

THE 30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME -- SOME MUSINGS

Sirach 35. 15-17, 20-22; II Timothy 4. 6-8, 16-18; Luke 8.19-24. "God, be merciful to me, a sinner."

There's a lovely book, translated from the Russian, entitled *The Way of the Pilgrim*, in which a pilgrim, after reading St. Paul's admonition to "pray unceasingly" searches for wise people who can assist him in this endeavour. The first sage he meets suggests that he recite these words from the gospel over and over, until they become such a part of his life that they require little or no thought in the repetition. As I've read and re-read this book, I wondered if acknowledging that we are sinners, enables us more and more to accept the mercy of our loving God.

This weekend's gospel should cause us all to stop and ask ourselves what the message in this reading is. As I read the gospel in the light of the first reading from Sirach which tells us, "The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and it will not rest until it reaches its goal", I wondered just what message we're meant to understand. The Pharisee stands proudly before God thanking Him for the fact that he's a good person, how diligent he is in keeping the letter of the law. But what of the things he doesn't do? I always find my own sins of omission so much more difficult to see than my sins of commission. And it's in that arrogance that we fail to go to our God and say, "Bless me Father, for I have sinned". Our arrogance may keep us from the healing that comes with the sacrament of reconciliation. It keeps us from saying, like the tax collector, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." I have to ask myself how often I let my pride stand in the way of my need for forgiveness and mercy.

We often forget that our God is a God of love, forgiveness, of pardon. When we look for that kind of forgiveness in the world we will search a very long time and still never find it. But somewhere, in the deep corners of our hearts we know that the pardon of God is there, waiting only for us to ask.

We can make ourselves the judge of others and it becomes more and more difficult for us to forgive them when they hurt us by a careless word or deed. We become the Pharisee in the gospel. Yet when we fail to emulate the loving forgiveness of our God, we spread the darkness in the world and, rather than building up the kingdom of light, we find ourselves tearing it down.

We seem to live in a world that thinks there really isn't any such thing as sin. Society tells us that we can do pretty much anything we want and not have to suffer the consequences of our actions. It's a world in which people seem to think if it feels good, it's okay. That's not what our gospel this weekend is telling us though is it? This is a gospel that requires us to stop and think about what effect our words, actions, our thoughts and attitudes have on others around us. We live in what many have called the "Me generation".

It's when we stop and really look at our lives, in light of all the gospel messages we come to understand that no matter how much we may try, we don't get very far without the saving grace of God. There's a song by Neil Diamond in which one of the repeated lines is, "Save a little room for God," and that's excellent advice. When we take time during our day, just as the pilgrim in the book I mentioned earlier does and say with honest penitence, "God, be merciful to me a sinner," our lives become richer, more meaningful, and more hopeful.

Over the last number of weeks it's been such a blessing to have my windows open allowing the refreshing autumn winds to blow through my home. Perhaps we need to do the same things with our hearts; open them wide to the breath of the Holy Spirit and allow the Spirit to cleanse our souls of the arrogance that keeps us from realizing our sinfulness and making a real commitment to accept the loving mercy of God.

Wishing you a week of many blessings, much forgiveness, and small miracles, Betty Bruch



All who
humble
themselves
will be
exalted

OCTOBER 27, 2019

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SACRED HEART PARISH

Sacred Heart Church
24 Albert St.
Langton, ON



St. Michael's Church
978 St. John's Road
Walsh, ON



Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 5:00 pm
Sunday – 8:30 am (St. Michael's)
Sunday – 10:30 am

Daily Mass

Tues. – 5:00 pm
Wed. to Fri. – 9:30 am

Reconciliation

20 min. prior to weekday mass
Sat. 4-4:45 pm
Sun. 8-8:20 am, or by appt.(St. Michael's)

Mailing address

Box 8, Langton, ON N0E 1G0

Phone: 519-875-4438

E-mail: sacredheartlangton@dol.ca

Fr. Thomas e-mail: tckuriacko@dol.ca

Parish Clergy

Rev. Thomas Kuriacko, Pastor

Jack Grim, Deacon

Brian Hanley, Deacon

Office Hours: Tues. and Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm;

Baptisms – Contact Rev. Thomas—6 months notice **Marriages** – Contact Rev. Thomas— one year notice required

Schools – Sacred Heart, Langton - St. Michael's, Walsh - Our Lady of Fatima, Courtland

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

Today's readings invite us into prayer, into relationship with God. Because relationships feel more natural when we know one another well, Sirach encourages us to know God better. In his wisdom, Sirach tells us what God is like: fair, open-minded, compassionate, and attentive. "The Lord will not delay," he says. Knowing that God's help comes right on time, whenever we need it, calms our hearts and helps us trust the Lord. In his second Letter to Timothy, Saint Paul demonstrates his own trust in God. Despite the grueling struggles Saint Paul has faced because of his Christian faith, he praises the Lord for rescuing him time and again. Today's Gospel draws us close to Jesus too, revealing his special love for the poor and humble. As Jesus tells his parable about the prayer habits of a Pharisee and a tax collector, our hearts long to become as gentle as Christ's. *Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Friday's Solemnity of All Saints and Saturday's Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed fit well at the beginning of November. The liturgical readings of this final month in the Church year are keyed to the end of time and the fulfillment of Jesus' saving acts. Nowhere is this more fully celebrated than in Mexico, where November 2 is the "Day of the Dead." Missionaries moved an ancient Aztec festival from midsummer to November, linking the festival to Christian themes. Today, it is a time for remembering the dead and celebrating the continuity of life, principally by festive picnics in cemeteries. There are special foods and games, and people socialize with other families and tell favorite stories about their dear ones. The sweetness of life is honored by sugary desserts and treats. Flowers, music, lights, and feasting assure that the day is not at all morbid. Traditionally, the day begins with Mass, a procession to the cemetery, and a morning feast. Most families have a special dinner with the pan de muerto, or "bread of the dead." A toy skeleton is baked into the loaf, and the one who bites into it is considered lucky indeed. The dead are not feared, but deeply loved, and this joyful family feast points both to age-old customs and Resurrection faith. —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE – SACRED HEART, LANGTON

DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION	BY
Tues Oct 29/19	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass • Monica Boyd	• Gerarda Maertens
Wed Oct 30/19	7:00 pm	• Annamma Cherusseril	• Fr. Thomas Kuriacko
Thurs Oct 31/19	9:30 pm	• Tracey Anseeuw	• Marcel & June Anseeuw
Fri Nov 1/19 ALL SAINTS DAY	9:30 am 11 am- 4pm	Adoration • Roy Christopher Visiting the house-bound	• Magdalen Christopher

DATES TO REMEMBER

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Tues Oct 29/19	7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus Memorial Mass then Meeting
Fri Nov 1/19		ALL SAINTS DAY
Sat Nov 2/19		ALL SOULS DAY
Mon Nov 4/19	7:00 pm	Langton CWL Meeting
Tues Nov 5/19	7:00 pm	Info Meeting (1st Recon. & 1st Comm) for parents + Children
Wed Nov 6/19	7:00 pm	Walsh CWL Meeting
Wed Nov 6- Sat Nov 22		1st Recon. Interviews (Parents & Candidates)
Mon Nov 11/19	10:45 am	Remembrance Day Service for SHS with Langton Public School
Tues Nov 12/19	5:00 pm	Mass with Anointing of the sick at Sacred Heart Church
Tues Nov 19/19	7:30 pm	Parish Pastoral Council Meeting
Thurs Nov 21/19	4:00 pm	Mass with Anointing of the sick at Caressant Care
Sat Nov 23 & Sun Nov 24	Weekend Masses	1st Recon. Rite of Enrollment
Tues Nov 26/19	11:15 am	Advent School Confessions for SHS
Wed Nov 27/19	11:15 am	Advent School Confessions for STMS
Thurs Nov 28/19	11:15 am	Advent School Confessions for OLFS

LITURGY ASSIGNMENTS FOR NOV 2 & 3

Saturday (5 pm)
Lector: Godelieve Townsend
Eucharistic Minister: Fred Shippam

Sunday (10:30 am)
Lector: Jeanette Major
Eucharistic Ministers: Juliet VanLeuvenhage, Mary Lamont

WEEKLY OFFERTORY – OCTOBER 19/20, 2019

St. Michael's

Regular Envelope	\$ 520.00
Oct pre-Authorized Donations	\$ 190.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 1,000.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 130.00
Loose	\$ 50.00
Sub-Total	\$ 1,890.00

Sacred Heart

Regular Envelope	\$ 1,257.00
Thanksgiving Appeal	\$ 1,635.00
Oct pre-Authorized Donations	\$ 1,360.00
World Mission Sunday	\$ 405.00
Building Fund	\$ 90.00
Loose	\$ 56.50
Sub-Total	\$ 4,803.50
Total	\$ 6,693.50



IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

COFFEE SUNDAY -VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for coffee Sunday to continue. Please consider helping for either Saturday or Sunday after Mass. Contact Susan Kershaw at 519-427-6314 or Linda Vandendriessche at 519-983-6098 by November 30, 2019.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MASS SERVICES

Volunteers are needed for once a month at Caressant Care Courtland for the year 2020. Working in teams of two people, the volunteers would be required approx. 3 times through the year. The volunteers would assist in setting up the Chapel, bringing the Catholic residents to the Chapel, and returning them after the service. For more information please contact Marguerite DeBackere at 519-875-4777.

2020 SUNDAY MISSALS

The 2020 Sunday Missals will be available to purchase the weekend of November 2/3. Please find them at the back of the Church. The cost is \$5.00 per Missal. Place the money into the container next to the Missals.

LANGTON CWL NEWS

LANGTON CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

Will be offering poinsettias and winter greenery for sale this year. We will commence taking orders before and after Mass next weekend (November 2nd and 3rd). For further information please email Cathie Schonberger at cathieschon@gmail.com

LANGTON CWL- CABBAGE ROLLS

Once again we will be taking orders for cabbage rolls. Price is \$17.00 per dozen. Pick up is on December 7th at the Church from 9 am to 11 am. Cut off date to order is December 1st. Please phone Jeannette Major at 519-875-4952 or email at jmamajor@hotmail.com.

LANGTON CWL - SOCKS FOR THE SOULS

Once again we will be collecting socks, mittens, hats and scarves for the poor. The box will be at the back of the Church. Please help us fill it. Everything collected will be delivered to the local St. Vincent de Paul Society & Lions Club before Christmas. The items will be put in the local Christmas baskets for the families in need. Thank you. Langton CWL.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

St. Mary's, Tillsonburg and Sacred Heart, Langton are seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant to cover a maternity leave. Please visit www.stmarys.dionet.ca for the employment posting.

COORDINATOR OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

St. Mary's, Tillsonburg; Sacred Heart, Langton & St. Michael's, Walsh are seeking a full-time Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry. Please visit www.stmarys.dionet.ca for the employment posting.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CATHOLIC SCHOOL- TURKEY BINGO

Our Lady of Fatima School invites you to the 49th Annual Turkey Bingo with free admission on Saturday November 2, 2019 at the Courtland Community Centre. Doors open at 6 pm, and bingo starts at 7 pm. Refreshments & food available. There will be lots of cash prizes, bingo bazaar, mystery prizes, door prizes, and turkey cash bingos. You must be 18 years old or older to attend. For more information please call 519-688-0049. Please support the small school with a big heart! Share the wealth & winner takes all. Lottery License # 828654.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Last weekend we celebrated World Mission Sunday. Every year the Church takes up a collection to support the missionary efforts of the church. If you have not yet picked up an envelope for your financial support, some are still available at the back of the Church.

FARM DUTY 5HP 220 SINGLE PHASE MOTORS FOR SALE

At Sacred Heart Church, Langton, there is 1 5HP 220 single phase motor for sale, only used for a short time. Cost \$300. Anyone interested, please contact the Parish Office at 519-875-4438.

COME AND SEE DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

St. Peter's Seminary invites men, age 17 or older and considering a call to the priesthood, to a discernment retreat from Nov. 1st to 3rd. This weekend retreat will offer first-hand experience of the life of a seminarian, spiritual helps for discernment, and an opportunity to meet current seminarians and faculty. To register or for more info, contact Fr. Danny Santos, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, at vocations@dol.ca.