

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4 - 7

Amos the prophet of God warned that greedy people who cheat the poor or take advantage of others' misfortune do not escape God's justice.

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1 - 8

Paul urged Timothy to preach truth and justice: leaders should respect the dignity of all, and everyone should pray to God with blameless hands.

GOSPEL: Luke 16:1 - 13

Jesus encouraged His disciples to have an enterprising spirit. He also warned them: "No servant can serve two masters ... You cannot serve both God and mammon."

What an indictment in the first reading of those who are wealthy and use that wealth to take advantage of the poor! But then along comes Jesus, who points out that wealth can be used for good ends as well. Jesus says that we cannot pretend that we don't live in the world with others, so we need to find ways to advance the reign of God using the tools at our disposal. As we listen to today's sacred scriptures, what word do you hear God saying to you about your possessions here and now and how God wants you to use them?

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

6:00 PM: Birthday blessings for Khito Brown and Sylma Lavinier
rb Andrea Victorine.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: God's protection, guidance and blessings for Abigail Peter
rb Pamela Charles.

10:00 AM: God's deliverance for John Durand rb Mslyn Vigilante.

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

Daily Masses:

Mon. Sept. 19, 6:00 PM: *St. Januarius*
Birthday blessings for Yvonne Freeman rb Yvonne Freeman.

Tues. Sept. 20, 7:00 AM: *Sts. Andrew Kim Daegeon & Paul Choñg Hasang*
God's guidance, peace and wisdom for Judith Jno-Baptiste
rb Judith Jno-Baptiste.

Wed. Sept. 21, 7:00 AM: *St. Matthew - Feast*
Birthday blessings for Calvin Benjamin rb Cleopha Rawlings.

Thurs. Sept. 22, 7:00 AM: *St. Thomas of Villanova*
God's healing for Fr. Stash Birungi.

Fri. Sept. 23, 7:00 PM: *St. Pio of Pietrelcina*
God's healing for Deacon Roy Bruney.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SECOND COLLECTION: This week's second collection goes towards the *Youth Ministry*. Next week's second collection will go towards *Catholic Education*. As always we thank you for your generosity.

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *God's blessings for Vaughn and Sheraline Thomas*, requested by the Matthew family. You can request Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: Next weekend we will collect non-perishable items for our less fortunate brothers and sisters within our community. As always, we thank you for your generosity and may God continue to bless you and your family abundantly. Once again thank you.

BAPTISM CLASS: Please note that Baptism classes commenced **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.

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 next **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" next **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 are available from Catholic Daughters of the Americas members or **Alicia Douté at 340-626-8607**.

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.

FAMILIES FOR CHRIST: Family Sunday is every first Sunday of each month, starting with Families for Christ meeting at 9:00 a.m. in LCH followed by family mass at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. Interested volunteers please contact Sheryl Griffith at 352-348-6979.

ANNUAL PUBLIC SQUARE RALLY: The 2016 annual public square rally is scheduled for **Saturday, October 15, 2016** at 12:00 noon at the Emancipation Gardens (Band Stand). All are encouraged to attend the Rosary Rally and pray for peace in the world. For more information please contact Mr. Eubald Rene at 340-643-2928 or 340-775-3503. Thanks for your usual support and cooperation.

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

LITURGY AND WORD

The liturgy of the Word places before us two most common passions that human beings like to chase after: wealth and power. If one uses fair and honest means to achieve these there is nothing to complain about. But from common experience we notice that people who amass wealth and power are not all using fair and honest means. We need not go to the time of Amos in the 8th century BC to notice it. But what we must notice is that Amos fought against such corrupt practices on his own against the taunt of the mighty and powerful in his time. During the time of Amos the Israelite society experienced once again a time of prosperity because there was no warfare at the time. It was affluence that made them powerful and with an increase in wealth also came an increase of arrogance and lack of concern for the less privileged.

The story of the dishonest steward in Luke chapter 16 is puzzling. Why did the master praise his steward? The story of the dishonest steward is preceded by the story of the Prodigal Son. By linking these two stories we can better understand the meaning of today's parable. The parable of the Prodigal Son centres on the younger son who really squandered his father's riches. It was really an imprudent behaviour from the part of the son. Imprudent behaviour really got him into trouble but he was honest enough to accept it. Because of his honesty in accepting his mistakes, the son was received back into his father's house. He had lost it through imprudence but gained it back through sincerity and change of heart.

The problem created by the manager for which the master wanted him to relinquish office is also squandering of his master's goods. From the outset the manager is reported as one who has been squandering his master's property. It could refer to some form of mismanagement: negligence, swindling, incompetent discretion – it does not matter. The manager does not deny the accusation, nor does he try to defend himself. This in itself would be reason enough to call him a "dishonest manager". But the manager's method of escaping from the situation is ingenious for he decides to reduce the debtors' amount substantially. By doing this he thinks he will win their favour when he is out of office. It is this business acumen of the steward that the master praises. The parable is not a warning against the destructive nature of riches, or an approval of the dishonesty of 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: **472**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$8,840.74

SECOND COLLECTION:

Overseas Relief \$1,163.25

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

manager, or an approval of any falsification of accounts. The master's approval bears on the prudence of the manager who realizes how best to use what material possessions were his to ensure his future security. The dishonest manager thus becomes a model for Christian disciples, not because of his dishonesty, but because of his prudence.

An Arabian Sheikh had lost a horse on a journey. So he ordered the people in the next village to donate a horse to him. His officers brought two horses for inspection. But the owners did not want to part with them. They protested loudly that the horses were old and sick and unfit for the kind of work the Sheikh had in mind. Then the Sheikh said, "There is only one way we can settle this. Both you owners will race your horses, and whichever horse wins will be the one I will take." "But your highness," whispered an adviser, "how will that settle it? Neither rider will want his horse to win." "Oh, yes, they will," said the Sheikh. "I will make each man ride the other man's horse."

