habitatwake.org
2420 North Raleigh Blvd, Raleigh NC 27604

NORTH CAROLINA
RIGHT TO LIFE



**The
Babylon Bee**



**North Carolina Right To Life
50th Anniversary Celebration
with Babylon Bee CEO, Seth Dillon**

Join Babylon Bee CEO, Seth Dillon and North Carolina Right to Life as they celebrate 50 years of service to the pro-life movement, on **Saturday, November 18th.**

**The event will take place at the
Koury Convention Center in Greensboro.
Doors open at 5:30PM.**

Tickets and sponsorships are available
at their web-site:
www.ncrtl.org/gala50

Discounts available to students and volunteers.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES YOUNG
ADULTS HOSTED DANCE
NOVEMBER 12TH
6 PM (AFTER MASS)
LIGHT SNACKS AND DRINKS**



Your weekly opportunities for
Faith Formation
Week of November 6-12

Monday, November 6

Tuesday, November 7

630pm **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** is a process through which non-baptized men and women enter the Catholic Church. Also, it is for those who have been Baptized but never Confirmed. It includes stages marked by study, prayer, and rites at Mass. Contact: Deacon Byron Champagne, 919-861-4614, bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

7pm **Young Adult Bible Study** meets weekly in the Fallon Center, room 202. They cover the upcoming Sunday Mass readings. Contact: Chris Fedkiw, 919-791-6688, cfeddy890@gmail.com

Wednesday, November 8

Thursday, November 9

930am **Thursday Theologians** meet weekly in the Fallon Center (Rm 202) to pray and discuss the weekend scriptures. Contact: Lisa Dunham, 919-630-6320, Ldunham4@icloud.com

630pm **Veritas Theology** (young adults) meet in the Fallon Center Lounge to discuss theology. Contact: Deacon Byron Champagne, 919-861-4614, bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

Friday, November 10

6am **That Man is You (TMIY)** provides faith formation and fellowship for Catholic men on Friday mornings from 6am to 7:30am in the Fallon Center Hall. Open to all men. Contact: Domenic Coletti, 919-389-9913, Domenic.coletti6@gmail.com

630pm **Choice Wine** introduces couples to the 7 steps to a superabundant marriage which when lived intentionally can transform their marriages and families. Open to all couples. Contact: Mike & Lulu Miranda, 919-341-7848, mirandalo@gmail.com

Saturday, November 11

8am **Parish Retreat** "Faithful Stewards & the Eucharist" in the Fallon Center. Led by Father David Zimmer, Diocese of Bismark, ND

Sunday, November 12

9am **Childrens Nursery** (in the Fallon Center Nursery room). The 2-3-year-olds are taught basic prayers. Contact: Candace Sperati, 919-861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

9am **Childrens Liturgy of the Word** calls young children (4-1st grade) forward after the Collect prayers of the 9am Sunday Mass to process to the Fallon Center to celebrate and reflect on the Sunday Gospel in an age-appropriate way.

1015am **Childrens Faith Formation** classes meet in various OLL school buildings. Contact: Candace Sperati, 919-861-4634, csperati@ourladyoflourdescc.org

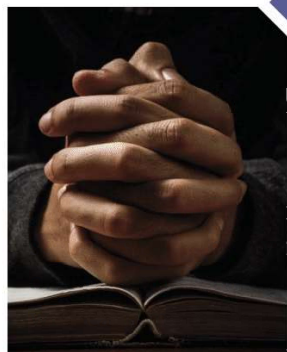
1015am **Adult Faith Formation** study and discuss Dr. Sri DVD series on The Mass in the Bernadette Center Classroom. Open to all. Contact: Deacon Byron Champagne, 919-861-4614, bcchampagne@ourladyoflourdescc.org

1015am **Youth Faith Formation** - middle school and confirmation students meet in OLLS middle school building. Contact: Austin Faur, 919-861-4601, afaur@ourladyoflourdescc.org

JOIN US FOR OUR

ANNUAL PARISH RETREAT

**FAITHFUL STEWARDS
& THE EUCHARIST**



JOIN YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS AT

Our Lady of Lourdes
CATHOLIC CHURCH

RSVP



**Saturday, November 11 • 8am-4pm
Fallon Hall**

This retreat offers a time for spiritual renewal for all parishioners. The focus will be on God's call to live as good stewards in thanksgiving to Him who feeds us of His own Body and Blood. Think of it as an invitation to reflect on God's unconditional love for us and our response to that love. With an emphasis on the Eucharist, attendees will learn more about its impact on our lives and how we can grow closer to Christ by availing ourselves of his true presence. Come and be closer to Jesus this day.

**Register by 11/4 online at the parish website, ourladyoflourdesc.org,
or by calling the parish office at 919-861-4600.**

(Limited to the first 200 RSVPs.)

There is no cost to attend and breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Fr. Dave Zimmer has long been committed to developing stewardship as a way of life. After attending the Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conference in Wichita in 2005, Fr. Dave began taking formal steps to introduce the spirituality of stewardship to the parish of St. John the Apostle in Minot, N.D., where he served as pastor. Fr. Zimmer retired in 2021 but continues to develop the stewardship way of life, and he has returned as a regular speaker for the Msgr. McGread Stewardship Conferences. He has also conducted more than 50 parish stewardship retreats throughout the country and addressed Presbyteral Conferences in the dioceses of Worcester, Mass., Salt Lake City, Utah, and St. Augustine, Fla., sharing his story of a parish community and pastor who embraced the stewardship way of life.



RETREAT LEADER

Fr. David Zimmer

Diocese of Bismarck, ND

Saint Martin de Porres

Saint Martin de Porres is known as the Saint of the Broom. He served everyone as a way to serve God. He worked in a monastery and took care of the priests and brothers. He cooked, cleaned, and cared for the sick. He did every job without complaining.

Pray to Saint Martin instead of complaining when it is time to clean your room.



Catholic Kids Bulletin

November 5, 2023
Ordinary Time
Color: Green

JKEWOINLYOUPALORDIWK

BOEWAIPEACEDKWO

In you, Lord,
I have found
my peace.

VWOAIPOKHAVEOSI

BOFOUNDKOWAMYOIEPAKCIWAO



The First Reading at Mass is usually from the Old Testament.

Year A: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

25 15 21 8 1 22 5

2 21 20 15 14 5

13 1 19 20 5 18 20 8 5

3 8 18 9 19 20



Jesus spoke to a crowd and told them that their teachers were saying the right things, but they weren't acting the right way.

Relieve Suffering Souls

Plenary Indulgences

All Catholics are capable of earning one plenary indulgence a day. If offered for a Holy Soul in Purgatory, a plenary indulgence will immediately release them from their suffering and into the Beatific Vision, where they will spend the rest of Eternity rejoicing in the true presence of God.

Here are two indulgenced works recommended for parishioners of Our Lady of Lourdes. (A complete list of indulgenced works may be found in the Enchiridion of Indulgences.)

- I. ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.**
A plenary indulgence is granted to those who visit the Most Blessed Sacrament for at least one half hour together with the three prerequisites (conditions) for receiving a plenary indulgence (see below.)
- II. VISIT TO A CEMETERY (OR COLUMBARIUM.)**
Only applicable to the souls in Purgatory; obtained when one devoutly visits and prays for the departed. A plenary indulgence is bestowed for this work each day between November 1 and November 8.

"As we enter into heaven, we will see them, so many of them coming towards us and thanking us. We will ask who they are, and they will say, "a poor soul you prayed for in purgatory." - Venerable Fulton Sheen



Just as the Church has the power, given by Christ, to forgive sins ["Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." (Jn. 20:23)], she also has the power to remit the penalties due to sin. This power is manifested in the form of indulgences.

WHAT ARE INDULGENCES?

An indulgence remits some temporal punishment due to sin which is already forgiven. A plenary indulgence remits all such temporal punishment and, if applied to a Holy Soul, will thereby release it immediately from Purgatory. A partial indulgence relieves only some of the suffering due, but not all.

WHY DOES ONE NEED INDULGENCES?

We need indulgences because we commit numerous sins each day. Even when we confess our sins, the slight penances given in Confession are not sufficient to remit the temporal punishment due to sin and therefore leave a debt of justice to God. If this debt is not paid here, it must be paid after our death, in purgatory. Indulgences, drawn from the inexhaustible Treasury of the Church (which contains the infinite merits of Christ, as well as those of his blessed Mother and the saints), are a relatively easy way of discharging the debt owed to God.

THE APPLICATION OF INDULGENCES

"One can win indulgences only for oneself or those in purgatory, who have need of assistance because they currently lack bodies. Indulgences cannot be applied towards other living persons. Every living person is supposed to do his own acts of obedience to help heal the worldly effects of his own sinfulness (CCC 1471-1473)."

There are many ways to earn indulgences, both partial and plenary, which are covered in detail in the Enchiridion of Indulgences. An indulgence may be applied to oneself, but also to the Church Suffering-- the Holy Souls in Purgatory. One may also offer any gained indulgences into the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who knows best where to apply them.

To obtain indulgences, it is not enough simply to perform the action or prayer of an indulgenced work. One must also fulfill the following conditions:

General Conditions for obtaining indulgences

- I. Sacramental Confession**, within 8 days of the indulgenced work.
- II. Reception of Communion**, once per plenary indulgence, preferably on the day of the indulgenced work. (One may only receive Communion twice a day at the most.)
- III. Prayer for the intentions** of the Holy Father, once per indulgence. *An Our Father and Hail Mary are suggested.*

THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

On the Gospel of this day ; St. Matthew , 23 :1-12 .

As this picture of the Pharisees is painted by none other than Christ himself, we can have no doubt but that the description given is the truth and nothing but the truth. In spite of their great knowledge of "the law and the prophets" – the divine revelation God had given to the Chosen People—and of their many strict observances of that law, they were not pleasing to God. All their good works and all their learning were spoiled by the vice of pride which made them seek earthly glory for themselves and prevented them from giving glory or thanks to God. Their religion was an empty external cloak which they used to attract attention and honor to themselves. Internally, they were so full of their own importance that there was no room for God in their hearts.

Our divine Lord warned his disciples, and through them all of us, to avoid that pernicious vice of pride. It should not be hard for any true Christian to avoid this vice. We know that every material and spiritual talent we have has been given us by God, so we must give glory to God for any gifts we possess and not to ourselves. St. Paul reminds us of this fact when he asks us: "What have you that you have not received, and if you have received it why glory in it as if it were your own?" We owe everything we have to God and we should use all the gifts he has given us for his honor and glory, and for that purpose alone.

Do we always do this? Are we never tempted to look down on our less fortunate brothers? If we have got on well in our temporal affairs do we attribute our success to our own skill and hard work or do we thank God for the opportunities he gave to us and not to others. If, aided by God's grace, we are keeping his commandments, do we show contempt for those who give in to temptations which we did not have to meet? The best of us can profit from an examination of conscience along these lines. If our external observance of the Christian rule of life is motivated solely by love and gratitude to God all is well. But if our hearts are far from God and our motives in our religious behavior is self-glorification, we are in a dangerous position. The sinners and harlots of Christ's day repented and were received into his kingdom; the Pharisees, unable to repent, were left outside.



Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.