

**For The Bulletin Of
November 5, 2017**



**THE 31ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

This Sunday's gospel is the source for the familiar quote, "practice what you preach." Over the centuries since Matthew's gospel recorded these words of Jesus Who is berating the Scribes and Pharisees because "they preach but they do not practice," other sayings have crept into our language usage that address the same issue. For example, we might be admonished to "walk the talk; or we might hear it spoken that "actions speak louder than words"; or we might recall the words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Preach the gospel, even if you have to use words," or we might quote another passage from Scripture capturing the same idea, "by their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7: 16). No doubt a web search would produce other similar and very familiar sayings. The sheer number of them suggests that maybe we have a bit of a problem with our words and actions being consistent with each other. Like the Scribes and Pharisees we too sometimes say things but do the opposite. The real issue here

is integrity. Honesty in living and relating to others means that our whole selves – words and actions, body and soul – are united by hearts turned towards God.

This gospel is saying that turning our hearts toward God Who is to be central in our lives is a matter of doing works out of love for God and others, and acting with the integrity of Jesus. Our words and deeds – our word-behaviors- are to reveal our ultimate word-behavior: that we are disciples of Jesus, the Servant of others. To be a humble servant is simply living in right relationship with God and others. This means that we never forget our first and most important title, which is not to be teacher or master, but to be humble servant. This means that we practice what we preach. And what we preach is Jesus, Who is humble Servant now exalted.

In every clear terms Jesus condemns the Scribes and Pharisees for the way they act. They don't practice what they preach and they relish titles but do not live up to the demands these titles place upon them. Both these ways of acting reveal a corrupted disposition towards God and God's people. Then Jesus admonishes the crowd and the disciples to focus on Him and Him alone as the true teacher and master. He is true Teacher and Master in showing us how to be servant of all: He humbled Himself. For this, He is exalted by His Father. *How* He is truly reveals *Who* He is. *How* we are reveals us to be...

Living The Paschal Mystery

All our lives we grapple with lining up words with deeds. Gradually on our life journey we discover that our prayer

“seat” is in the place of the servant and our true “place of honor” is at God’s table where all are equals. When we have this clear in our own minds, then words and deeds are not in opposition, but witness to integrity of self consistent with being followers of Jesus.

The new life we might experience by such servant-living takes the form of others respecting us not because of a title or words we speak, but because of the genuine goodness of who we are and what we do. Rather than lay heavy burdens on others, we reach out to help them carry their life load. Rather than putting on symbols of prestige or taking places of honor, we spend ourselves for the least fortunate among us. Being humble servant means we place ourselves at the service of others, recognizing all as our sisters and brothers in Christ.

As we come to these last Sundays of the Liturgical Year that has been 2017, our gospels become more pointed and challenging: how have we and how are we witnessing to one another that we are truly followers of Jesus in everything we say and do and are?

- I know I have failed to practice what I preach when...The strongest preaching I do by the way I live my life is...
- What my behavior reveals about who I am is...
- As a disciple, I am genuinely a learner when...a child of the Father when...a humble servant when...



About Liturgy: The Second Reading and The Second Coming

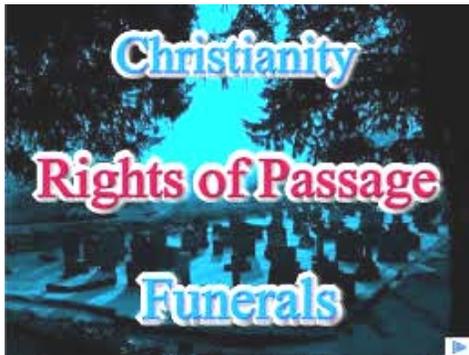
In Year A for the five Sundays preceding the Feast of Christ the King, the second reading is taken from St. Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians. This is most likely the earliest of the New Testament writings and as such it reflects the expectation of the early Christian community that Christ would return soon to gather all things back to God. No doubt this looking forward to Christ’s imminent return colored all of their behaviors, expectations, and beliefs. So many centuries beyond this early Christian community, we today do not have the same sense of urgency about Christ’s return. Probably for almost all of us it does not immediately affect our behaviors and decisions about how to live. At the same time, Christ’s return at the end of time is a promise He made before His ascension into heaven. He will return to gather all back to His Father. No, we do not know the hour. But at least during this time of year when the liturgical readings draw our attention to this tenet of our faith, we ought to ask ourselves how well our choices in life direct us toward the Christ Who will come in final glory.

This Second Coming of Christ
(accompanied by the end of the

world as we know it, final judgment, general resurrection, and eschatological fulfillment) is a predominant motif as we conclude the Liturgical Year and begin another. It is fitting, therefore, that we pay attention to these second readings which help us also to interpret the gospel and first reading.



Thank you to all who participated in today's Winter Coat Drive, sponsored by our Confirmation I and II Class as well as our Knights of Columbus. All gently-used coats will be delivered to our sisters and brothers here in East County.



“The Rites to Die Right!”

The month of November is focused liturgically on the end of life as we know it through our back-to-back celebration of All Saints and All Souls. At each liturgy this month, we remember all those whose names are inscribed in our Parish Book of Remembrance as well as on our All Souls Envelopes. And so it is

appropriate for me to once again offer my Adult Faith Formation class on “The Rites to Die Right!” The seminar will be offered this coming Wednesday morning, November 8th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in the parish hall. You will be introduced to the beautiful rites that the church has given us in the Order of Christian Funerals as well as information regarding the church's position on cremation and disposition of cremated remains. What does the church expect to happen when a Christian falls asleep in Christ? What do the rites look like? How do they “sound?” Who participates? Where do the rites take place? What is appropriate? Having this information and planning ahead, making decisions about your desires concerning your funeral, is one of the greatest gifts you can give your children, grandchildren, and loved ones. There is no charge or fee or freewill donation to attend.

Then, on Thursday, November 9th, we will take a “field trip” to visit our new Catholic mortuary/funeral home, Holy Angels, at Holy Cross Cemetery on E. 18th Street, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Following the tour of their new facility, you may wish to take advantage of the optional lunch across the street at the Bridgehead Café. The class and lunch are offered as a part of our Silver and Gold Ministry. I hope you will join us.



New Members Are Joining

Twice a year, our Pastoral Council hosts a lovely brunch following the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. Our next New Members Brunch will take place next Sunday, November 12th. It will give our newly-registered members an opportunity to meet the members of the Pastoral Staff, the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council. Welcome to all of you!



Once again this year we invite you to join us in our Annual Thanksgiving Basket outreach. A flyer on bright orange paper is included in today's bulletin listing the food items that are necessary to feed a family for Thanksgiving. Our St. Vincent De Paul Society will facilitate the give-a-way on Monday, November 20th. Baskets may be brought to any liturgy on the weekend of November 18th and 19th. Last year, 200 baskets were contributed by our parishioners! The need continues to be great and I am hoping that every family that is able will participate. This is a

great opportunity to teach our children the value of giving to others who are less fortunate than we. Our local Lucky Supermarket makes it so easy: there is a display with all the items necessary to fill the Thanksgiving Box/Basket literally right inside the entry doors. All you have to do is walk around the display, select the items on the list, and check off the items on the flyer. I decorate my box with a second table cloth to make it look festive as well as including a Thanksgiving Card to the family who receives it with good wishes and blessings from the parish. Lucky also carries paper table cloths, paper plates, and napkins in the spirit of Thanksgiving. The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will add a turkey to each box. This is another wonderful opportunity for us to be the heart and the hands of Jesus to our sisters and brothers who would not enjoy this holiday and its festive meal were it not for us. Many thanks in advance for what you will do for this annual outreach.



Please plan to join us for our Thanksgiving Day Liturgy on Thursday, November 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful liturgy with our Choir and Cantors supporting our sung prayer and the Thanksgiving Reflection is given by a parishioner. This year that

reflection will be given by **Jack Goncalves**. The offering that day has always been designated for a worthy cause and this year it is going to our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. I hope your holiday plans will allow you to join us for this special day of giving thanks and praise to God for all His abundant blessings in each of our lives.



...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who come so faithfully every Saturday at “O Dark Thirty” to clean and prepare both the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Carole Miller, Jun Bajet, Kathy Romeo, Jack Gonvalves, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who also come early on Saturday morning as well as during the days of the week to clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Maria Chandler.**

...to all those who helped plan, set up, decorate, and cleaned up after the Reception following the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Festival Service: **Don Pearson, MaryAnne Douville, Rich Confetti, Jose Palomino, Don Benson, Samantha Peralto, Pat Britton, Lorraine Lohmeier, Nancy Newton, Rachelle Martin, Steve and Frances Rojek, Will Avitabile and Catherine Vidaurri, and Maryann Peddicord.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...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:

Sofie Zimmerman, Yvette Young, Melodye Costanza, Alicia Perez, Lorraine Lohmeier, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...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: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, and Vangie Parrilla.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**

Building Campaign Update

As noted in Steve Rojek’s presentation at the start of the expansion project signature campaign in August and September, the Diocese has given preliminary approval for the parish to proceed with a parish hall expansion and kitchen remodel project to provide more space for our ministries and programs. In addition to demonstrating that the proposed project could be completed with the funds already on hand, the Diocese stipulated that we must also

seek the blessing to proceed with this project from those who donated to the original 2011 Capital Campaign.

The just concluded signature campaign was aimed at reaching **active parishioner families** and nearly 500 signatures were collected. Parishioner volunteers are now in the process of contacting **active families** who have not yet had the opportunity to sign the approval to proceed.

On October 27, letters were sent to 2011 campaign donor families **who are no longer active** in the parish. The letter (1) provided a brief summary of the current status of the Building Campaign (2) introduced the proposed expansion project (3) asked for approval to proceed and (4) included a self-addressed stamped envelope with a November 20 requested reply date.

Once the signature approval process is completed, the parish will hold further discussions with the project architects commencing in early December. Regular status updates will continue.



The word
of God
is at work
in you

