

**For The Bulletin Of
October 23, 2016**

**THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

We might chuckle at five-year old Noah's boast that he will grow up to be stronger than Daddy. Or cringe at sixteen-year old Hannah's bluster that she can text and drive with no problem. Or wonder at coworkers who brag about how deserving they are of a huge raise because they produce more than anyone else. Only time will tell if Noah, Hannah, or the coworkers actually reach what they tout. In any case, at the time of the self-praise what tends to run through our minds is that these people don't know themselves very well. Life is about growing in self-knowledge. Prayer is the ingredient that brings honest and accuracy to our self-knowledge.

Both the Pharisee and the tax collector addressed God in prayer. The content of their prayer, however, differed greatly. The Pharisee's prayer was about himself and was turned toward self; his prayer was about justifying himself. The tax collector's prayer, by contrast, was turned toward God in the true self-knowledge of who he was. Jesus declared the tax collector justified, not the Pharisee. Jesus tells us that we are "justified" when we know who we are before God and open ourselves in humility to receive God's mercy. Justification – right relationship with God – comes only from knowing ourselves as God knows us. The message Jesus teaches in today's gospel is that justification comes not to those who consider themselves righteous, but to those who humbly acknowledge their need for God's mercy.

Paradoxically, true humility is exaltation. Exaltation is the gift received while being one's true self before God and others. In this there's great hope in this gospel for all of us, for we are all sinners. The tax collector (generally hated for their practice

of extortion) "stood off at a distance / and would not even raise his eyes to heaven," a posture indicating he recognized his sinfulness and unworthiness before God. His prayer says something true about God (Who is merciful) and himself (who is a sinner). The tax collector's prayer allows God to be God and show mercy. The tax collector's prayer reveals both an understanding of God and the desire to be in right relation with God. The tax collector stands far off, but his prayer draws him near to God. This is exaltation – being near to God.

Justification is knowing Who God is and what our relationship is to God. It is addressing God as God and letting God be God. It is acknowledging humbly who we are before God: sinners in need of mercy. The exaltation at the end of time is determined by whether we are justified, that is, humble and in right relationship to God. Good works alone don't justify us – it is right relationship with God. This is our exaltation – humbly seeking and standing before our God.

Living The Paschal Mystery

In practice, probably most of us are totally neither like the Pharisee nor the tax collector. So both can teach us something. The Pharisee can teach us that religious practices are important, but not enough. They must always be performed with humility and with the goal of deepening our relationship with God. The tax collector can teach us that God doesn't offer salvation to the perfect, but to those who acknowledge their sinfulness and cry out for God's mercy. Like the tax collector, we must let God be God and receive the mercy offered. Through sinners, God exalts those who are in right relationship. Rather than focus unduly on our own sinfulness, we need to turn to God and ask for mercy.

How did you hear God's Word to you today? Were you energized by it? Did it encourage you in your faith journey? With whom do you identify in the gospel? What

difference will today's scriptures and liturgy make in your life?

- When I am "convinced of my own righteousness," what ends up humbling me is...
- The position I take up before God is...before others is...
- My prayer focuses on...when...because...

About Liturgy: Humility and Liturgy

We have inherited a spirituality from the past that has not always portrayed humility in the best light. When we hear in today's gospel Jesus admonish us to humble ourselves, we can hear that as putting ourselves down, degrading ourselves, not acknowledging our gifts and talents. This is really a false humility.

Humility comes from the Latin word *humus*, which means ground or soil. It reminds us of the second creation account in which God forms the first human beings from the dust of the ground and breathes life into them. The implication is that true humility is an admission of who we are: formed by God Who breathes life into us. Humility is the down-to-earth recognition that God desires to be in relationship with us, loves us, and gives us all good gifts. Humility is rejoicing in who God has called us to be. Humility also leads us to readily acknowledge our weaknesses and failures and ask for God's mercy, as does the tax collector in today's gospel.

Celebrating liturgy well requires of us a good dose of humility. Liturgy is an awesome gift – God desires to nourish us on word and sacrament, comes to us, transforms us to be more faithful members of the Body of Christ. None of this we deserve. Yet, God gives us these good gifts simply out of divine love. Our stance in liturgy, then, ought to be one of openness and acceptance of what God offers us, surrender to God's action, and joy in who God makes us to be. True humility, as this gospel tells us, leads to exaltation – not by

us, but by the God Who created us, saves us, and loves us.

Commitment Weekend

For the past three weeks, we have been preparing for this weekend's "Commitment Weekend." In last Sunday's bulletin, the Commitment Form was placed, indicating what the pastoral staff commits to do for you, the members of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish. The right side of the Commitment Form indicates what you as members of the parish will do by way of returning to God a portion of your time, talent, and financial resources (treasure) to help us in the building of God's kingdom. At each liturgy, you are being invited to come forward in a great procession to leave your tithe at the Altar along with your signed Commitment Form. At the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, the chest into which the forms have been placed, will be closed and placed once again at the heart of the Altar as a constant reminder of the covenant each one of us has made with the Lord indicating the level of our stewardship for the coming Pastoral Year.

Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do in sharing with us your Time, Talent, and Treasure. The parish is only as great, as strong, and as vibrant as each and every one of us makes it. Don't be a "taker;" be a "Giver!" Remember that God's generosity will never be outdone. If you have not volunteered for any ministry, then promise God that you will do so this year. If you haven't shared your gifts and talents to enrich the parish, then make a commitment to do so in the coming year. If you haven't done your Fair Share financially, then make the commitment to do so – ministry costs money and we need everyone to contribute financially in order to meet all of our financial obligations to the Diocese, to our staff, and to our ministries, programs, and outreaches. Remember that God only asks 10% from us and we get to keep the remaining 90%!!!!!!

Kitchen Table Catholicism

You will not want to miss our Thursday evening series on “Kitchen Table Catholicism!” This coming Thursday, October 27th at 7:30 p.m. in the parish hall, our Pastoral Associate, **Carolyn Krantz**, will focus on helping you help your children enjoy and celebrate Halloween, All Saints, All Souls, and Advent.

Our Concert Series

This coming Friday evening, October 28th at 8:00 p.m., our very own **Don Pearson**, will be the featured performer as he accompanies the silent film classic, “The Headless Horseman and the Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” The entire film is accompanied without a single note of “composed” music, which means that Don is one of only a “handful” of musicians possessing the ability to accompany silent films and making up the music as the film “rolls.” You will not want to miss this unique and outstanding cinematic and musical experience! The event is free and will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. A free will offering will be received to help defray expenses of the reception. Invite your friends and family to join us.

Mass of Thanksgiving for Healthcare Workers

This coming Saturday, October 29th, The Bishop will preside and preach for the first “Mass of Thanksgiving for Healthcare Workers,” formerly known as “The White Mass” taking its name from the white smock worn by doctors and the white uniforms of nurses. This liturgy is to thank and honor all those in physical, mental, and spiritual healthcare professions. It will bless healers and build community. This is for all who provide healthcare services, direct and administrative, to attend this multicultural Eucharist as we celebrate your energy, dedication, and generosity. I will be concelebrating this liturgy and I hope to see many of our parishioners there who are in the health care profession.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day

Tuesday, November 1st, is All Saints Day, a holy day of obligation. We are privileged to celebrate Eucharist at both 8:00 a.m. and again at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 2nd, is All Souls Day when we remember our beloved deceased. We will celebrate Eucharist that day at 8:00 a.m. as usual. Please be sure to fill out the All Souls envelope with the names of your beloved deceased who will be remembered at each celebration of the Eucharist throughout the month of November. The Book of the Dead will also be placed in the baptistery beginning today and for the next two weeks leading up to the Commemoration of All Souls. From All Souls Day on through the end of November, the Book of the Dead will be placed next to the tabernacle.

Neighborhood Clean Up

Our next Antioch Neighborhood Clean Up, sponsored by our Antioch Police Department and the VIPS (Volunteers in Police Service) takes place on Saturday, November 5th, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please see the flyer in today’s bulletin for the site to be cleaned up. All supplies will be provided by the VIPS. I hope to see you there.

The Parish Liturgy of Remembrance of the Dead

You are invited to join us for a very special Liturgy of Remembrance on Sunday afternoon, November 6th, at 4:00 p.m. for Sung Evening Prayer when we remember all those for whom a Funeral Liturgy was celebrated in our church since last All Souls Day. Their names will be read aloud during the Intercessions and a Memorial Candle will be lighted for them as well. These candles will be presented to each family at the conclusion of the liturgy. You are invited to bring photographs, Holy Cards, and other memorabilia to place on the memorial tables at the front of the church.

Also, if you have had a loved one die but whose funeral was not celebrated in our church, you, as well, are invited to commemorate them at this liturgy. Please bring any memorabilia you wish to display on the memorial tables and let us know the name of your beloved dead so that his/her name can be included as well as lighting a Memorial Candle for them.

A reception will follow in the parish hall to which all are invited.

Vigil Liturgy Time Change

Beginning Saturday, November 12th, the time of the Vigil Liturgy moves to 4:00 p.m. and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please make note of the time change. Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6th.

November Concert

The next event in our Concert Series takes place on Friday evening, November 18th, when Bill Vaughan, Director of Music for Church of the Assumption, San Leandro, and Dean of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, performs a concert of transcriptions for the organ. The concert begins at 8:00 p.m. and will be followed by a reception in the parish hall. A free will offering will be accepted to help defray the costs of the reception as well as to provide a stipend to the artist. I hope you will plan to attend.

Thanksgiving Baskets

One of the wonderful traditions of our parish takes place on Sunday, November 20th, the Solemnity of Christ the King, as parishioners bring Thanksgiving Baskets to each liturgy which are then distributed to needy families for Thanksgiving. A flyer will be placed in the bulletin with the list of items to purchase to feed a family of four for Thanksgiving. The box or basket can then be decorated appropriately, brought to one of the liturgies on the weekend of November 19th/20th and then will be distributed by our St. Vincent de Paul Society on Monday,

November 21st. A turkey will be added to each box/basket at that time. Last year, 250 boxes/baskets were contributed and what a difference they made in the lives of so many families! The need is very great at this time of the year especially so I am hoping that our parish will once again respond to the invitation to participate. Many thanks for what you will do to make it possible for needy families to celebrate Thanksgiving.

St. Cecilia Sing

We are a member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and in conjunction with them, concerts, recitals, and choral festivals are being held all over the United States on Sunday, November 20th to honor St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Church Music. Our parish is participating once again this year with the celebration of Sung Evening Prayer on this day at 3:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the parish hall. I hope you will plan to join us in this service of praise and thanksgiving that honors St. Cecilia and asks for God's blessing on our parish music ministry.

Thanksgiving Day

Our National Day of Thanksgiving this year falls on Thursday, November 24th. We will gather for Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. and this is always a very special day of celebration for us. The homily will be given by one of our parishioners and this year we will be especially blessed by the gift of **Samantha Peralto** who will dance a hula of thanksgiving as a part of the liturgy. Those of you who were privileged to experience her dancing at the parish festival saw how beautiful, how prayerful, how sacred this was. Also, you are invited to bring your bread and wine to be blessed that will be a part of your Thanksgiving dinner. Tables will be setup across the front of the sanctuary on which you may place your bread and wine for the blessing.

Environment Help

On Friday, November 25th, we will say goodbye to our Fall Environment and the conclusion of the Liturgical Year of 2016.

Many hands will be needed to make the transition from Fall to the beginning of the new Liturgical Year and Advent. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and hope to be finished by noon. Coffee and pastries are provided as a part of our work and fellowship. All are invited!

Major Parish Celebration Thank You!

Incredible . . . the first 3 weeks of October were wonderful celebrations of the community that is St. Ignatius of Antioch.

As mentioned in my previous insert, the month long celebration of our parish started with the return of an old friend - "Beer 'n Brats" hosted by our incredible **Social Events Committee** on Saturday, October 1. On October 8 & 9, the parish hosted its first ever and very successful combined Liturgical Ministry and Community Outreach Faire in the tent.

Which brings us to last weekend's festivities. Once again, the Gala and Parish Festival were great experiences of community and the celebration of our patronal feast. The Gala Dinner at the Pittsburg Yacht Club was well-attended and the venue was beautifully decorated for "Masquerade Around The World." The auction was lively and generated some interesting competition between bidders. Great music was graciously provided by the Nite Notes.

The festival on Sunday morning was great despite the rain, wind, and cold. In fact, I think it was the best attended in many years! The international food booths were outstanding, the hula dancing added a new dimension to our celebrating, and Bingo was as always great fun. Thank you to **Ramar Foods** and **Little Manuel's** for their in-kind support. Congratulations to the winners of the Grand Raffle: First prize winner (**Thelma Fields**), Second prize winner (**Marian Devereaux**) and Third prize winner (**Emma Teixeira**).

Planning and preparation for the Grand Raffle, the Gala and the Parish Festival

began months ago. As I noted in the past, proceeds from this weekend's festivities provide a much needed infusion of revenue to our operating account.

Thank you the **Gala Committee**, the **Grand Raffle Committee** and the **Festival Committee** for all your planning and efforts that ensured a successful weekend. Thank you to everyone who purchased Grand Raffle and Gala Dinner tickets. Thank you to those who donated auction items, festival supplies, crafts, food and most of all the gift of your time. Thank you to all the volunteers who hosted food and other booths on Sunday. Thank you to those who helped with setup, decorating and cleanup. And finally, thank you to everyone who attended or participated in this month's activities and events. This was truly a parish wide effort involving many people.

Thank You

...to our parishioner volunteers who are so faithful in cleaning the church and parish hall: **Jun Bajet, Emilia Freking, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, Sofie Zimmerman, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Kelly and Tracy Wetzal, Carole Miller, Virginia Noack, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Virginia Noack.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who washes and irons all the sacred linens each week.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week: **Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Rowena**

Cayaban, Joe Fanfa, Bev Iacona and Lorraine Lohmeier.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza, Judy Quicho, Vangie Parrilla and Belen Farin.**

The Visit of His Eminence, William Cardinal Levada

Last weekend I was able to announce the news that **William Cardinal Levada** will preside and preach on Sunday, January 15th, for our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Formerly the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, he is now the Prefect Emeritus and has retired and presently living at St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park. Two years ago during our 40th anniversary pilgrimage to Italy, we were privileged to join Cardinal Levada in his titular church in Rome. Now we have the privilege to return the favor and welcome him here to St. Ignatius of Antioch. Father Richard Mangini and I will concelebrate and other members of his family will join us as well. It will be an historic event for our parish and for East County.

Thank You from the Garcia Family

We would like to thank all who helped with our son Carlos Garcia's Memorial Service.

Memorial Funeral Service...Carlos Garcia
Friday, September 23, 2016 at 10:30 am
St. Ignatius of Antioch Catholic Church.

Fr. Robert Rien – **Presider**

Ann Cruz & Steve Rojek – **Lectors**

Steve Rojek – **Intersessory Prayers**

Fr. Robert Rien – **Homilist**

Dave Simpson, Frances Rojek, Sofie Zimmerman, Vangie Parrilla –

Coordinators

Don Pearson – **Organist**

Louis & Stella Renner – **Cantors**

Alicia Perez, Maryann Peddicord, Alicia Solano, Carole Miller & Rachelle Martin –

Choir Members

Dave Simpson, Frances Rojek, Sofie Zimmerman, Vangie Parrilla & Lorraine Lohmeier **Eucharistic Ministers**
Maryann Peddicord - **Worship Aid**
Reception Helpers – Rich Confetti, Don Benson, Jose Palomino, Steve & Frances Rojek, Estrella Rusk, Rachelle Martin, Alicia Perez, Nancy Newton, Dave & Sharon Simpson, Bev Iacona & Lorraine Lohmeier.

Reception Donors – Bev Iacona, Pat Britton, Sharon Simpson (Desserts); Nancy Newton, Maryann Peddicord, Yvette Young & Alicia Perez (Desserts, Bowls & Flowers); Steve & Frances Rojek (Water & Soda); Frank & Linda Drenik & Lorraine Lohmeier (Paper Products, Tableware, Flowers & Desserts).

Thanks to all who had masses for our son.
Thanks to all who made gift donations to the Building Fund.