

31st SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME YEAR C – November 3, 2019



Every priest in the diocese of Allentown is required to attend a theology workshop each year. This year, the theology workshop will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. All the priests of the diocese are required to attend the workshop at the same time.

Therefore, morning Mass will not be celebrated here at “Our Lady” on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week. Our deacons will conduct a communion service at 6:45 and 8:00 AM on each of those days and you are most welcome to come and receive our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

If this sounds a little confusing, but you can check out all the details in the bulletin this weekend.

Allow me now to share a thought for the day; perhaps a thought for the week.

All the scripture readings today, from the book of Wisdom, Paul’s second letter to the Thessalonians, the familiar passage in St. Luke’s Gospel - beginning with verse one in chapter 19 - all of them remind us of the mercy of God and his tremendous love for us.

Some people focus so much on the wrath of God, the justice of God, the righteous anger of God, the Old Testament God, the God of the Old Law, that they lose sight of what God did for us and why he did it.

One of my professors in the seminary (1956) used to say, “Every time you commit a serious sin, you add one more brick to your oven in hell where you will spend all eternity in fire, unless you repent. You cannot escape the wrath of God and if the fear of hell is what makes you love God so be it” - old wine for old wine skins.

I had another professor who used to say, “I think when we die, we will come into the presence of God and God will say, I don’t want to talk about your sins, I already know them, I want to simply ask you this, what have your learned from them?” – new wine for new wine skins.

The mercy of God is available 24/7 for all of us. It was available to Zachaeus through Jesus and it is available to us too. It is available even before repentance. It is “*accepted*” after repentance. Recall the prodigal son and the forgiving Father.

For a few moments in silence, imagine you have just died. You are now in the presence of God and God asks you that question – “What have you learned from your sins?”

