



HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Small Christian Communities Gathering in Grace

*24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 13, 2026*

through

*The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe
November 22, 2026*

*“For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst”*

(Matthew 18:20)

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Small Christian Community Guide

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time through Christ the King

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	The Solemnity of the Lord Jesus Christ , King of the Universe 23 November 22, 2026

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 13, 2026

FIRST READING

Sirach 27:30-28:7

A reading from the Book of Sirach.

Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight. The vengeful will suffer the LORD's vengeance, for he remembers their sins in detail.

Forgive your neighbor's injustice; then when you pray, your own sins will be forgiven.

Could anyone nourish anger against another and expect healing from the LORD?

Could anyone refuse mercy to another like himself, can he seek pardon for his own sins?

If one who is but flesh cherishes wrath, who will forgive his sins?

Remember your last days, set enmity aside; remember death and decay, and cease from sin!

Think of the commandments, hate not your neighbor; remember the Most High's covenant, and overlook faults.

SECOND READING

Romans 14:7-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

None of us lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself.

For if we live, we live for the Lord,

and if we die, we die for the Lord;

so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

For this is why Christ died and came to life, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Peter approached Jesus and asked him, “Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times. That is why the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt.

At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.’

Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, ‘Pay back what you owe.’ Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.’ But he refused. Instead, he had the fellow servant put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?’

Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt.

So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- The Wisdom of Sirach tells us to put away wrath and forgive your neighbor. What does it take to forgive someone? Are forgiving and forgetting the same? If you cannot forget, have you truly forgiven?
- God knows the bigger picture. When you look at your life through the lens of eternity, what are the things you are currently holding onto that suddenly seem less important?

SECOND READING

- What does it mean to live and die for oneself in Christ?
- How does knowing that every person in our lives belongs to the Lord change how we handle disagreements or differences in opinion within our community?

GOSPEL

- What a shock to hear that the servant who was forgiven a very large debt by his master had no mercy for the one who owes him a tiny debt. Are you able to show mercy to another like the master? If not, why not?
- Is there someone in your life right now whom you are struggling to forgive “from your heart?” What is one practical, concrete step you can take this week to start letting go of that debt and begin the process of forgiving someone who has wronged you?

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 20, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:6-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

SECOND READING

Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Philippians.**

Brothers and sisters:
Christ will be magnified in my body, whether
by life or by death.
For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.
If I go on living in the flesh, that means
fruitful labor for me. And I do not know
which I shall choose. I am caught between the
two. I long to depart this life and be with
Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain
in the flesh is more necessary for your
benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of
the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16a

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.'

So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'

When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.'

When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Isaiah urges us to seek God in all, for he is near. When you encounter negative thoughts, face decisions, or are plagued by stress or temptation, do you "seek the Lord?" What holds you back from seeking the Lord?
- Recall a time when you sought the Lord for help, to let go of harmful habits, bad choices, or destructive thought patterns. At that time, or now in hindsight, how did you experience God's compassion?

SECOND READING

- Writing from prison, Paul faces a tension of balancing his desire for personal peace with his call to serve others. In our daily lives, how do we balance taking care of our personal, spiritual needs with serving the people around us?

GOSPEL

- What was your immediate reaction to the landowner's actions? If you were one of the full-day workers, how would you react to getting paid the same wage? When have you felt jealous or resentful of someone else receiving a blessing you felt they didn't earn?
- In this parable of the laborers in the vineyard, Jesus explains that everyone receives the same eternal reward through God's goodness, warning us not to be angry or feel jealous when God shows mercy to others. How does this story challenge our human concern for fairness versus generosity?
- Do you view your relationship with God more like a contract (working for a reward) or a gift (receiving grace)?

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time September 27, 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 18:25-28

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the LORD:

You say, "The LORD's way is not fair!"

Hear now, house of Israel:

Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?

When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die.

But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, and does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life;

since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

SECOND READING

Philippians 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters:

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, Who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:28-32

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people:

"What is your opinion? A man had two sons.

He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.'

He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- When have you felt that a situation-or even God-was unfair because things did not go the way you expected?
- Why can it be difficult to believe that someone who has done wrong can truly change? What gives you hope that a person is not permanently defined by past mistakes?

SECOND READING

- What makes it difficult to listen respectfully to someone whose opinions are different from yours?
- Give an example of having the "same attitude as Christ" in a challenging situation.

GOSPEL

- When has changing your mind led you to make a healthier or more loving choice?
- Why can it be easier to notice another person's inconsistency than to admit our own?
- How does this Gospel encourage people who have made mistakes but are willing to begin again?

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 4, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Let me now sing of my friend,
my friend's song concerning his vineyard.
My friend had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside;
he spaded it, cleared it of stones,
and planted the choicest vines;
within it he built a watchtower,
and hewed out a wine press.
Then he looked for the crop of grapes,
but what it yielded was wild grapes.

Now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of
Judah, judge between me and my vineyard:
What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I had not done?
Why, when I looked for the crop of grapes,
did it bring forth wild grapes?
Now, I will let you know what I mean to do
with my vineyard:
take away its hedge, give it to grazing,
break through its wall, let it be trampled!
Yes, I will make it a ruin:
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
but overgrown with thorns and briars;
I will command the clouds not to send rain
upon it. The vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel, and the people of
Judah are his cherished plant;
he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed!
for justice, but hark, the outcry!

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:6-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:
Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.
Then the peace of God that surpasses all
understanding will guard your hearts and
minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence and if there is
anything worthy of praise, think about these
things.
Keep on doing what you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me.
Then the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people:

"Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey.

When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned.

Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way.

Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.'

But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir.

Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.'

They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?"

They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times."

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures:

*The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
by the Lord has this been done,
and it is wonderful in our eyes?*

Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What are some "wild grapes" – harmful attitudes or habits – that can grow when we neglect our spiritual lives?
- What good fruit might God be experiencing from the abilities, relationships, and resources entrusted to you?

SECOND READING

- When you feel anxious, what helps you turn your concerns to prayer?
- Have you ever experienced peace even though a problem had not yet been solved? What made that possible?

GOSPEL

- What gifts, opportunities, or responsibilities has God entrusted to you, and how are you caring for them?
- Who are the people God may be using to guide or encourage you right now?
- Have you ever rejected an idea or a person too quickly and later realized their value?

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 11, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:6-10a

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain the LORD of hosts
will provide for all peoples a feast of rich
food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and
pure, choice wines.
On this mountain he will destroy the veil that
veils all peoples, the web that is woven over
all nations; he will destroy death forever.
The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears
from every face; the reproach of his people
he will remove from the whole earth; for the
LORD has spoken.
On that day it will be said:
"Behold our God, to whom we looked to
save us! This is the LORD for whom we
looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has
saved us!"
For the hand of the LORD will rest on this
mountain.

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Philippians**

Brothers and sisters:
I know how to live in humble circumstances;
I know also how to live with abundance.
In every circumstance and in all things
I have learned the secret of being well fed
and of going hungry, of living in abundance
and of being in need. I can do all things in
him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of
you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need,
in accord with his glorious riches in Christ
Jesus.

To our God and Father, glory forever and
ever. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."'"

Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.'

The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.

The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'

Many are invited, but few are chosen."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Isaiah speaks of a universal feast that is promised to the whole world. Do you believe God's protection and love is for all nations, for all people?
- God does not want us to shoulder alone the burdens of guilt, regret, and judgment from others. Reflect on a challenge you are facing right now (e.g., loss, a difficult transition, a long period of waiting). Now imagine being on God's holy mountain with His protective hand resting on your shoulder, lifting your burdens, wiping away your tears and replacing them with His abiding peace. How might this imagery from scripture impact your prayer routine?

SECOND READING

- Who are the people in your life that share in your troubles? Whose burdens do you actively help carry? Is it harder for you to give help or to receive help when you are in need?

GOSPEL

- What daily routines, work, or worries tend to distract you from focusing on God?
- How does the king's command to invite "both bad and good" from the street corners challenge your own views of who belongs in God's community?

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 18, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, Cyrus,
whose right hand I grasp, subduing nations
before him, and making kings run in his
service, opening doors before him
and leaving the gates unbarred:
For the sake of Jacob, my servant,
of Israel, my chosen one, I have called you
by your name, giving you a title, though you
knew me not.
I am the LORD and there is no other,
there is no God besides me.
It is I who arm you, though you know me
not, so that toward the rising and the setting
of the sun people may know that there is
none besides me.
I am the LORD, there is no other.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of
the Thessalonians in God the Father and the
Lord Jesus Christ:
grace to you and peace.
We give thanks to God always for all of you,
remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly
calling to mind your work of faith and labor
of love and endurance in hope of our Lord
Jesus Christ, before our God and Father,
knowing, brothers and sisters loved by God,
how you were chosen.
For our gospel did not come to you in word
alone, but also in power and in the Holy
Spirit and with much conviction.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went off and plotted how they might entrap Jesus in speech.

They sent their disciples to him, with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. And you are not concerned with anyone's opinion, for you do not regard a person's status.

Tell us, then, what is your opinion:

Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?"

Knowing their malice, Jesus said,

"Why are you testing me, you hypocrites?

Show me the coin that pays the census tax."

Then they handed him the Roman coin.

He said to them, "Whose image is this and whose inscription?"

They replied, "Caesar's."

At that he said to them,

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- In the reading, God refers to Cyrus, a Persian king and pagan idol worshiper, as "his anointed" and "my chosen one," to let all the world know that "I am the Lord, there is no other." In the books of Ezra and 2 Chronicles, we learn that the Lord "stirred up the spirit of Cyrus, King of Persia," to acknowledge God and allow the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. How do you feel about God using a non-believer to accomplish God's will? Would Cyrus need to be converted to belief in the Lord before taking these actions?
- Historical record reveals that Cyrus did not convert and attributed his religious tolerance to one of the Persian gods. Is it possible today for God to use a person of questionable character to accomplish His will?

SECOND READING

- How and for what have you been chosen by God?

GOSPEL

- How does this passage define the relationship between faith and civic life? Does it support or deny our application of Christian principles to civic life?

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time October 25, 2026

FIRST READING

Exodus 22:20-26

A reading from the Book of Exodus

Thus says the LORD:

"You shall not molest or oppress an alien, for you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt. You shall not wrong any widow or orphan. If ever you wrong them and they cry out to me, I will surely hear their cry. My wrath will flare up, and I will kill you with the sword; then your own wives will be widows, and your children orphans.

"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest from him. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this cloak of his is the only covering he has for his body. What else has he to sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will hear him; for I am compassionate."

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters:

You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and in Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 25, 2026

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-40

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a scholar of the law tested him by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- God expects us to act towards others as He acts towards us. Why is it difficult for us to care for each other as spelled out in Exodus?
- God states, "*I am compassionate*," and urges us to be the same. What is an act of compassion that you witnessed that touched you deeply?

SECOND READING

- Paul is pleased that the Church in Thessalonica has become "*imitators of us and the Lord*." How well are we imitators at Holy Family, and what could we do better?

GOSPEL

- The first and greatest commandment is to "*love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind*." Beyond church and our SCC, what else can we do to keep God in first place every day?
- If the greatest commandments are only two and relatively straightforward, why do nations not follow them?

Solemnity of All Saints November 1, 2026

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, saw another angel come up from the East, holding the seal of the living God. He cried out in a loud voice to the four angels who were given power to damage the land and the sea, "Do not damage the land or the sea or the trees until we put the seal on the foreheads of the servants of our God." I heard the number of those who had been marked with the seal, one hundred and forty-four thousand marked from every tribe of the children of Israel.

After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue. They stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands.

They cried out in a loud voice:

"Salvation comes from our God, who is seated on the throne, and from the Lamb."

All the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They prostrated themselves before the throne, worshiped God, and exclaimed:

"Amen. Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen."

Then one of the elders spoke up and said to me, "Who are these wearing white robes, and where did they come from?"

I said to him, "My lord, you are the one who knows."

He said to me, "These are the ones who have survived the time of great distress; they have washed their robes and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb."

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

A reading from the first letter of John

Beloved:

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.

Yet so we are.

The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now;

what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the
sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and
persecute you and utter every kind of evil
against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be
great in heaven."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- The Book of Revelation is not often proclaimed at Mass. However, can you see why it is on All Saints Day, a time when many people may be thinking about and missing departed loved ones?
- The Book of Revelation is full of myth, allegory, and metaphors that can seem confusing. What do these amorphous words mean to you in the modern age?

SECOND READING

- Jesus says no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are "born again." When you hear the phrase "born again," what thoughts, cultural baggage, or emotions automatically come to mind?
- What do you think John means by "the World" that does not know us?

GOSPEL

- Verse 4 says those who mourn will be comforted. This applies to our grief, but also to mourning our own sin. How can a small group environment be a safe space to mourn and find God's comfort together?
- What does it practically look like to "hunger and thirst for righteousness" on a random Tuesday morning? What are the junk foods of life that we accidentally fill up on instead?

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 8, 2026

FIRST READING

Wisdom 6:12-16

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,
and she is readily perceived by those who
love her, and found by those who seek her.
She hastens to make herself known in
anticipation of their desire;
Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not
be disappointed, for he shall find her sitting
by his gate.
For taking thought of wisdom is the
perfection of prudence, and whoever for her
sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from
care; because she makes her own rounds,
seeking those worthy of her, and graciously
appears to them in the ways, and meets them
with all solicitude.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

**A reading from the first letter to the
Thessalonians.**

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers
and sisters, about those who have fallen
asleep, so that you may not grieve like the
rest, who have no hope.
For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus, bring with
him those who have fallen asleep.
Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are left
until the coming of the Lord, will surely not
precede those who have fallen asleep.
For the Lord himself, with a word of
command, with the voice of an archangel and
with the trumpet of God, will come down
from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise
first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the
clouds to meet the Lord in the air.
Thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore, console one another with these
words.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise.

The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.

The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'

But the wise ones replied, 'No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.' While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'

But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Wisdom is a frequent topic in the Old Testament and is usually characterized as a woman. This led many Christian writers to equate Wisdom with the Holy Spirit, which is also feminine in both Greek and Hebrew. Wisdom calls to every human heart, seeks every person, inspires each of us to greater love of one another.

- How have you been inspired to seek wisdom? How might we as a church be inspired by wisdom's call?
- What are the limits of wisdom? Can you think of a time when you have had to surrender "wisdom" and lean into not knowing? What was the wisdom of that experience?

SECOND READING

- Do you find this passage reassuring? Why or why not?
- Who will you be most excited to be reunited with after death? What is the first thing you will tell them?

GOSPEL

- Is there anything that disturbs you about this parable and the imagery of the Bridegroom? If Jesus is the Bridegroom, how does this make you feel?
- If we read this as a parable about the inner preparations that each of us must make to be ready for Christ's return, what is the work you need to do to prepare? What work might we need to do as a collective church to prepare for Christ's return?

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15, 2026

FIRST READING

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the Book of Proverbs.

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and works with loving hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be
praised. Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security," then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:
"A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one--to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.
"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward, bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.'
His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'
Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.'

His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In Jewish households during the Friday evening Sabbath, men (husbands, fathers, brothers, sons) read Proverbs 31, called "The Women of Valor" to the women of the household. In this way, Jewish households ritualize the practice of praise and gratitude for one another.

- Read the entire chapter aloud in your group. Have each person think about a woman they would like to lift up in praise and/or gratitude.
- How does reading the proverb aloud with this intention change the meaning for you? Are there other ways you can ritualize this type of practice?

SECOND READING

This reading is a continuation of last week's reading on the second coming of Jesus. Last week's focus was on Paul reassuring the Thessalonian community that their beloved dead would share in Christ's promise of eternal life. This week, the reading focuses on the community of the living.

- "The Day of the Lord comes like a thief in the night." This is a statement that is both true and unnerving. As you reflect on the passage, how does this make you feel? What does this say about the nature of God?
- The passage ends with the statement, "Encourage one another, and build each other up." What does this mean to you, considering you have just discussed that we are not guaranteed the next moment, let alone the next day of our life?

GOSPEL

This is another of the Olivet Parables that Jesus teaches on his way to the cross. There is an urgency in each parable that reminds us to be awake and pay attention to God's voice speaking to us right now.

- What does stewardship mean to you right now in your life? What are you a steward of?
- There are many ways to read this parable, but you might also consider reading it as a bookend to the saying in Matthew 5:15, "no one who lights a lamp puts it under a bushel basket but puts it on a lampstand." In this reading, what is the problem with the final servant's actions? Where might fear be causing you to hide your light or bury your talents?

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 22, 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.
As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep.
I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark. I myself will pasture my sheep; I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD. The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal, but the sleek and the strong I will destroy, shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD, I will judge between one sheep and another, between rams and goats.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father, when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. When everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to the one who subjected everything to him, so that God may be all in all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

***Solemnity of Christ the King November 22,
2026***

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

This reading portrays the shepherd as an attentive protector of his flock, much like the parable of the Lost Sheep in Luke 15.

- If you read beyond the verses in the lectionary, you will see that the shepherd protects the weaker sheep from the stronger sheep who are thoughtless and aggressive toward the weak. What do you think this says about God and what God expects of each of us?

SECOND READING

Paul is once again dealing with the end times, but here he is focused on clarifying what the bodily resurrection means.

- We say that we believe in the resurrection of the body every Sunday, but what do you think this means? How does this reading help you understand it?
- How do you square the common belief that we go to heaven when we die with the credal belief in the resurrection of the body when Jesus returns?

GOSPEL

We end the liturgical year with a reading about justice for those in need.

- If we look at the Greek language in this passage, instead of “my” need to feed the hungry, the passage directs attention to “our” communal/church need to feed, clothe, and welcome those in need. How does this change the passage for you?
- Choose a day in the coming week where you make a conscious effort to see Christ in each person you encounter. How does this help you to encounter the gospel in a more personal way? Note: Even if you do this regularly, putting your attention on it for the day might give you different insights.