

### 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

010

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." - Mt 22:37

#### SUNDAY'S READINGS

#### FIRST READING:

"You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword."

(Ex 22:21-23a)

#### PSALM:

I love you, Lord, my strength. (Ps 18)

#### SECOND READING:

You became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit,

so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. (1 Thes 1:6-7)

#### GOSPEL:

Jesus said to him. "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22:37-39)

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#### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 25, 2020

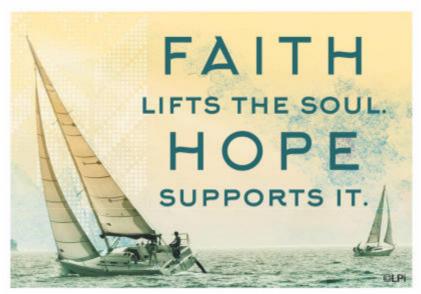
Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

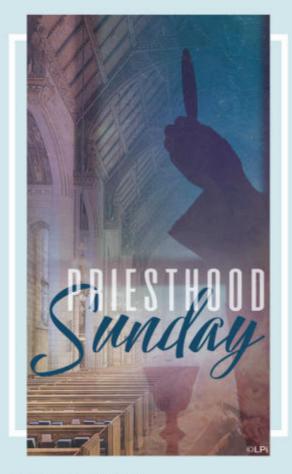
Wednesday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Saturday: All Hallow's Eve

Next Sunday: All Saints; Daylight Saving Time ends;

National Vocation Awareness Week





#### REFLECT

#### FIRST READING

Today's reading is an excerpt from the many laws Moses received at Mount Sinai. We learn that God expects empathy and compassion for the most vulnerable in society. How do you show care for those in need?

#### SECOND READING

Paul saw the believers in the city of Thessalonica as models for the faith in the surrounding regions of Macedonia and Achaia. Who would you hold up today as a model Christian?

#### **GOSPEL READING**

Jesus teaches the religious leaders in Jerusalem that love of God and love of neighbor and self are the greatest commandments. Which of these two commandments do you find more challenging?

#### CALCULATING LOVE

Have you ever Googled the word "love"? If you did you may have come across something called the Love Calculator. It is a website where you can supply two names, and the percentage chance of a successful relationship is calculated. Curious, I entered my name and my wife's. Twenty percent! I hope my wife doesn't read this!

I then decided to add my name and God. A whopping thirteen percent! Then for the last attempt, I put in my name and Jesus. A very disappointing zero percent! Am I that unlovable? Of course, then I read the small print at the bottom of the page: "Please note that this site has no serious intention whatsoever." Shocking!

The truth is, the modern world increasingly seems to have no real idea what love is or how to determine when love is real. That makes the seemingly simple words of Jesus about loving God and your neighbor very complex indeed. How can you love God with your all your heart, soul, and mind when you have no idea what the act of loving means? And then, what constitutes loving a neighbor? To make it more complicated, Jesus commands you can agree with me that there are a lot of people out there who do not even come close to loving themselves. Knowing what love is in modern times is just not that easy. How is a well-meaning person able to find out the true meaning of love?

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE DROPS A CONSECRATED HOST?

Despite our best efforts, and this is as true in our liturgical celebrations as in all of life, accidents happen. Occasionally at Mass, a

host may be dropped or some of the Precious Blood could even be spilled from the chalice, despite the best efforts of the priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion assisting at the liturgy.

So, when a host is dropped or the Precious Blood is spilled, we can take guidance from the U.S. Bishops' statement Norms for the Distribution for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds:

> All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they

handle the consecrated bread or wine.
Should there be any mishap — as when, for example, the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice — then the affected "area . . . should be washed with water, and this water should be then poured into the sacrarium."

According to no. 280 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, the general rule is that a dropped host is picked up by the minister distributing Communion and reverently consumed. The minster should be careful to make sure that no other particles from the host remain on the ground. As we see in the instruction from the bishops, the Precious Blood would be absorbed

(customarily with a purificator) and the area attentively and reverently washed with water which would then be disposed of properly.



#### LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Do we really understand how important our relationships with our brothers and sisters throughout the world truly are? Many give God's commandment to love your neighbor and yourself a congenial glance of approval and agreement without really thinking about the implications. Sometimes it is easier to kneel in reverence before the tabernacle in a church than to kneel in reverence before the tabernacle of another person's soul. Witnessing and being consumed by the Divine Power alive in the heart of every living being transforms not only how we see our brothers and sisters but how we see God Himself. The cries of the poor and those who are hurting must echo in our hearts. We can no longer be deaf to the world's pain. It is no longer acceptable to judge others, unduly criticize, or marginalize, neglect, abuse, manipulate, or participate in the exploitation of anyone! We are asked to become hypersensitive to not only what we are doing, but why we are doing it. This holds true not only with regard to the daily conduct of our lives but our economic and corporate relationships and policies as well.



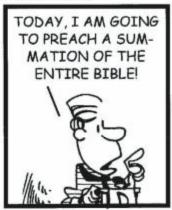
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#### 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME









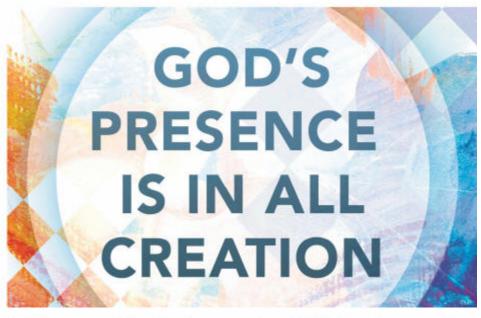
#### GOSPEL MEDITATION

#### **ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE**

For some reason, it is easier to genuflect in reverence to the presence of Christ in the tabernacle of a church, than to genuflect in reverence to the same presence of Christ in another person's soul. We wrongly believe that God divides himself, placing himself in one place in preference to another. It doesn't work that way. Love of God and love of neighbor are intimately and inseparably connected because the essence and spark of God's very presence is in all creation. God's presence is just as real in the one who is good, as in the one who is bad, and the one who is just, and the one who is unjust.

Our brains get in the way of truly contemplating the awesomeness of this truth. We like to separate things into boxes, the sheep from the goats and the deserving from the undeserving. But, with God there are no distinctions such as this. Our human classifications, subdivisions, and definitions hold no power or have any weight in God's eyes. Sad y, we relate to God and to each other as if they do.

We cannot be deaf to the world's pain. It is not about having, hording, accumulating, acquiring, securing, storing, protecting, owning,



claiming, or any of the other human terms we use to distinguish mine from yours. We put so much power in these words and that power, even though we may not always realize it, can cause those words and the distinctions they carry to wound and hurt others. We have the whole order of things wrong, but we are so set on preserving this order that we are absolutely afraid to do it any other way. We go through hoops trying to convince ourselves why the perils of the person seeking a new place to call home are not our perils that we turn our back and justify closing our doors. It makes perfect sense to us. Yet, it makes no sense in terms

of our faith. It doesn't square with any of the words found in Sacred Scripture or in any time-tested teaching of the church.

We have it all reversed. We know that we do because when Jesus speaks about such things and the words of the Old Testament prophets ring out again, we start to feel uncomfortable and anxious. What we do, directly or by omission, to one of the least of these little ones we do to God. It is quite possible that some of what we are doing personally, economically, politically, globally, and even religiously is doing more harm than good. Let's ponder that a bit.

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Mt 22:37-39

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 62001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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#### Monday, Oct 26, 2020

Too many people work too much. Some have a psychological compulsion to work incessantly. Some work excessively to acquire money and success. Some have no identity outside of their jobs. Some are driven by guilt and fear of being lazy. Some think that an overly busy work life makes them look important. And far too many are forced to work too much in order to make ends meet. None of these reasons are healthy or holy. God wants us to rest and enjoy life too—thus, the sabbath day. Let's work together to create a just society where all can get some rest.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 4:32—5:8; Luke 13:10-17

#### Tuesday, Oct 27, 2020

Prayerful words from the National Association of Catholic Chaplains, written by NACC member Lisa Ecks: "May the wilderness of this time, and the uncertainty we may feel, strengthen our resolve to lean on your word, abide in your presence, and be guided by your enduring and powerful Spirit." The NACC helps priests, religious women, and laypeople bring a trained, professional experience to their ministry of caring for the sick. Pray for all hospital chaplains during this Pastoral Care Week. They're consoling not just COVID-19 patients but medical workers on the front lines.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 5:21-33; Luke 13:18-21

#### Wednesday, Oct 28, 2020 Feast of Simon and Jude, Apostles

Much of what we know about apostles Jude and Simon is who they are not. Simon was called the Zealot—someone passionate, and perhaps revolutionary, about his Jewish faith. Calling him the Zealot also helped to distinguish him from the more famous Simon Peter. We find Jude (along with Judas, variant translations of the name Judah) mentioned in the list of the apostles in Luke and Acts, but he is called Thaddeus in Matthew and Mark, perhaps to distinguish him from the traitor Judas Iscariot. Regardless of their relative obscurity, Jude and Simon were chosen by Jesus to share the Good News and there is every indication they did just that. Even if your life seems quiet and unremarkable to you in some ways, the call to discipleship is your call as well. Saint Jude and Saint Simon, pray for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 2:19-22; Luke 6:12-16

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow a day at a time.

#### Thursday, Oct 29, 2020

Even in this day and age, Christians standing up for what is right have been killed for their efforts. Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. comes to mind. So does Sister Dorothy Stang, SNDdeN, of Dayton, Ohio, who was murdered in 2005 for defending the poor and protected lands in the Amazon rain forest in Brazil. Would you allow yourself to be inconvenienced (or more) to do the right thing? Look for a way to stand up for a good cause today, even if it feels inconvenient.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ephesians 6:10-20; Luke 13:31-35

#### Friday, Oct 30, 2020

One of the comforting takeaways from our experience of church during the pandemic is that people are more important than rules. The obligation to physically participate in Sunday Mass has been dispensed during the pandemic by our bishops. We are given the opportunity to make a "spiritual communion" instead. We don't have to go to Confession to be absolved of our sins. A sincere Act of Contrition and a resolve to celebrate the sacrament when it once again becomes available is sufficient. Just as Jesus set aside the sabbath commandment in order to heal, so too our bishops set aside the precepts so that we may be healed. Let's pray today for our bishops, and for a time of healing.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:1-11; Luke 14:1-6

#### Saturday, Oct 31, 2020

One of the many things to be longed for during this extended time of physical distancing is the free and easy sharing of meals with family and friends, in groups large and small. Shared meals hold a special place in family life, and in Catholic life as well. It's no mystery why meals are central. Something magical happens at mealtime, the communion among people is palpable. And in Catholic life, Communion is sacred. Pray we may safely gather again without appointment or extra precautions in the not distant future and freely share the mysteries of our faith in the bread and wine, the Body and Blood. Until then, let us raise a glass in remembrance of Christ.

TODAY'S READINGS: Philippians 1:18b-26; Luke 14:1, 7-11

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Scripture citations from the NAB Rev. Ed.

# OCTOBER



St. John Paul II Chapel is open Monday—Thursday for Adoration and Prayer



**Due to present Covid-19 restrictions:** 

- + Masks must be worn
- Limited to 5 people every 55 minutes on the hour followed by sanitizing
  - + Entrance and Exit is through the Office only
- † Times available M—Th only:9am, 10am, & 11am, 1pm & 2pm
- + Sanitizing must be performed 5 minutes prior to the next time slot



#### **Mass Intentions**

Weekend of October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

中 Rich Dwyer 中 Eleanor & Walter Milewski For the People of St. Steven's 中 Jesus Rodriguez

**Monday October 26<sup>th</sup>** 

 **Bill Dillon** 

**Tuesday October 27<sup>th</sup>** 

**廿** Tommy Cannon

Wednesday October 28<sup>th</sup>

**†** Larry Byron

**Thursday October 29<sup>th</sup>** 

**Special Intention for Lyne Boucher** 

Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>

骨 Bill & Jimmy Dillon

Weekend of Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> & Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>
Solemnity of All Saints

☆ Harry Miller

**☆** Fuljencia Taduran Wilson For the People of St. Steven's

☆ Maximiliane Barnum

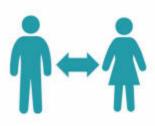
#### **3 EASY STEPS**

#### TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.







#### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

#### DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

#### **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.







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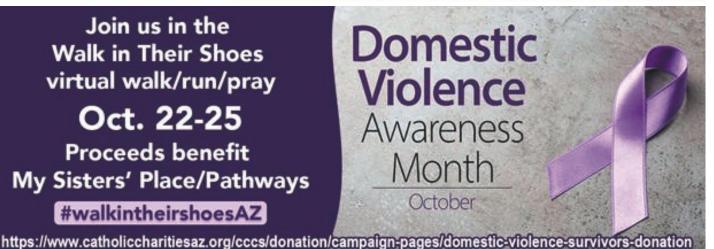
www.catholiccharitiesaz.org/taxcredit or call 602.650.4887. A portion of the harvest is set aside for the poor and the stranger. Leviticus 19:9-10

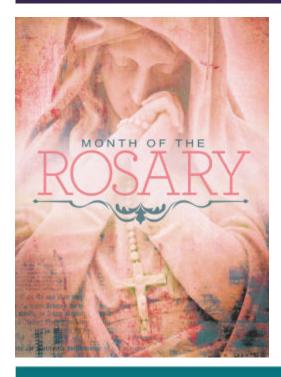
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