

28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 14, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

I prayed, and prudence was given me;  
I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me. (Wis 7:7)

Psalm:

Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy! (Ps 90)

Second Reading:

Indeed the word of God is living and effective,  
sharper than any two-edged sword. (Heb 4:12a)

Gospel:

"It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle  
than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." (Mk 10:25)

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

Readings for the Week of October 14, 2018

Sunday: Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [14]/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Monday: Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31--5:1/Ps 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5a and 6-7 [cf. 2]/Lk 11:29-32

Tuesday: Gal 5:1-6/Ps 119:41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 48 [41a]/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: Gal 5:18-25/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Lk 11:42-46

Thursday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 [12]/Lk 10:1-9

Friday: Eph 1:11-14/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 [12]/Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: Eph 1:15-23/Ps 8:2-3ab, 4-5, 6-7 [7]/Lk 12:8-12

Next 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

Observances for the Week of October 14, 2018

Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Tuesday: St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin

Wednesday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

Thursday: St. Luke, Evangelist

Friday: Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest; Sweetest Day

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

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

October 14, 2018 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christian author C.S. Lewis once wrote that Christianity is not so much about being nice people but in being "new men." We see this contrast in today's Gospel. "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first answers in the predictable way. Follow the commandments! "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth." Perhaps for some of us it's easy to answer this way. "I'm a good person!" he seems to reply. Does he truly follow all the commandments he professes to follow? Does he -- in word and deed -- check off all the boxes of the moral law? Perhaps. Whether he's being honest or fudging the truth, Jesus accepts his answer at face value with compassion. "Jesus, looking at him, loved him."

But he's not done yet! Jesus wants to remind us that this attitude alone is not enough. "Go, sell what you have ? then come, follow me." Jesus' invitation to the young man is radical. Abandon everything that gives you any sense of security. Give it all up for an unknown future with a wandering preacher.

The Christian life is not easy. "How hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!" It's easier, Jesus says, for a gigantic camel to squeeze itself through a tiny needle's eye. But the God of the universe creates out of nothing, breaks the bars of hell, and raises the dead to life. Is a needle's eye really such an obstacle? Jesus' invitation is always bigger than our own limitations. This week, what do we need to offer up? How is Jesus inviting us to follow him?

#### LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Are we content and satisfied with the bare minimum and essentials of our faith, or do we desire excellence and proficiency? The Ten Commandments represent the minimum and, if we are honest with ourselves, are pretty easy to keep. The fullness of the Gospel, however, is another story. Truly living as Jesus taught often comes with great self-sacrifice, self-emptying, and possibly leaving the things of this world behind. Are we ready to pursue this kind of life? God wants us to live and love abundantly not superficially. Love asks that we extend ourselves beyond the status quo and the bare minimum and venture into that which is risky, countercultural, and even radical. What we possess can no longer be important. When Jesus laid this out before the rich young man, he went away sad because he had much. When Jesus lays it out before us, how do we react?

#### EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

I oftentimes say in prayer, "Grant me the wisdom to see Your will for my life and the courage to follow that will." It is a request for true discernment to see that God's will is always more important and fruitful than my own will. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking happiness and fulfillment lie in doing what I want to do and following my own wants and desires. Our entire secular culture is filled with that message. However, that road has led too many to a place of emptiness and regret. I must pray to keep in the forefront of my mind that God created me on purpose and for a purpose. Being wise enough to see that purpose is the key to true satisfaction in this world.

Giving of our gifts and talents in only ways we want to means that we become deaf and blind to the numerous times Jesus Christ calls us to give. We also easily avoid any form of real sacrifice, which often leads us to give only from our excess. Wisdom allows us to see where we are being called, even if we are unsure what increase will result from our investment. Our trust is no longer in the gift given but instead in the One who is calling us to give. When our lives of generosity and compassion are ordered in this way, it is hard for anything to steal our joy away. Our purpose is found, our aim is true, and our desire is fulfilled.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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

##### First Reading

The Jewish sage from the book of Wisdom prays for the gift of wisdom and prudence. What virtues do you pray for?

##### Second Reading

The author of Hebrews tells us one day we all must "render an account" to God about how we have lived our lives. Does this scare you or encourage you?

##### Gospel Reading

Jesus challenges his disciples and all would-be followers to make the kingdom of God a top priority in life -- even above wealth. How are you able to keep this perspective on the kingdom of God central to your life?

#### CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"May you use the gifts that you have received and pass on the love that has been given to you."

--St. Teresa of Avila

#### WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

##### Question:

Who is Ignatius of Antioch and what example does he offer us in Christian living as we celebrate his feast day on October 17th?

Answer:

As Bishop of Antioch (the modern day city of Antakya, Turkey), Ignatius witnessed to the faith during the reign of Emperor Trajan, who ruled from 98-117. Persecution of Christians broke out in Antioch, and Ignatius was captured and taken to Rome for martyrdom in the arena.

On his journey to Rome over land and sea, Ignatius writes seven letters to various churches. These letters give powerful glimpses into the theology and practice of the early church, along with insights into the role of a bishop as pastoral leader. Ignatius is the first to use the term "Catholic Church" to refer to the various Christian communities of the Roman Empire.

The best known of his letters is the one he wrote to the Romans. Ignatius addresses influential Christians who might be tempted to intercede on his behalf, thus sparing him from martyrdom. He advises them against it, being resolute in his desire to be the "wheat of God."

Eucharistic links are most evident in his words. As Christ willingly offered himself as witness to God's total love, Ignatius, too, desired to be "food for the wild beasts," so that he could become "the pure bread of Christ." Eucharistic living was so crucial to Ignatius that he was willing to die in order to model himself on the Lord who willingly offered all.