October 18, 2020

The Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Mass Schedule**

- **Mon—Fri**: 8:15am
- **Wednesday**: 2:15pm (school Mass)
- **Saturday**: 5:30pm
- **Sunday**: 8:00, 9:30, 11:15am
- **Holy Days**: 8:15am, 7:00pm

**Reconciliation**

- **Friday**: 8:45-9:30am
- **Saturday**: 4:00-5:00pm

**Parish Office**

- **503.643.9528**
- **www.h-t.org**

  - **Mon–Thur**: 8:00-4:30pm
  - **Friday**: 8:00-2:00pm

**School Office**

- **503.644.5748**
- **www.htsch.org**

  - **Monday–Friday**: 8:00-3:30pm

**Community Outreach Office**

- **503.641.1842**
- **www.h-t.org/outreach**

  - **Tues, Wed, Fri**: 10:00-12:30pm

13715 SW Walker Road | Beaverton, OR 97005-1017

503.643.9528 | www.h-t.org | PARISH@H-T.ORG
I am fully back in the parish after a fine vacation. It sure doesn’t take long to get back into the routine here. I am grateful for those who picked up the slack in my absence, and always grateful to get back to the vitality of the Holy Trinity community, especially after experiencing other communities while away.

Sadly, some of our parishes are cold, unengaging, and unwelcoming. In today’s culture, and with the current level of anxiety and fear, it is even more urgent that churches of all denominations present clearly and attractively the Good News of Jesus! He is our Rock, our Strength, our Companion, and our Hope as we walk thru these difficult times. Let’s not hide that message and our own testimony!

Fr. Charles Harris CSC, now deceased, had a saying posted in his kitchen: “If the salt stays in the saltshaker, how will the potatoes get salted?”. You and I are salt for the world, and the world desperately needs what we know! Come Holy Spirit and inspire our words, actions, and interactions!

And, a sober reminder to all adults. The anxiety, fear, and isolation that is so pervasive right now is taking a heavy toll on everyone, but uniquely on our young people who just don’t have the life experience and faith experience to keep this all in a bigger context. Teen suicide rates are climbing. Two resources I want to call to your attention and invite you post somewhere that you can easily find:

**Washington County Crisis Line: 503.291.9111**

**Suicide Hotline: 800.273.8255**

Both of these are staffed 24/7 and are eager to help. Let’s stay highly alert for ways we can assist all who are struggling with mental health during our tumultuous times.

With elections coming up soon, I have one more article for you that expresses particularly clearly our Catholic approach to voting. Bishop Robert Barron is familiar to many of you and remains an amazing spokesman for us on many issues. Take a moment to read his words:  [wordonfire.org/resources/article/four-principles-for-catholics-during-election-season/28740](http://wordonfire.org/resources/article/four-principles-for-catholics-during-election-season/28740)

Also, I want to give you all a head’s up that our annual financial report will be in next week’s bulletin.

Blessings to Morgan Chhay, Madeline Koeper, and Rosalie Wittmayer, who were baptized this weekend!

Funeral services are scheduled this week for Jordan Asuncion. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.
Hi everybody! This week I’d like to actually attempt a real paradigm shift, rather than just sliding two dimes around on a table and calling it a pair o’ dime shift. I want to look at the intersection of a logical fallacy and a media reality, and hopefully equip us to not fall into the trap!

First, the fallacy: The Straw-Man Argument. Here’s a definition I pulled off the Internet: “an intentionally misrepresented proposition that is set up because it is easier to defeat than an opponent's real argument.” By using straw-man arguments, we can avoid addressing what our opponents really said, and simply knock down the “easier to defeat” argument which is close enough to what our opponents said to sound convincing, but which our opponents never actually said.

Second, the media reality: The Echo Chamber. Here’s a definition from Wikipedia: “a metaphorical description of a situation in which beliefs are amplified or reinforced by communication and repetition inside a closed system and insulates them from rebuttal.” A media echo chamber happens when we only listen to media which agrees with positions we already hold. For a variety of reasons, media echo chambers have become very easy to fall into.

Finally, the intersection: echo chambers make it really easy for straw-man arguments to flourish. The weakness in using a straw-man argument is being able to point out what an opponent actually said, and show that it is different from the “straw-man” which is being knocked down. When the media we receive presents us with exactly what everyone said, straw-man arguments don’t work. However, when we only hear our opponents’ arguments through the lens of people who are trying to defeat them, straw-man arguments work extremely well.

I have recently heard a number of people (all across the political spectrum) say “I can’t believe that THEY can think that way.” Well, if we’re only hearing straw-man arguments by people we agree with, it’s no wonder we reach that conclusion. I offer a word of caution to those who have this thought: you might be listening to “an intentionally misrepresented proposition that is set up because it is easier to defeat than an opponent's real argument.” Real arguments make far more sense than straw-man arguments.

A final word about how this intersection applies directly to the Catholic Church: Bishop Fulton Sheen once said, “There are not one hundred people in the United States who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they wrongly perceive the Catholic Church to be.” Rejection of the Catholic Faith is largely due to misrepresentations and misunderstandings about what the Catholic Church actually teaches.

Jesus tells us that the truth will make us free. Far too often we don’t actually know the truth about what others say and think, but we believe we do. Far too often others don’t know the truth about what we say and think, but they believe they do. As Catholics we are called to seek unity. That means both understanding what other people are actually saying and clarifying misconceptions about what the Catholic Church teaches.

**Scripture Readings**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday 19th</th>
<th>Thursday 22nd</th>
<th>Tuesday 20th</th>
<th>Friday 23rd</th>
<th>Wednesday 21st</th>
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<th>Sunday 25th</th>
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<td>Ex 22: 20-26</td>
<td>Eph 4: 7-16</td>
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<td>1 Thes 1: 5c-10 Mt 22: 34-40</td>
<td>Lk 13: 1-9</td>
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**Parish Finances**

For the Weekend of October 10–11

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<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Food Closet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backpacks/ Duffel Bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildfire Relief Fund</td>
<td>$500</td>
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For kids, teens, AND adults, because even grown-ups have stuff to learn!

CONFIRMATION UPDATE
Lesson #2 is now available in our Google Classroom! If you’re in high school and you’d like to join this year’s candidates, it’s not too late: visit classroom.google.com and enter this “classroom code”: o4lpiip. But don’t wait! It’s going to be less stressful for you to get an early start. Email Chris if you have any questions.

A HALLOWEEN SAINT (or two)
Lucian and Marcian were Roman magicians. Of course, they didn’t really have magic powers, but they tricked people into thinking that they did! These two charlatans made their money by selling all kinds of amulets and potions, and performing nonsense “protection spells” for people. This kind of thing was common in the Roman Empire, and Lucian and Marcian were two of the best fakes around.

One day, they tried to sell a certain woman some magic trinkets. The woman laughed. She wasn’t interested, she said. Lucian and Marcián tried to scare her by warning her of all the dangerous things that she should be afraid of. The woman laughed again. She told them that she never had to be afraid of anything because she was protected by Jesus Christ.

The two magicians had never heard of Jesus before. They wanted to know what kind of magic Jesus had (and how they could start selling it)! They asked the Christian woman to tell them more about this Jesus fellow. She began to teach them all about Jesus, and how he brought not magic but God’s love into the world.

Lucian and Marcian listened, and believed. Soon they were baptized. They spent the rest of their lives as traveling preachers, no longer selling fake magic but giving away the real love of God to anyone who would listen.

Come back next week for another Halloween-themed saint!

For What It’s Worth: Thoughts on Faith
Erin Nieves – erin@h-t.org

Battle against Evil from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians (6:10-20): “Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from His mighty power.”

We live in unprecedented times. Can’t we feel that? St. Paul gives us guidance and instruction on what we need to navigate these troubled and turbulent waters: “Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil.” Remember, Jesus has already won this victory for us. We simply need to choose sides, stay firmly rooted in Jesus, wrapping ourselves tightly in His care and protection.

“Therefore, put on the armor of God, that you may be able to resist on the evil day and, having done everything, to hold your ground.” What is that Armor? Read Eph 6:10-17: The Helmet of Salvation, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Belt of Truth, the Shield of Faith, the Sword of the Spirit, and the Shoes of Peace. Really read this and think about what this says to us. We don’t often think about spiritual battles or even have the language to talk about it, but St. Paul does. By putting on this holy mettle, we effectively choose our side, clothed with the grace of what God has given us in Jesus Christ.

“In all circumstances, hold faith as a shield, to quench all [the] flaming arrows of the evil one.” Well fed by prayer, the Eucharist, and the Word of God, may we heed these prophetic and timely words. The battle is won; we need to choose the side of Jesus.

Grace be with all who love and serve Jesus Christ our Lord! +
Ministry News

Faithful Citizenship
A Joint Column by the HT Health & Social Justice Ministries

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship — Part Two: Making Moral Choices & Applying Our Principles

Concern for the environment has been highlighted not just by Pope Francis, but our previous two Holy Fathers as well. In 1990, Pope John Paul II stated, “Christians, in particular, realize that their responsibility within creation and their duty towards nature and the Creator are an essential part of their faith.” Pope Benedict wrote in 2010 that, “Preservation of the environment, promotion of sustainable development, and particular attention to climate change are matters of grave concern for the entire human family.”

In Faithful Citizenship, the USCCB calls for us to “seriously address global climate change.” For nearly two decades, solid scientific consensus indicates that human activities are continually increasing the amount of greenhouse gas emissions beyond the planet’s natural capacity, which in turn is causing the planet to warm at a dangerous rate. Based on the United Nation’s 2018 report, we now have less than ten years to prevent irreversible damage to our common home. As “a moral issue,” we must pay special attention to climate policy when voting.

Find more election resources at h-t.org/faithful-citizenship

Respect Life Ministry
Gloria Bernard — 503.579.2562 — globernard2@gmail.com

HT’s Respect Life Ministry is having a Diaper Drive! You will find a barrel in the narthex through Sunday, 11/1, where you can drop-off baby wipes and diapers (you can also take them to the parish office). Sizes 4, 5, and 6 are especially needed, but all sizes will be gratefully received. We’ve already collected 504 diapers and 2,396 wipes! Thank you for Walking with Moms in Need by donating these precious resources.

The Fall Campaign runs 9/23 to 11/1. Unite with many other cities for a peaceful, prayerful, pro-life outreach: vigil hours at Lovejoy Surgicenter (933 NW 25th Ave.) are Weds. through Sat., 7:00am to 2:00pm. To learn more, visit 40daysforlife.com/portland.

Community Outreach
Al Schmitt — 503.641.1842 — communityoutreach@h-t.org

Holy Trinity Food Closet is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

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<tr>
<th>Number of People Served</th>
<th>Food Closet</th>
<th>Backpacks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Last Week</td>
<td>Last Week</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>353</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Since January 1st</td>
<td>16,510</td>
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I recently received a referral request from someone within the Beaverton School District. They were concerned about a family within their school who needed help and did not know what to do for them. After several email exchanges that allowed me to better understand the need I reached out to the family of five.

Over the years I have developed a series of questions that I ask those who request assistance. I have always promised that I would be a good steward of the funds that each of you provide and this is one of the ways that I do that. Some of the questions asked are based upon the awareness that I have of resources that are available to only certain people. Since everyone has a unique situation it is important to understand as much of it as possible, within reason.

One of the questions I asked this person is what country they are from; again, only because the answer may open some doors that are not available to everyone. The answer I received was heart warming:

“I am an American. I came to this country 20 years ago, but I have American blood now.”

As we continued to talk he shared more of his story. He went on to tell me of some horrifying things he had seen and experienced and that he had fled for his life. He further said:

“People born in America have no idea how fortunate they are. Many other countries are not this way. To be able to do all that we can do without fear is not the way many people live. We should never take this for granted. I am proud to be an American and wish that other countries could have the same freedoms.”

Wow! Not the kind of call that I expected, but it did make me think and realize how blessed we truly are. I was grateful for the conversation. He wanted me to be certain to let you know how grateful he was for the assistance.
Getting your flu vaccination has never been more important! The CDC notes that getting the flu vaccine will reduce symptoms that might be confused with those of COVID-19. While flu activity remains low overall at this time, Oregon has already seen multiple cases. If you haven’t already, we strongly recommend that you get vaccinated as soon as possible. The flu vaccination is always the best way to avoid developing the illness, and the CDC recommends that everyone six months and older get the vaccine each year.

Remember to continue practicing common sense actions to help protect yourself and those around you: wash your hands thoroughly and regularly each day; avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands; avoid contact with people who are sick.

Also, Medicare Open Enrollment is now open through December 7th. SHIBA (Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance) counselors are available to help with free, unbiased information. You can meet for an individual or group session by phone, email, or video chat. Learn more online at h-t.org/health-ministry.