

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 21, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

He shall see his descendants in a long life,
and the will of the LORD shall be accomplished through him. (Is 53:10b)

Psalm:

Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you. (Ps 33)

Second Reading:

So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and to find grace for timely help. (Heb 4:16)

Gospel:

"For the Son of Man did not come to be served
but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Mk 10:45)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of October 21, 2018

Sunday: Is 53:10-11/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 [22]/Heb 4:14-16/Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

Monday: Eph 2:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4ab, 4c-5 [3b]/Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: Eph 2:12-22/Ps 85:9ab-10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9]/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [cf. 3]/Lk 12:39-48

Thursday: Eph 3:14-21/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 [5b]/Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Eph 4:1-6/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 6]/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Eph 4:7-16/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5 [1]/Lk 13:1-9

Next Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 [3]/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

Observances for the Week of October 21, 2018

Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday

Monday: St. John Paul II, Pope

Tuesday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Wednesday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Next Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

October 21, 2018 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"What do you wish me to do for you?" Jesus asks a similar question in different Gospel passages, but the request of James and John is not repeated on any other occasion. "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left." They ask not for knowledge of God, not for crooked limbs to be straightened nor for the blind to see. They ask for power and authority. Jesus' response should trouble them. "You do not know what you are asking."

"Can you drink the cup that I drink?" Jesus asks. "They said to him, 'We can.'" But what is Christ's cup? Could James and John have possibly known it or understood it here at the height of Jesus' ministry? Jesus' cup is the cup of trial, of difficulty, of public ridicule. His final, thirsting sip occurs as he hangs on the cross. In Christ's kingdom, drinking his cup and participating in his life are not the sharing of power the way we are accustomed. Jesus flips their paradigm.

"Whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all."

The cup of Jesus is the cup of giving oneself. "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." As Christians, how easy it can be to want the acclaim of good deeds, the gratitude for volunteering, the attention for donating to the church. "It shall not be so among you." If you are overlooked, offer thanks

to God for imitating Jesus, rather than bitter complaint at someone else's oversight. Look for opportunities to do good needs unnoticed. This week, consider one way you can drink the cup of Jesus!

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Persistence is really a virtue and the face of a strong character. We all have heard stories of people who have done incredible things in the presence of obstacles that appear insurmountable. These are real stories of real people who have lost limbs or faced other physical challenges. They have become amazing athletes and sometimes saints who overcame incredible difficulties in order to proclaim God's love and presence. Where there is a strong will, there is a way. What do we want Jesus to do for us? Let your faith inspire you to find the courage to love in the face of bitterness, the faith to persevere when tempted to give up, and the hope to move forward when falling into despair. Jesus saves us from ourselves and gives us the clear vision to see as God sees.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

This past Father's Day began with my youngest son asking me for money. As the day went by, he continued to ask me for things. It was actually quite humorous as it was supposed to be my day and I hadn't asked him for one thing. It was all about what he wanted. Finally, after his latest request, I responded, "It's Father's Day! What I want from you is a day where you don't ask me for anything." I would have to say that he does not constantly ask me for things all the time and he is a good kid, but this day he did have me reflecting on how much a child asks from a parent.

We ask quite a lot from our Heavenly Father as well. I don't think He begrudges us anything due to all our requests. However, like any human parent would, I think God would love it when He asks something of us that we can respond with a "yes." We like to do all the asking, but too often we are not very responsive when we are being asked. It is an important aspect to reflect on in any relationship. If you seek to receive more than you are willing to give, what kind of lopsided relationship is that? God doesn't want that type of relationship. Any father wants to give his son or daughter anything they ask for within reason, but offering the same back is what a real relationship is all about.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Today's reading is an excerpt from the final suffering servant oracle of the book of Isaiah (52:13-53:12). The prophet Isaiah speaks of redemptive suffering. When have you found God's grace at moments of suffering in your life?

Second Reading

We hear in Hebrews how Jesus sympathizes with our weaknesses. What would you say are your spiritual weaknesses?

Gospel Reading

Jesus speaks to his disciples today about the importance of service to others. In what ways do you offer service to others in need?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"Open wide the doors to Christ!"

--St. John Paul II

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

What is a transitional deacon?

Answer:

There are two types of deacons in the church. Both are members of the clergy. Both have the same liturgical role. Both have the service of the community as their primary work. One is called a permanent deacon, usually a married man ordained as a deacon with no intention of becoming a priest. They preach, baptize, witness marriages, conduct funeral services, and look after the needs of the poor. They also visit the sick and take Communion to them, although they

cannot celebrate the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. They might also assist the pastor in his administrative duties. Permanent deacons are usually well known and respected in their communities and have roots there.

A transitional deacon is one who functions as a deacon for a period of time prior to ordination as a priest. His diaconate assignment serves as a kind of internship of ordained ministry. During his year or two as a deacon, he will learn the practical aspects of parish life, getting a firsthand look at the life of a priest. His work has a different focus than a permanent deacon in that he is looking forward to ordination as a priest.