

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Exodus 32:7 - 11, 13 - 14

The people of Israel forgot God's goodness and turned to idols. Moses pleaded with God for mercy, and the Lord God showed kindness to them.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 1:12 - 17

The apostle Paul described to Timothy why he gave thanks to the Lord. Despite Paul's sin, Christ Jesus treated him mercifully and strengthened him.

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1 - 32

Jesus taught that God loves a sinner as a loving father receives back a wayward son. Repentance leads to joy, celebration, music, dancing, gifts, and food. "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." This criticism of Jesus is actually unintentional praise. If we are honest, we know that we are among the sinners with whom Jesus breaks bread. As we listen to God's holy word today, let us hear these stories of God's mercy and love in all three readings, and think of the times in our own lives when we were in need of such mercy. Then let us give thanks for our merciful God.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: In memory of Christina Prickering (d) rb The Pickering family.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Noreen Joseph rb Noreen Joseph.

Thanksgiving for Juliette Vigilante rb Mslyn.

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings for Gersha Eusebe rb Her family.

6:00 PM: God's continued blessings for the Haitian Community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Sept. 12, 6:00 PM: *The Most Holy Name of Mary*
Jerome Matthew (d).

Tues. Sept. 13, 7:00 AM: *St. John Chrysostom*
God's protection and birthday blessings for David Thompson Sr.,
rb His mother.

Wed. Sept. 14, 7:00 AM: *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*
Luis Eduardo Munoz Sr., rb Silvia Munoz.

Thurs. Sept. 15, 7:00 AM: *Our Lady of Sorrows*
Eugene and Kathleen Farro (d) rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. Sept. 16, 7:00 PM: *Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian*
Kamga Koupie Blaise Pascal (d).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the *Immaculate Conception Parish in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which was devastated by the recent floods along the Mississippi River.* Next week's second collection will go towards the *Youth Ministry.* As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *Theodore A. Calistro, deceased,* requested by Viola E. Smith. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

BAPTISM CLASS: Please note that Baptism class commenced last Monday, September 5, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in Lower Columban Hall, and will continue every Monday for the month of September. Please be guided accordingly.

LEGION OF MARY: The worldwide organization of the Legion of Mary will observe the 95th anniversary of its existence in September. The Curia, Mary Immaculate Conception will mark this anniversary with the celebration of Holy Mass along with the Spanish community this Sunday, September 11, 2016, at Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral at 12:30 P.M. We invite all your parishioners to join us for Holy Mass and to learn more about the Marian Spirituality the Legion of Mary promotes. Light refreshments will follow in the hospitality lounge.

VIRTUS TRAINING: There will be a VIRTUS Training Session on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at OLPH Club House from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.

All diocesan personnel having contact with children (whether the clergy, laity, employees, volunteers, or otherwise) **MUST** attend a VIRTUS training session and submit their background checks and fingerprints. This includes volunteers who teach and substitute for Religious Education classes, those who are chaperones and coaches in schools or youth ministries, those who coordinate social activities where children are present, persons who teach Altar Servers and all who otherwise give their time and energy to the church in programs or events that involve children. Other interested adults (such as parents) are welcome as well.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: Please register your child or children early for CCD class. Forms can be picked up from the church office or at the entrance of the church. CCD class will begin on Saturday, September 24, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Please be guided accordingly.

TOURIST FOR A DAY: The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 2049 will be hosting "A Tourist for A Day" on Saturday, September 24, 2016. We begin the tour of the island from Sts. Peter & Paul Cathedral at 8:30am, followed by a delicious lunch at Magens Bay, Shed #4 with music and swimming. The day of fun ends at 3:00pm. **Donation \$40.00.** Tickets available from Catholic Daughters of the Americas members or **Alicia Douté at 340-626-8607.**

CCD TEACHERS/VOLUNTEERS: There will be a meeting for all CCD teachers/volunteers and all interested persons, for Saturday, September 27, 2016, in Lower Columban Hall, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Please be on time. Thank you for what you have done in the past and we look forward to working with you in the future. Once again, thank you.

DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT: The Dominica Association of St. Thomas, Inc. presents a Dinner and Entertainment honoring Mr. Raymond Lawrence, on Saturday, October 8, 2016, at 8:00 p.m. at Holy Family Columban Hall. **Donation: \$35.00.** Tickets are available from members of the Association.

LITURGY AND WORD

The Golden Calf or the Molten Calf embodies the vilest kind of apostasy committed by the ancient Israelites. The events described in today's first reading takes place at Mt Sinai. The people who become impatient for the return of Moses from the mountain top agitate for the creation of some gods they can worship. Aaron obliges their request by collecting gold from the people and creates a molten calf. As a result of this and after seeing that an altar has been erected for this calf, the anger of God and Moses erupts, and Moses descends from the mountain to correct the situation. He destroys the calf and accuses Aaron of complicity in the apostasy and asks the sons of Levi to kill those who participated in the apostasy.

The sin of Israel is that they have sought to replace the living God with an idol which they see being formed from the gold of their earrings! God vows the severest punishment imaginable but leaves the door open for Moses' intercession. He allows himself to be persuaded. That is what a mediator is for. Moses uses three arguments to appease God's anger. a) He appeals to God's miraculous delivery of Israel from Egypt. b) He calls to mind how the Egyptians will interpret Israel's destruction, bringing shame on God himself. c) He appeals to the promise of God to the Fathers. Moses does not attempt to excuse or mitigate Israel's sin, but he seeks to overcome it by falling back ultimately on what God can do in making a future possible.

The Gospel of today demonstrates how God forgives sinners and cares for them. Jesus tells the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and the Prodigal Son as a response to the murmuring of the Scribes and the Pharisees that Jesus associates with tax collectors and sinners by receiving them and having table fellowship with them.

After telling the parable of the Lost Sheep Jesus comments that there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Similarly after the parable of the Lost Coin Jesus says there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents. When the prodigal son returns, while he is yet at a distance, his father sees him and runs and embraces him and kisses him. He tells his servants to give him the best of robes, a ring for his hand, and shoes for his feet. He then orders to make a feast with the

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Every week the report on stewardship will include our gifts of time, talent, and treasure. In gratitude to God, we give of our first fruits to help fulfill God's mission of love here on earth.

Attendance: Last Weekend: **482**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$4,830.76

SECOND COLLECTION:

Renovation Fund: \$1,138.05

Our Bishop's Appeal contribution amounted to \$42,278.00, 106% of our goal of \$40,000.00. As always we thank you for your continuous contribution towards our Bishop's Appeal. Once again, thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

best calf killed.

Paul writes that Christ has come into the world to save sinners. He also acknowledges being the foremost of sinners. None of us is without sin. If Paul who blasphemed and persecuted and insulted Christ by insulting the Church and the Christians has become the pillar of the Church, then we also need not be afraid. Through repentance and good works we too can regain the life we have lost through our sins.

**Catholic Charismatic Renewal
of STT/STJ
2016 Conference
"Thank You God for Your Mercy"
October 21st - 23rd
Columban Hall**


**START
YOUR DAY
WITH
PRAYER
AND PRAISE**