

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

INTRODUCTION TO THE LITURGY OF THE DAY!

FIRST READING: Sirach 35:12 - 14, 16 - 18

Though not unduly partial toward the weak, God hears the cry of the oppressed. God is not deaf to the wail of the orphan or the complaints of the widow. The Lord is a God of justice.

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6 - 8, 16 - 18

Paul claimed to Timothy that he had fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. He claimed that now a crown of victory awaits him as he arrives safely in the heavenly reign.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 18:9 - 14

Jesus told the story about the Pharisee and the tax collector to help those who placed confidence in their own righteousness while holding others in contempt. Jesus encouraged people to pray with the tax collector, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner."

It is the prayers of the needy that scripture tells us God hear. Sirach mentions the widow and the orphan, the lowly and the oppressed. Jesus tells of the tax collector, acknowledging his sinfulness and his need for God's mercy. The Lord hears the cry of the poor, we sing in the psalm. Let us look inside ourselves and recognize our needfulness, our humanness, our poverty. What prayer do we need to make to God today?

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday Mass (Sunday Observance):

5:00 PM: God's guidance for Godfrey Renal rb Marie Renal.

Sunday Masses:

7:30 AM: Birthday blessings for Roy Benjamin rb Cleopha Rawlings.

10:00 AM: Birthday blessings for Mary Ann Joseph rb The Rene family.

5:00 PM: God's continued healing and guidance for the Haitian community.

Daily Masses:

Mon. Oct 28, 30, 7:00 AM: **Sts. Simon and Jude**
Birthday blessings for Caia Treherne rb Her Grandmother,
Mona Bedminster.

Tues. Oct. 29, 7:00 AM: **St. Narcissus**
Dawn Sweeney (*deceased*) rb The Children of Mary.

Wed. Oct. 30, 7:00 AM: **Blessed Angelo of Acridi**
Maria Rene (*deceased*) & Everad Joseph (*deceased*)
rb The Rene family.

Thurs. Oct. 31, 7:00 AM: **St. Alphonsus Rodriguez**
Deceased members of the Cooke family rb Estelle Farro.

Fri. Nov. 1, 7:00 AM: **ALL SAINTS - Solemnity**
Birthday blessings and God's grace for Christine Pharoah rb
Christine Pharoah.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



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

ETERNAL CANDLE: This week the Eternal Candle is burning for *God's continued guidance and protection for Caia Treherne, requested by Mona Bedminster*. You can request the Eternal Candle for your loved ones' birthdays or any special occasions.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS: All Knight of Columbus please contact the Grand Knight at 340-514-7784. Thank you.

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION: Please note that ***Friday, November 1, 2019***, is a holy day of obligation and masses will be celebrated at 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Please be guided accordingly.

ALTAR FLOWERS: This weekend the altar flowers were paid for in part by Glendia Caines, and on behalf of those battling with cancer. We pray God's continued blessings on you. Once again, thank you and God bless.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR: The Holy Family Church is conducting a 6-week Life in the Spirit Seminar which began on ***Monday October 14th, 2019*** and will continue every Monday until ***Monday November 18th, 2019***. The goal of this seminar is to introduce the Holy Spirit to those in the community who have not yet experienced His love and His power in their lives. The Lord is calling us into a deeper relationship with Him. Come and experience his Love. For further information please call the Church Office at 340-775-1650.

FOOD FOR THE POOR: This 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. Once again thank you.

SYMPATHY: On behalf of Holy Family parishioners, Rev. Kerly Francois and Deacon Peter Laurencin, Rev. Neil Scantlebury extends sincere sympathy to Phillippa Webbe and family on the passing of her son, ***Curtis Webbe***, who died on ***Friday, October 18, 2019***. The funeral service for the late ***Curtis Webbe***, will take place on ***Friday, November 8, 2019***. Place and time to be announced. May his soul and the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

CREOLE MASS: The Dominica Association of St. Thomas invites everyone to their annual Creole Mass on ***Sunday, November 10, 2019***, at 12:00 noon at Holy Family Church. The guest speaker is ***Rev. Fr. Elton John Letang, C.Ss.R.*** from Dominica. The regular weekend masses will remain the same. All are welcome.

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC RENEWAL CONFERENCE: The St. Thomas/St. John Catholic Charismatic Renewal Presents their 2019 Conference. The Theme is "***Pray Unceasingly***" ***1 Thessalonians 5:16-18***. The Conference will be held in Upper Columban Hall ***Friday November 15 to Sunday November 17, 2019***. Our Guest Speakers are Fr. Louis Merosne from Haiti and Brother Kent Vincent from Guyana. Registration fees are: Adult \$35.00, Ages 0-12 Free and Ages 13-18 \$10.00. Polo Shirts are \$25.00. We have a Conference Package of \$100.00 which includes: Registration, a Polo Shirt and ALL Meals. Please register and pay by October 25, 2019. Registration Forms & Fees can be dropped off at your Church Office. Any questions feel free to contact our Director Fr. Anthony Abraham at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church 340-776-6339 or our Chairwoman Mrs Michelle Rivera-Stout at Holy Family Parish 340-643-6986. Thank you.

LITURGY AND WORD

1ST READING:

SINCERE PRAYERS REACH GOD

The book of Sirach provides the most comprehensive example of Wisdom literature preserved in the Bible. The book contains moral, cultic and ethnic maxims, folk proverbs, psalms of praise and lament, homiletic exhortations, and pointed observations about life and customs of the day. For this reason it has been popular with both Jews and Christians. This passage focuses on the justice of God. God will attend to the complaints of orphans and widows. Sincere prayers will always be accepted by God, for Sirach writes, "The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord."

2ND READING:

PAUL'S TESTAMENT

Timothy is Paul's spiritual child who becomes the apostle's fellow-traveler and official representative. His character is a blend of amiability and faithfulness in spite of natural timidity. Paul loves Timothy and admires his outstanding personal traits. None of Paul's companions are mentioned as often as Timothy in Paul's letters. Paul knows that he can count on Timothy who has shown willingness to leave his home to accompany the apostle on dangerous journeys, to be sent on difficult errands, and to remain to the very end Christ's faithful servant. This passage is known as Paul's farewell and testament. Paul pours his heart out in this farewell: the time of departure is nearing and he has fought the good fight. His crowning achievement is that he has kept the faith, i.e., he has carefully handed on the faith and has been faithful as an evangelist and preacher. Paul looks forward to God's judgment to prove him worthy and to reward him with the crown of success.

GOSPEL:

DESPISE NO ONE

Luke's Gospel has several narratives involving tax collectors or Pharisees. The Pharisees are often depicted as grumbling, unresponsive, or hesitant about Jesus and his message. Tax collectors are depicted as receptive and as recipients of salvation. Pharisees are highly respected among most Jews and considered righteous, scrupulous in their efforts to obey God. Their directions for worship, prayer and righteous living have heavy influence on Jewish religious culture. The Pharisee in this parable goes beyond all requirements of the Law. Fasting was required of Jews only on the Day of Atonement. In fasting twice a week, apparently on Monday and Thursday, the Pharisee probably views

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: **396**

Last Weekend's collections

FIRST COLLECTION: \$3,522.70

World Mission Sunday: \$1,180.03

LITURGY AND WORD CONT'D

himself as fasting to make atonement for all Israel.

If Pharisees are respected, their attitudes towards tax collectors are close to the opposite end of the spectrum.

Tax collectors bid for and purchase the right to collect taxes for a specific region, and various kinds of taxes are levied; poll taxes, land taxes, toll charges on travel and the transportation of goods from one region to another, sales taxes, and inheritance taxes. What tax collectors raised beyond their contracts was sheer profit.

At least in Judea, Jewish tax collectors – and the tax collector in the parable is certainly Jewish – are considered traitors because they have contracted with the ruling powers to collect taxes and tolls or are underlings hired by such people to make the actual collections.

Some suggest that no one would have heard of a tax collector going to the Temple to pray, but this is an exaggeration. That the tax collector is justified because he pleads for mercy is in accord with Jesus' focus on forgiveness and mercy. Humility is an essential aspect of true prayer. The attitudes of the two men reveal two images of God, one presupposed by the Pharisee, which is false, and one hoped for but not presumed by the tax collector, which is right. God is not a God impressed with pious acts and feelings of superiority. He is, rather, a God of mercy who responds to the needs and honest prayers of people. On the other hand, God is not a God whose mercy can be taken for granted.

The parable raises the question of how our assessment of people squares with God's assessment. All too frequently we secretly judge people as less than ourselves. In doing so we are guilty of the sin of comparison and we reveal how far we are from the mind of God. In excluding people we are in danger of excluding ourselves from God. This parable emphasizes that God is merciful and eager to hear prayers, but also a God of justice. God is eager to assist and forgive.