

**For The Bulletin Of
November 8, 2015**

**THE 32ND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

In today's gospel Jesus is observing how people of His time were making donations to the temple treasury. The score is clear – Scribes: 0; Widow: 1! But another layer of interpretation might be opened up besides considering who wins or who loses, who is miserly or who is generous, who is hypocritical or who is honest. This gospel is really a metaphor for true discipleship, a central theme in the Gospel of Mark. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus? Jesus tells us when He contrasts the behavior of the self-important and insincere scribes with the action of a poor and seemingly insignificant widow.

Jesus teaches the crowds to beware of the hypocrisy of the scribes who know God's word and law, yet seek places of honor and hurt those whom the law demands they protect – the widows. Jesus condemns them severely. "Calling His disciples to Himself," He teaches them that they are not to do like the scribes. They are instead to do like the widow in the temple who gives all she has. True disciples give all they have, their whole livelihood – not goods, but *themselves!* The *amount* of what we have and give is really not important at all in the long run. What is important is how we regard and care for others; how we fulfill our responsibilities in the community; how we embrace the unlimited possibilities of deeper relationships, new riches, everlasting Life.

Without calculating the cost to herself, the widow gave "all she had," not out of her surplus. Disciples, too, give all they have without counting the cost, calculating self-gain, or seeking attention. The amazing thing about faithful discipleship is that God provides us with astonishing surplus: protection, talents, blessings. The "whole livelihood" disciples give of their very selves; disciples give of what God has already given them. Ultimately, discipleship is about good stewardship of who we are.

Similar to the surplus of meaning in the gospel, the first reading is really about more than a widow who risks the last bit of her flour and oil to respond to Elijah's need. Elijah rewards her obedience and generous hospitality – out of her need – with an abundance of flour and oil, enough to feed herself and her son for a whole year. The story depicts the hundredfold, God returns to those who are so exceptionally generous. Paradoxically, by being generous to others we open ourselves to God's unbounded generosity toward us. Such is the hundredfold of those who are faithful disciples. Disciples give their all, and in turn receive what our generous God offers: "salvation to those who eagerly await Him."

Living The Paschal Mystery

We learn how to be good disciples from others who follow Jesus faithfully, who contribute to the good of all out of the surplus with which God has blessed them. The gospel holds up the poor widow as a model for the total self-giving of the true disciple. We need but look around us to find strong models for true discipleship. Nor is it a matter of

these disciple-models giving large sums of money. Giving a bit of time each week for the good of another, participating in at least some parish activities beyond going to Mass and contributing to the collection basket, signing up when volunteers are needed are all ways of contributing a little, which makes a huge difference in overall parish life and community life. Even “something” can be our “all.” So, are we true disciples?

Today’s scripture passages are pointed and challenging, especially in light of this being our Commitment Weekend – Stewardship Sunday. Dare we take them seriously?

- I act like the scribes when I...I act like the widow when I...
- For me, discipleship means...I become a true disciple of Jesus when I...
- As a disciple of Jesus I have given...I yet to give...

Commitment Weekend/Stewardship Sunday

Today is our annual Commitment Weekend. God has blessed each one of us with gifts, talents, abilities, and resources to support our parish community. Hopefully in the days of this past week you took the time to reflect on how God has blessed you with Time, Talent, and Treasure and how you can use those resources to support the building of God’s kingdom here at St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. Everyone is being invited to come forward at the Preparation Rite to place their signed Covenant into one of the baskets before the altar and your tithes/offerings in the other basket. At the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy, all the Commitment Forms will be placed in the chest at the

heart of the Altar to remind us of the sacred covenant we have made with the Lord and one another. Thank you for your support and all you do to make our parish the wonderful community of faith that it is. Without you, our programs, ministries, outreaches, and staffing would not be possible.

Veterans Blessing

In honor of Veterans Day, we are honoring all the Veterans in our parish with a special blessing at the conclusion of each liturgy today. We thank all of you who served our country in the Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Beginning last Sunday, the list of items to put into a Thanksgiving Basket was placed in our bulletin. Thanksgiving Baskets for needy families may be brought to the church on the weekend of November 21st and 22nd. The baskets will then be distributed to the families by our St. Vincent de Paul Society members on Monday, November 23rd, from our parish hall. We have 150 families who have signed up to receive a basket.

This is a wonderful way to teach your children a lesson about gratitude, thankfulness, and generosity. Take them shopping with you and let them select the items on the shopping list. Talk to them about caring for others who are less fortunate than we. Instill a sense of giving in their hearts that will last them a lifetime. Have them decorate the basket/box appropriately with Thanksgiving artwork.

Thank you for what you will do to be the heart and hands of Jesus, extended to our sisters and brothers who would not be

able to celebrate Thanksgiving Dinner without our help.

CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence

The next CCISCO Night Walk Against Violence takes place this Friday evening, November 13th, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The walk will once again begin from Antioch Church Family, 55 E. 18th Street, with prayer and orientation and then walking to the intersection of E. 18th and Cavallo Road. The witness lasts for one hour and then we return to the church for evaluation and Closing prayer.

Brass and Organ Concert

Our next major Fall Concert takes place this Friday evening, November 13th, at 8:00 p.m. when members of the San Francisco Brass Ensemble join our very own **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence**, along with timpani in a concert of “Heroic Music for Organ and Brass.” You will not want to miss this major musical event, not just for our parish but for all of East County. This concert is a personal Gift of **Don Pearson** who is fully sponsoring the cost of the Brass players and Timpanist.

A reception will follow the concert in our parish hall. Invite your family members, friends, and neighbors to this thrilling musical event. If it weren’t for our magnificent pipe organ and Don Pearson, a concert of this magnitude would not be possible and it is, in fact, the first time that such a concert has been performed in East County.

Plan to be with us for this exciting and inspiring evening of heroic music for Brass and Organ.

St. Cecilia Sing

On Sunday, November 22nd, we will honor St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Church Music with Sung Evening Prayer at 4:00 p.m. We, along with hundreds of other parishes across the United States whose musicians are members of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians will be offering concerts featuring their parish musicians, organists, instrumentalists, soloists, hand bell choirs, and choral ensembles. Our Parish Choir has prepared a magnificent choral anthem for the liturgy in addition to the singing of the psalms and canticles of the day. A reception will follow in the parish hall. I hope you will plan to join us for this beautiful evening liturgy and giving thanks for the great gift that our musicians are to our parish and community.

Thanksgiving

Please mark your calendar for Thursday, November 26th, 9:00 a.m., to be with us for our annual Thanksgiving Liturgy. The reflection this year will be given by **Kelly and Kristi Ouimet, the parents of Molly, Patrick, and Matthew**. You are also invited to bring your bread/rolls and wine/sparkling beverage to be blessed at the conclusion of the Eucharist.

Environment Help

You are invited to join us to change the environment from Fall/Harvest/Thanksgiving to Advent and the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. We will meet on Friday morning, November 27th at 9:00 a.m. There will be coffee and breakfast pastries. Depending upon the number of people who help, we usually are finished by Noon with the removal of the Fall environment and the installation of the

Advent environment. This is a great way to see how our seasonal environments are changed, to be a part of making it happen, and to meet fellow parishioners. I hope you will join us.

St. Nicholas Festival Dinner

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, December 5th, to join us for the annual St. Nicholas Festival Dinner. This is one of the most beloved evenings during the year in our parish. Parishioners sponsor tables which they decorate in the spirit of the evening. Our appetizers and dinner will once again be provided by **Dave Costanza and His Famous Kitchen Crew**. There will be a raffle and both silent and live auctions. The highlight of the evening is the appearance of St. Nicholas himself. Dinner tickets go on sale soon so watch the bulletin and listen for the announcements as this is always a sold out event.

Thank You

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who come each week to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Rose Salamanca, Kelly Wetzel, Tracy Wetzel, Jun Bajet, and Steve Rojek**.

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Geri Abaya, Gino Ramos, Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, and Harlan Young**.

...to the members of "RDJ Construction" **Rich, Don, and Jose**, who do so much to maintain our building and keeping it look like new. ...to **Brian McCoy** who has assumed the responsibilities of our Business Manager and taken over all the

administration of the parish without being paid and, as a result, has freed me to focus on sacramental and pastoral ministry. I hope you will take time to let Brian know how much we appreciate all that he does.

...to all of our volunteer counting teams who rotate each week, counting the collection and preparing it for deposit.

...to our volunteer Office Receptionists who do such a great job answering the phones and assisting with the work in the parish office: **Yvette Young, Mary Ng, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Barbara Jackson, and Rowena Cayaban**.

...to all of our volunteer Pastoral Ministers who do such a great job of ministering to our sisters and brothers in Sutter-Delta and Kaiser Deer Valley Hospitals, the assisted living facilities, the convalescent homes, and our shut-ins, and especially praying with and bringing them Holy Communion each week.

...to our volunteer Security Force: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek, Dave Simpson, Jose Perez, and Robert Goncalves** who do such a great job of providing security in the parking lot for our weekend liturgies as well as bringing parishioners in from the farther reaches of the parking lot.

...to **Don Pearson, Our Choir, and Cantors** for the great job they do in leading us in our sung prayer each week at each of our liturgies.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** for caring for the Sacred Linens, washing and ironing them each week.

...to all of our volunteer Sacristans who do such a great job of preparing for all of our liturgies both on weekdays and the weekends.

...to our Social Events Committee for the wonderful reception following last

Saturday evening's "Phantom of the Opera."

ANTIOCH SHELTER PROJECT From Gary Kingsbury

Thank you to all who joined us for the opening of our office at 2006 A Street, Suite 214, in Antioch. We have hosted several meetings there on how to serve the homeless and those in great need. We greatly appreciated the donation of this space!

We have launched our weekend church service presentations regarding the Antioch Shelter Project (ASP), as well as ways to get involved as volunteers and to raise \$1 million for ASP. We were recently blessed by an 18 year old woman who donated her birthday money to help the homeless! **We have openings on Sundays in late November and December for any churches who want to partner with ASP.**

We have launched neighborhood outreach activities to the community around the proposed shelter site on Delta Fair Blvd., making them aware of the project and receiving feedback. Generally individuals recognize the need for an emergency shelter for women and children and support the project. We also shared the project at Turner Elementary School, Antioch Unified School District (AUSD) and Los Medanos College (LMC), as well as Shelter Inc.'s neighboring family center. **Our next neighborhood outreach is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, at 3 PM. Please join us!**

The donated architect from Home Aid Northern California is working with the City of Antioch regarding specific building plan for 50 beds, as well as common service area for meals, washer & dryer,

storage, classrooms, offices, etc. He has selected shelter models from Home Aid's past activities and is reviewing what the best fit for Antioch is.

We hosted an Antioch tour for the leadership team of Transforming the Bay with Christ (TBC) -- showing them prayer efforts for the city, opportunities for economic development & jobs; as well as outreach to vulnerable youth.

ASP is working to create a "virtual" shelter to assist homeless women and children in greater Antioch, especially the 400 homeless children attending school in AUSD. **If you have an extra bedroom, bed, or other resources, please let us know so that we can include it in our "virtual" shelter.**

Please keep ASP in your prayers as we continue to share the project with churches and the community, as well serve those in great need right now. Please keep the homeless and those in great need in your prayers. May they know God's love through us. And please pray for more ASP partners, who want to be God's ambassadors to the needy, as well as a catalyst for community transformation in Antioch and the whole Delta!

Thank you for all your support. By taking steps of daring faith, sacrificial sharing of our blessings, and trusting in God -- all things are possible through God, including this emergency shelter! **Visit our website antiochshelter.org for more details.**