

The Work of the People
The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We now move into the latter days of Ordinary Time. We celebrate three more Sundays before the Solemnity of Christ the King. The beauty of the Fall colors leads us into the darkness of the winter and it is in that darkness that we once again look for, long for the light. It is not only the light of the sun but also the light of the presence of God for which we long.

On this Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time the First Reading is from a section in Exodus that explains some of the prescribed social norms. In the first half of the reading, God teaches we must not wrong the widow and orphan, among those considered the least in society. If we do harm them, we will face God's wrath. The second half of the reading addresses the practices of borrowing money and taking a neighbor's cloak as a pledge. Neither is charging interest nor failing to return the cloak before sunset acceptable. Should our sinful practice lead others to call out, God will respond with compassion.

The reading from 1 Thessalonians is contiguous from where last Sunday's Second Reading concluded. Paul expresses his gratitude for the faith of the Thessalonians even in the face of persecution. He mentions how the Thessalonians have imitated him, Silvanus, and Timothy in their reception of the Word and also how they have imitated the Lord. Their perseverance and faith are a model for others for they have turned to Christ from idols and now await his return.

The Pharisees are persistent. In last Sunday's Gospel, Jesus' response to their disciples' question about the Roman coin, thwarted their scheme. This Sunday's Gospel begins by noting that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees. Previous to this, Jesus had responded to the Sadducees manipulative questions about the resurrection by showing them that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God of the living. In the third series of questions, the Pharisees inquired of Jesus about the greatest commandment. Jesus knows the law better than they do. Love of God and Love of Neighbor compose the two commandments.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Who Knows the Reach of God?* by Fr. Corbin Eddy who served for many years as a pastor and teacher, most recently on the faculty of St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jesus was only asked for the greatest commandment, but he goes on to give a second, which "is like it." This second commandment is on equal footing and needs to be dealt with in an equally serious manner. Here Jesus quotes Torah . . . but lifts this commandment out of a long list of other regulations. . . .

From the long list, Jesus selects one value that transcends the others. He highlights it, underlines it, makes it bold on his computer and proclaims it as different from the others, central, like the first and greatest. . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself. It's almost as if he is demonstrating what it means to love the Lord with the whole mind. He is discerning priorities and making distinctions among greater and lesser prescriptions of the law. He is not simply counting. He is making value judgments. A human person's response to the law of God is not mindless. Obedience, justice and love are not exercised without discretion. Just the contrary is true. The two great commandments engage our whole humanity in an ongoing conversation with God and with each other. To keep them well requires a passionate, heartfelt, soulful and mindful commitment to the God of the universe and to God's created world.

Jesus is inviting us to commit with our whole being. There's nothing mechanical, boring or humdrum about being a "law-abiding citizen"—at least not according to Jesus. It's a passionate love affair with God and the whole of humanity.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Eph. 4:32; 5:8/Lk. 13:10-17
 Tuesday: Eph. 5:21-33/Lk. 13:18-21
 Wednesday: Eph. 2:19-22/Lk. 6:12-16
 Thursday: Eph. 6:10-20/Lk. 13:31-35
 Friday: Phil. 1:1-11/Lk. 14:1-6
 Saturday: Phil. 1:18b-26/Lk. 14:1, 7-11
 Sunday: Rv. 7:2-4, 9-14/1 Jn. 3:1-3/Mt. 5:1-12a

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel the Pharisee was talking about commandments, and Jesus was talking about love. One demands allegiance, the other requires personal commitment. In our families we daily lay down our lives for each other not because we have to but because love compels us to make sacrifices

WORSHIP

Monday, October 26
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, October 27
 8:00 am + Patricia Semrad (Friends)
 Wednesday, October 28
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, October 29
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge 1540
 Friday, October 30
 8:00 am + Albert Mukina
 (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)
 Saturday, October 31
 4:30 pm + Victims of the Wildfires Worldwide
 (Dale & Carole Schoiack)
 Sunday, November 1
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Alexander & Judyth Taylor
 (Tammy & Dennis Mott Family)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 27
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, October 31
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
 Sunday, November 1
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly - with each other and with the public - and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

ST. BERNADETTE STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$406.00
Candles	9.00
World Mission	60.00
TOTAL	\$475.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,848 Paid: \$5,485	

THANKS FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Thank you for answering "Here I Am, Send Me" to your baptismal call to witness for mission on World Mission Sunday! The donations offered to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the missionary work of the Church - a real blessing for the Missions! Please continue to pray for missionaries, and for the people to whom they bring the "Good News" of Jesus. May God bless you for your generous missionary spirit!

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The "Love Thy Neighbor: Make a Difference at Home" experience is an opportunity for high school students around the Diocese of Erie to come together virtually and in-person (on your own) to learn about Catholic social teaching issues affecting our community, to build relationships with community organizations, and to be an impetus for change. It is a five-day experience, Nov. 15-19, for a flexible two hours a day. To register and/or for more information, go to <https://www.eriecd.org/youth/lovethyneighbor.html>.

*"Holy Spirit,
 help me guard my thoughts
 so that I may grow to be
 more like Jesus."*

NEEDED

St. Anthony of Padua is looking for someone who would be interested in cleaning the rectory one day a week for a few hours. Please call the rectory at 398-4234 between 9 am - 3 pm

St. Bernadette Mission is looking for someone to clean the church one day a week. Please call the rectory at 398-4234 between 9 am - 3 pm

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$707.00
Maintenance	361.00
Candles	22.00
All Saints	10.00
All Souls	95.00
Rice Bowl	17.00
World Mission	143.00
Catholic Education	20.00
Donation	70.00
TOTAL	\$1,445.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,547 Paid: \$25,027	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
