

## 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute.” - Lk 21:15

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# ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025

### Contact Us

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Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

**Confession** – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

**Adoration** – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm

Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

## **Homily by Fr. Felix:**

XXX Sunday (C): Mal 3:19–20a; 2 Thes 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, as we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church invites us to look honestly at the end of all things, not to frighten us, but to awaken us. Today's liturgy speaks of judgment, of endurance, and of hope. Malachi, Paul, and Jesus each call us to live not in fear, but in faith, to work diligently, to persevere patiently, and to trust that the Lord's justice and mercy will prevail.

In the first reading, the prophet Malachi speaks of the coming day of the Lord. He describes it as a day blazing like an oven, when evil will be burned up like straw. But for those who revere the name of the Lord, "the sun of justice will rise with healing in its rays." This fire represents the purifying love of God. For the arrogant and the evildoer, that love feels like burning, it exposes falsehood, pride, and injustice. But for the humble and faithful, that same love is healing, it brings light, warmth, and renewal. In this reading, Malachi invites us to trust in God's coming not with dread, but with faith. For those who seek the Lord sincerely, the end is not destruction but healing.

In the second reading, St. Paul speaks to some Thessalonians who had misunderstood the promise of the Lord's coming. They thought the end was so near that they stopped working, stopped contributing, and became idle, even meddling in others' affairs. Paul, with pastoral firmness, reminds them of his own example: "We worked night and day so as not to be a burden... Anyone unwilling to work should not eat." His teaching is clear that Christian hope does not make us passive. Waiting for Christ's return is not an excuse for laziness. On the contrary, authentic faith makes us more committed to the tasks before

us, to our work, our families, our community, our mission. In a world where many want results without effort, and blessings without responsibility, Paul's words are refreshingly real. He teaches us that daily work, done with love and integrity, is not only economic necessity, but also spiritual discipline. Our labor becomes prayer when offered in faith.

In the Gospel, Jesus surprises his disciples who marvel at the beauty of the temple, its stones, its grandeur. Jesus tells them, "The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another." For them, that was unthinkable. The temple was the very center of faith, identity, and security. But Jesus is teaching a deeper truth: everything earthly, even what seems most sacred and strong, will one day fall. Only God's kingdom endures. He speaks of wars, earthquakes, persecution, betrayal, all things that make us anxious. But he adds something astonishing. This will give you an opportunity to bear witness. Not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your lives. The chaos of the world is not the end; it is the stage on which faithful disciples reveal their trust in God.

Today, all three readings teach that the end of time is not something to fear, but to prepare for, not by idleness or panic, but by steady faithfulness. The "end" is not merely the collapse of the world; it's the fulfillment of God's plan, when everything false will burn away, and only love will remain.

Let us work with integrity, endure courage, and hope with joy, so that when the Son of Justice rises, He finds us faithful, purified by His fire, healed by His light, and ready to enter the dawn of His eternal kingdom. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please support our **Sock & Underwear Drive for Malta Food Bank**. New items in their original package can be left in the basket in the vestibule of the church during the month of November. Items will be delivered the week following Thanksgiving.

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PCCW will host their annual **Christmas Cheer Party**, immediately following Mass on December 7<sup>th</sup>, in the church basement. Each PCCW Band is asked to bring at least 4 dozen homemade cookies or treats. They will assemble cookie trays and deliver them to parishioners in need of a little Christmas Cheer. All ladies are encouraged to attend and share in this fellowship.

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**\*If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.**

Did you know? There is an excellent **Catholic Funeral Planning Guide** on our website  
[www.saintmarysmalta.org/ministries](http://www.saintmarysmalta.org/ministries)

*The documents include information on: steps before death, at the time of death, and after death. The Order of Catholic Funeral Rites explained and an easy "fill in the blank" area to share with loved ones.*



Thank you to everyone who attended and participated in the  
**Ministry Fair and Potluck Lunch**

It was a wonderful day filled with laughs and fellowship. We still need Ministers to serve in many categories - please check downstairs as the display tables are still up and waiting for your review.

***Sign up forms are available for you and your family to serve our church.***

### Prayer Requests

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

**Please pray for** –The family of Shyla Sisco, Debbie and Joe Nicholson, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, the family of Norma Wyse, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Lorena James, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, John Shevlin, Kristi Shettel Peterson, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

**For the repose of the souls of** – Shyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

**Mass Intentions** - to schedule an intention,  
please fill out an envelope in the back of the church.  
Each intention is \$10.

Saturday 11.15.25	For Leah Kunze r/b Regina Webb
Sunday 11.16.25 10:30 Malta 8:30am Saco 12:30 Dodson	-For Clark Riggs r/b The Howells -Repose of Jade Walker r/b Indigo Walker -For the faithful in our Parish
Monday 11.17.25	Julie Morrow and deceased family members r/b Cummings
Tuesday 11.18.25	Healing mass for our Grand Knight, Lance Hould r/b KofC
Wednesday 11.19.25	Repose of William Morrow r/b The Howells
Thursday 11.20.25	For Roman Morris and Family r/b Corky & Bonnie LaBrie
Friday 11.21.25	For the marginalized r/b Lana Fortin
Saturday 11.22.25	For birthday of Linda Hould r/b Houlds
Sunday 11.23.25	For my Friends r/b Lana Fortin

**Readings for the week of November 16, 2025**

**Sunday:** Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19

**Monday:** 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

**Tuesday:** 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

**Wednesday:** 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/Lk 19:11-28

**Thursday:** 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

**Friday:** 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

**Saturday:** 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/Lk 20:27-40

**Next Sunday:** 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43



**Finance Council members include:**

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*Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.*

**Parish Council members include:**

**Alora Snider**— 399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com)

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# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

But for you who fear my name, there will arise  
the sun of justice with its healing rays. (Mal 3:20)

### Psalm:

The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice. (Ps 98)

### Second Reading:

Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,  
so that you might imitate us. (2 Thes 3:9)

### Gospel:

"You will be hated by all because of my name,  
but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.  
By your perseverance you will secure your lives." (Lk 21:17-19)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus' words today are filled with fire and brimstone, vivid with images of pain, suffering, confusion — and, ultimately, peace. Do we believe what he promises? Do we have the endurance to stay with him until the end?

## Observances for the week of November 16, 2025

- Sunday:** 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious  
**Tuesday:** The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin  
**Friday:** The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
**Saturday:** St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr  
**Next Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe



## Devotions, *Explained!*

An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas.

## Prayer in Season of Trust

O Lord,  
Be with me now, I feel so alone.  
Bring Your blessings to me, like  
the light of a candle in darkness.  
Wrap me in Your mercy,  
give me strength to face every  
hardship.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of November 16, 2025

### Sunday:

Mal 3:19-20a/Ps 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 (see 9)/  
2 Thes 3:7-12/Lk 21:5-19

### Monday:

1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps  
119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

### Tuesday:

2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 19:1-10

### Wednesday:

2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and  
15/Lk 19:11-28

### Thursday:

1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/  
Lk 19:41-44

### Friday:

1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd,  
11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48

### Saturday:

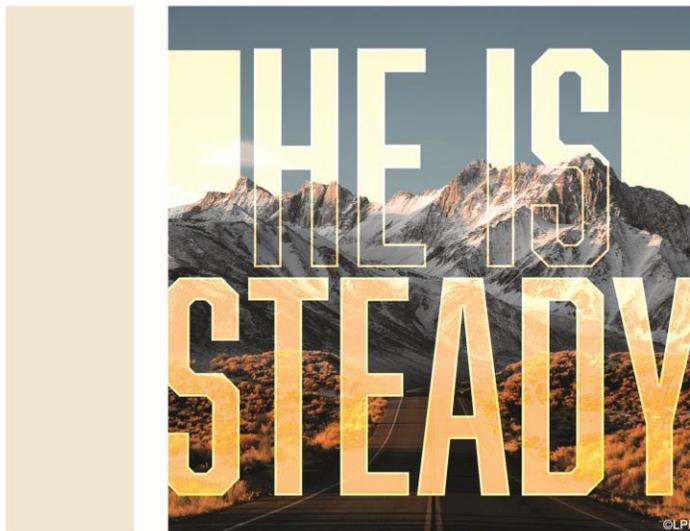
1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/  
Lk 20:27-40

### Next Sunday:

2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

When I was a kid growing up in New England, I'd occasionally go on a whale watch. Once we went out with calm waters and clear skies. But on the way back in, the sea got rough. I was just a kid, and I remember thinking we should turn left or right toward the shoreline I could see. But the pilot of the boat kept going straight — right into the waves — focused on a small, discouragingly distant lighthouse. Even when it flickered in and out of sight, he stayed the course. He knew where he was going.

That image comes to mind when I hear Jesus' words in today's Gospel regarding false messiahs: **"Do not follow them" (Luke 21:8)**. In times of chaos or uncertainty, there are always voices offering easier routes, promising false safety, claiming to speak for God. But Jesus isn't found in the loudest voice or the nearest shoreline. He is steady, like a lighthouse in the storm.

The tribulation of which Jesus speaks — it's real. It happened to the Temple, it happened to him, it happens in the Church, and it will come to each of us. But the command is not to panic. It's to endure. To keep steering toward him. Faith isn't about having all the answers or dodging every wave. It's about knowing where the lighthouse is — and trusting it enough to keep going, especially when false safety beckons us to stop.

— *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** Love and hate. Hope and fear. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something.

### Two Things Can Be True At Once

As my husband and I drove our firstborn child home from the hospital, I sat alongside my daughter in the backseat. Terrified, exhausted, exhilarated, confused, hopeful — I was all of these things at the same time. I gazed at her, this magnificent little creature whose face was both familiar and strange to me, thinking: *She is exquisite. She is the future. She is life.*

And then I burst into uncontrollable sobs.

“What’s wrong?” my husband cried, panicked, glancing in the rearview mirror.

“She’s — going — to — die — someday,” I blubbered, choking on my own tears.

“Ohhh, honey.” I’ll never forget the tone of his voice as he clearly debated turning this car around and taking me back to the hospital for an emergency psych evaluation. “I think you might be tired.”

Ten years later, it’s a memory we laugh about. I hadn’t slept more than four hours in four days. Postpartum hormones had lain waste to my senses. Here, on the threshold of new life, all I could think of was death. It’s funny. It’s absurd.

But it also makes a lot of sense.

Love and hate. Hope and fear. Joy and sorrow. Death and life. What lasts forever, and what is even now passing away before our eyes. To be human is to know that these feelings, these realities, can and often do occur at the same time. To be Christian is to know that it means something — even if we cannot understand what. Not yet.

In every moment of his earthly life, Christ shows us that two things can be true at once. A virgin is a mother. An exile is a king. The temple will be destroyed, and it will last forever. The world is ending. The world is beginning. The cross is death. The cross is life.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why do Catholics call priests Father?

### Answer:

One of the common objections evangelical Christians have to Catholics is our practice of calling priests by the title Father. They will often cite a passage in Matthew’s Gospel in which Jesus tells his followers: “Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven” (23:19). It seems pretty straightforward, but when we put this verse in context, we see that Jesus is speaking out against religious leaders who had forgotten what their proper role was and who were bad examples through their own hypocrisy and elitist attitudes.

In other Gospels, we find Jesus himself using the title father for different characters, such as in the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man (Luke 16:19-31) and the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). If we put the verse from Matthew into the full scope of Jesus’ teachings, he isn’t saying that we can’t use words like “father,” “rabbi,” or “master.” Rather, he is telling us that we should be mindful of the full meaning of those titles and not to misuse them.

To call a priest “Father” is more than a sign of respect for the office of the priesthood. It goes all the way back to the way St. Paul understood his own work as a missionary and evangelizer. Paul wrote, “I am writing you in this way not to shame you but to admonish you as my beloved children ... It was I who begot you in Christ Jesus through my preaching of the Gospel. I beg you, then, be imitators of me. This is why I have sent you Timothy, my beloved and faithful son in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 4:14-17).

Yes, we have God alone as our heavenly Father, but there are also those here with us who nurture and nourish our faith through their teaching and care. This is why the title of Father has been applied to the church’s pastors in different ways since the earliest days of the Church, including monks and nuns using the title “abbot” and “abbess” (from abba) for their spiritual leaders and Christians around the world recognizing the “Holy Father” or “pope” (from papa) as the head of the family that is the Church. The title Father is a reminder that priests have a special responsibility to care for, protect, feed, listen to, and nourish those who have been entrusted to them, all after the example of our Father in heaven who never ceases to give us what we truly need.

## Prayer

Dear God, help me to be brave and tell other people about you.

## Mission for the Week

Write down three things that scare you. Tell God about them. Ask God to help you.

## Sharing the Gospel

Sometimes this world can be a scary place in which to live. Fighting, sickness, and storms can kill a lot of people. Jesus says that when those things happen around you, do not be afraid. Even when you die, you can still live forever with God. You have heaven to look forward to. When scary things happen around you, tell the people you love about Jesus. Tell them they can live forever with Jesus, too, so they don't need to be afraid.

Now color the picture! →

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

temple  
stones  
attack

starve  
trial  
faith

wisdom  
betrayed  
saved

tmepel

t e m p l e

fitha

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