

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 3, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

All of us have our own images of God. Some people see God as the "Great Accountant" who keeps exact, precise records of our wrongdoings. This God preserves the details of our failing and sins on a computer; nothing is overlooked or escapes his attention. Given what this God sees, he regards his handiwork in creation with omnipotent disapproval and waits for the last day when he can confront people with punishment for their sins. This description of God is a world away from the image of God that is presented in today's Scripture readings.

The depiction of God in today's readings is a God of **mercy**. We have a tendency to associate **mercy** only with judgement as seen in a criminal in our judicial system throwing themselves upon the **mercy** of a judge. However the classical meaning of **mercy** is much wider in scope. In the classical sense **mercy** means kindness, graciousness and helpfulness. Thus, the God of our Scriptures is a God who is always and forever kind, patient, gracious, helpful and loving with us.

The author of the Book of Wisdom (first reading) states the following about God: "You are **merciful** to all because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. You love all that exists... You spare all things because all things are your, Lord lover of life..." In this radical understanding of who God is, the author describes God as the great lover of life who abhors nothing he has made and who conserves his own creation in the spirit of **mercy**. Out of his commitment in showing **mercy** God overlooks our sins so we can repent. God does not desire the death of sinners but he provides us the opportunity to discover him and find forgiveness and new life.

In today's Gospel passage Jesus demonstrates the immensity of God's love and **mercy** by providing Zacchaeus the opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and change his life. Jesus asks nothing of Zacchaeus but Jesus clearly communicated that he wanted to be with Zacchaeus up close and personal. In Jesus Zacchaeus discovered that God was truly the Lover of souls and Zacchaeus' response flowed easily and generously. Although the crowd grumbled, Jesus let them know what his mission was all about: "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost."

Like Zacchaeus we all have experienced God's love, graciousness, kindness and **mercy**. No matter how small we think we are, no matter how bad we have been, no matter how insignificant we may feel, God always loves us and wants to share his gift of **mercy** and his everlasting life with us.

Love and prayers,  
Fr. John

## Weekend Masses

Sat Nov 2	4:00 p.m	Mary Zaleskie
Sun Nov 3	10:00 a.m.	In thanksgiving
Sat Nov 9	4:00 p.m	Murphy and Immele Family Rita Wenger
Sun Nov 10	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman Gene Badertscher

## Communion Service

Wed Nov 6 10:30 a.m. Hilty

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,292.25	Loose \$898.00
Children	\$36.50	Total \$4,226.75

71 envelopes returned = 35%



*Thank you for your generosity!  
Thank you also to those who give  
electronically!!*

## Assignments for November 9 & 10, 2019

**Money Counters:** Angie Wenger and Tonya Meyer

**4:00 p.m.** – please sign the sheet in the main entrance

**Greeters:** Ron and Roni Kaufman

**Cantor:** Jenny Roby

**Ushers:** Dave and Shirley Siefker

**Lector:**

**E.M.:** Jeanne Parinello, Jennifer Swartzlander

**Servers:** Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

### 10:00 a.m.

**Greeters:** Mel and Sherry Heitmeyer

**Cantor:** Choir

**Ushers:** Jerry and Jeanne Wehri

**Lectors:** Jane Bowerman, Joe Herrmann

**E.M.:** Candace Meyer, Mark Zweibel, Ron

Bowerman, Jane Bowerman, Tricia Herrmann

**Servers:** Addison Businger, Ethan Hoffman, Evan Grothause

## **Readings for November 10, 2019**

### **32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:16 - 3:5

Gospel Reading: Luke 20:27-38

