

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 8, 2017

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: JON 1:1-2;1-2, 11, PS JONAH 2, LK 10:25-37

TUESDAY: JON 3:1-10, PS 130, LK 10:38-42

WEDNESDAY: JON 4:1-11, PS 86, LK 11:1-4

THURSDAY: MAL 3;13-20B, PS 1, LK 11:5-13

FRIDAY: JL 1:13-15, 2:1-2, PS 9, LK 11:15-26

SATURDAY: JL4:12-21, PS 97, LK 11:27-28

NEXT SUNDAY: TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – RDGS: IS 25:6-10A, PS 23, PHIL 4:12-14,19-20, MT 22:1-14, or MT 22:1-10

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: FR. BERT WOOLSON

CLERGY RETREAT NO MASS UNTIL-

FRIDAY: POOR SOULS

VIGIL: BARBARA KOCHERT

7:30: KEN DELION

10:00: FR. BERT WOOLSON

NOON: FOR THE PARISH

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Those serving in our Armed Forces, especially those soldiers who have connections to our parish: Ann Hubertz. Robert W. Bennett. (Francis Spitznagle, M/M Michael Farrell). (Kristyne Vaughn, Shirley, Anne & Paul Owen). (Norb & Mark FitzSimons, Larry White). Deceased members of Schlosser & Kanthack families. (Totten, Stump & Ringle families).

GOSPEL REFLECTION

*When vintage time drew near,
he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce.*

Vintage time certainly refers to that “moment of truth” when we will be called to give an accounting of ourselves (Mt. 12:36). In this case that which has been entrusted to us is our very selves and we will be “judged” on just exactly what we have done to participate with the graces God has given us to conform to his will and become a son or daughter or whether we have gone our own way and squandered our gifts and talents by placing our trust in something or someone other than God. For the spiritually inclined, this “accounting” occurs every day in the form of an examination of conscience. Usually before we go to bed to take stock of our day in such a way as to examine critically just how we have responded to God’s continuing call to follow him and thereby delight in his abiding Presence and also reflect that to our neighbor by way of loving and joyful service. Prayerfully and soberly we examine all we have done that day in order to discern a pattern. When we discover that the pattern has been our own selfishness we then become aware of this in order to offer it in prayer so that the Father may, with his loving touch, begin to remove such selfishness in the hopes that the next day, if there is to be one as a gift of God, we may, on our next examination of conscience, find ourselves just a little less selfish in our dealings with others and with ourselves. The fruit we present to the Lord as we place ourselves in his special presence each night is duly noted, not by some demanding judge but by a loving Father who “rejoices” in that we are becoming more and more like his Beloved Son whom we acknowledge as Lord and Example over and over in our daily lives. Such rejoicing we are assured echoes in the halls of Glory (Luke 15:7), and that rejoicing is for our benefit and for our continued progress in the spiritual life. The key to all this is becoming comfortable with this process so much so that we actually look forward to it and that it increases in length and in depth. We become “at home” with such an inventory insofar as we welcome the guidance of the Holy Spirit and can then enter into our nightly rest with a comfort that is almost childlike.

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Upon awaking we are refreshed in knowing that this day God will provide for us the opportunity to engage in the type of service which pleases him and which benefits our neighbor. We know however, that there will come a time when the seriousness of divine judgment is visited upon us in a more final and dramatic way but if we are faithful and accustomed to this daily regiment the judgment that awaits us at Christ's return will be one of welcoming and a reunion upon hearing the words of Christ, "Well done good and faithful servant...." (Matthew 25:23)



Will you let me be your servant
Let me be as Christ to you
Pray that I might have the grace
To let me be your servant too

We are pilgrims on the journey
We are brothers on the road
We are here to help each other
Walk the mile and bear the load

I will hold the Christ light for you
In the night time of your fear
I will hold my hand out to you
Speak the the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven
We shall find such harmony
Born to all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony

Question: "What does the Bible say about being a servant / servanthood?"

Answer: The Bible has a great deal to say about servanthood because the central theme of the Bible is the Servant of all—Jesus Christ. "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" ([Mark 10:45](#)). When we give Jesus Christ His rightful place as Lord of our lives, His lordship will be expressed in the way we serve others ([Mark 9:35](#); [1 Peter 4:10](#); [John 15:12-13](#)). How can we demonstrate love for God? Our love for God will be expressed in our love for others. "For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" ([2 Corinthians 4:5](#)).

True leadership is servanthood, and the greatest leader of all time is Jesus Christ. Servanthood is an attitude exemplified by Christ "who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant" ([Philippians 2:6-7](#)). The five words in the New Testament translated "ministry" generally refer to servanthood or service given in love. Serving others is the very essence of ministry. All believers are called to ministry ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)), and, therefore, we are all called to be servants for the glory of God. Living is giving; all else is selfishness and boredom. It has been rightly stated, "Rank is given you to enable you to better serve those above and below you. It is not given for you to practice your idiosyncrasies" (General Bruce C. Clarke, USA, Ret).

Let's serve others by serving Christ ([Colossians 3:23-24](#)). God the Father has served us by sacrificing Christ on the cross for our sins, and we should serve others by giving the gospel and our lives to them ([1 Thessalonians 1:5-6](#)). Those who desire to be great in God's kingdom must be the servant of all ([Matthew 20:26](#)).

Read more: <http://www.gotquestions.org/servanthood>.



Characteristics of Jesus as a Servant

Jesus Christ laid aside his Majesty to come to earth to show us the love of God. This action shows the characteristics of Jesus as a servant-leader.

There is no doubt that when Christ came to earth he also revealed **his skills as a leader**, however; his example as a servant cannot be ignored.

Jesus' ministry has a strong foundation in servanthood. On one occasion, he told his disciples,

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:12-13)

These are the words of a true servant.

Christ's life and death on the cross are the supreme example of his commitment to being a servant. There are several passages of scripture within the Bible that define the servant role of Jesus.

Here are 9 characteristics of Jesus as a servant to consider.

Isaiah Describes the Messiah (Jesus) as a Servant

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah speaks of the coming "Messiah" as a servant. In his writing, the prophet points out the characteristics of a servant-leader.

Isaiah wrote,

"Here is my *servant*, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will bring justice to the nations.

He will not shout or cry out,

or raise his voice in the streets.

A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.

In faithfulness, he will bring forth justice;

he will not falter or be discouraged

till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope." (Isaiah 42:1-4, NIV)

In these words, the prophet is pointing out the unique characteristics of a servant-leader.

Jesus Describes Himself as a Servant in His Teaching

In three of the Gospels, Jesus refers to himself and his ministry in the world. In these three passages of scripture, Christ lays out the characteristics of true servanthood.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – **Mark 10:45 (NIV)**

"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. – **John 6:38 (NIV)**

"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves." – **Luke 22:27 (NIV)**

Jesus points out in these three scriptures basic truths about servanthood

– A true servant does not seek to be served

A true servant aims to serve others

A true servant does not aim to do his own will

A true servant does not promote himself

Jesus Shows Himself as a Servant By His Actions

One of the strongest examples of the servant attitude of Jesus can be seen when he washes his disciples' feet in John, chapter 13.

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

⁸ "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

⁹ "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

¹⁰ Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." ¹¹ For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

¹² When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. ¹³ "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

The idea of being a servant is not always accepted by those around us. Simon Peter had a very difficult time in allowing Jesus to wash his feet. This action was the role of the "servant." Jesus made it clear to Simon that this was the foundation of all that he had been teaching the disciples.

The Apostle Paul Describes Jesus as a Servant

In his letter to the first-century church at Philippi, the Apostle Paul had this to say about the servant role of Jesus,

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness." – **Philippians 2:6-7 (NIV)**

Paul also taught the early Christian believers that servanthood and humility work together. He wrote about the example that Jesus set.

"And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" – **Philippians 2:8 (NIV)**

Paul points out to the believers that Christ's example of servanthood is one of the most powerful messages of the New Testament church.

Jesus Was Not a Self-Promoting Servant

Jesus had several opportunities to promote himself. He never did. The Gospel of Matthew tell a story of how Jesus had every opportunity to promote himself but refused to do it. One of those stories can be seen here in the Gospel of Matthew.

⁹ Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man *was there* whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"—so that they might accuse Him. ¹¹ And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out?"

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¹²How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath.” ¹³Then He *said to the man, “Stretch out your hand!” He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. ¹⁴But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, *as to* how they might destroy Him.

¹⁵But Jesus, aware of *this*, withdrew from there. Many followed Him, and He healed them all, ¹⁶and warned them not to tell who He was. ¹⁷*This was* to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

¹⁸“Behold, My *Servant* whom I have chosen; My Beloved in whom My soul is well-pleased; I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

¹⁹“He will not quarrel, nor cry out; Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.

²⁰“A battered reed He will not break off, And a smoldering wick He will not put out, Until He leads justice to victory.

²¹“And in His name the Gentiles will hope.” – **Matthew 12:9-21**

Jesus Taught His Disciples That Greatness is Found in Servanthood

“Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—²⁸just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” -Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV)

Jesus, as a Servant Leader, Taught That Humility and Servanthood Cannot be Separated

Jesus said to his disciples in the Gospel of Matthew. “But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” – **Matthew 6:3-4 (NIV)**

Jesus Praises the Character of a Trusting Servant

Real and powerful servanthood starts by recognizing the power of others. A centurion soldier came to Jesus asking for help. Matthew records the story.

⁵When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶“Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly.”

⁷Jesus said to him, “Shall I come and heal him?”

⁸The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.” – **Matthew 8:5-10**

This story has a significant meaning. Here is a soldier who has authority and power at his fingertips; yet, he placed himself under the authority of Jesus. This encounter with this soldier impressed Jesus. This man was willing to place himself under the authority and leadership of Jesus much like a servant.

This centurion is a perfect example of humble servanthood. Jesus even said, “Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”

Jesus as a Servant Leader is a Powerful Example to Follow

9 Characteristics of Jesus as a Leader

When thinking about the servant style of Jesus it would benefit any leader to follow his example. John Stott put it this way, “The authority by which the Christian leader leads is not power but love, not force but example, not coercion but reasoned persuasion. Leaders have power, but power is safe only in the hands of those who humble themselves to serve.”

This is exactly the example that Jesus set for those who are willing to follow Him.

Dale Roach

Loving God and Neighbor

**Loving God above all else
with heart, soul and mind
places focus where it should be
for there are no other gods before
Him.**

**He thought about us before time,
as we
know it, began. Bowing in humble
submission, we embrace His com-
mands.**

**Not counting the cost
unabashedly loving our neighbor
we imitate the great love of God
as He wants us to do if we believe
in Faith what has been handed
down
through the ages by sages.**

**May we always throw ourselves
wholeheartedly into all that is
good, right and holy.**

**Guide me along the straight and
narrow path.
Keep me strong and single mind-
ed.
Permit me to show You through
me.
In humble submission,
I shall serve You, O Lord, my God.**

Mel Patterson

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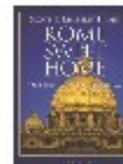
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September 27 through November 5

St. Ann's parish members are invited to join the Christian community in this worthy endeavor by signing up to pray to end abortion. Please consider joining in prayer in front of Planned Parenthood at 964 Mezzanine Drive, on Tuesdays for an hour each week between 9 am to 6 pm. For more information contact Mary Pat Hall at 743-5576 or email her at hallmpo@comcast.net. More info is also available at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaign/lafayette>.



Millie's Thrift Shop Entrusted with the treasures of our friends to help others

Millie's has been blessed with generous donations of clothing and household items that have increased our service to the community. However, because of illnesses and retirements, we are badly in need of more **volunteers**. Please consider volunteering at the store for four or six hours, once a week or twice a month. Please visit our store at 626 N. Earl Avenue, Mon – Fri, 10:00 to 4:00, email questions to millieslcss@gmail.com or call Barbara Ahler 765-428-1929.

As you change to your fall / winter clothing, please consider **donating** clean and wearable clothing no longer needed to Millie's.

As always, we accept used Catholic school **uniforms** to pass onto other families.

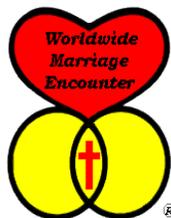
All items can be dropped off at the shop on Earl Avenue and are tax deductible.

Lastly, please stop by to **shop** and see our renovated shopping floor.

THANK YOU TO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Married couples go home from a **Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend** more in love with each other than ever! Want to find out more? Marriage Encounter Weekends will be at Our Lady of Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis, from 3-5 November 2017 and 27-29 April 2018, and Mount St. Francis, New Albany, from 2-4 February and 19-21 October, 2018. Visit www.wwme.org for further information

Marriage Encounter Weekend: "We want you to know we thought we had a great marriage. But Marriage Encounter helped make it fantastic!"



Starting October 9th, watch *The Bible and the Sacraments* on FORMED! Each week, two new episodes of this powerful and enriching series from the St. Paul Center will be released for a limited time only.

Presented by popular speaker and author Matthew Leonard, the deep mysteries and truths of the sacraments come alive in a whole new way through exploring where the sacraments come from, what they mean, and why they are so important and foundational to our Catholic faith.

This beautifully filmed, eleven-part series investigates the deeper mystery of the sacraments as illuminated by Sacred Scripture. The Sacraments are more than mere earthly rituals. They are incredible "powers that come forth" from the Body of Christ" (CCC 116).

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK: One of St. Paul's favorite topics was prayer, and today's reading from his letter to the Philippians is no exception to that. He says, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." For Paul all topics are appropriate for prayer because we need to share and consult with the Lord about everything.

God knows what is on our minds already, of course, but He also desires that we make a conscious effort to communicate with Him on these subjects. In addition, Paul points out that our prayers need to be infused with thanksgiving. We should not just petition the Lord and make requests. It is equally important that we think about, identify, and acknowledge our blessings.

We have often pointed out that stewardship is a life of gratitude, a way of living which encourages us to focus on gifts, not on problems and challenges all the time. If we strive to have grateful hearts, our prayers come much more easily, and we tend to be much happier and more upbeat in our lives.

The noted author, philosopher, journalist, and theologian G. K. Chesterton is well known in Catholic circles because he converted to Catholicism during his life, and was an excellent conveyor of the faith. In terms of living grateful lives he said, "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought; and that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." That includes thanks to God.

SUNDAY OFFERING

\$10,061

"FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS"

ST. AUGUSTINE