



HOLY FAMILY  
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

# *Small Christian Communities Gatherings in Grace*

*26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 29, 2024*

*through*

*The Solemnity of Christ the King  
November 24, 2024*

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

*(Matthew 18:20)*

**Father Terry Keehan, Pastor**  
Holy Family Catholic Community  
2515 West Palatine Road  
Inverness, IL 60067  
847.359.0042  
[www.holyfamilyparish.org](http://www.holyfamilyparish.org)

## COVENANT PRAYER

*Loving God, we are thankful for this Small Christian Community, Gathered in Grace,  
to hear your Word and share Your Good News  
for the salvation of the world.*

*We believe Jesus is present and continues  
to break open the Word and speak to our hearts  
as once He did for His disciples.*

*Open our minds, our hearts and our lips  
so that what we hear we will understand,  
what we understand we will share.*

*Remind us of the needs of our community, our church  
and our world as we strive to know your Word.*

*Give us the strength to be present to one another  
and while in this community may we always  
be respectful of each other and honor a spirit  
of confidentiality and trust.*

*Temper our differences with love and understanding,  
and call us all to mutual respect and compassion.*

*May this community and the covenant we share,  
be a reflection of the covenant you made with our ancestors,  
a bond that is only strengthened and deepened each time  
we gather to know, love and serve You.*

*When our time of prayer and reflection is complete,  
may your Spirit be with us as we,  
together with our larger community of faith,  
live the Word in our world.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

*Amen!*

## GRACE MOMENTS

Share your experience of one of the following Adventures in Grace spiritual exercises since you last met:

1. Grace is God's Presence and Gift of Self. When, where, and/or how did I experience Grace?
2. Baptism is being drenched in the mysterious Love of God. How did I experience myself as baptized?
3. What gift was I able to affirm, call forth, give thanks for?
4. How did I mediate the Grace of Mercy to someone or in some situation.
5. How was I fed/nourished spiritually?

### LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred Reading)

Settle into silence for a moment. Remember that God is always present. Allow silence to take root for several long moments.

Someone volunteers to read the First Reading. Invite the group to open their hearts to the passage, be curious, and listen as if they are hearing it for the first time. Listen for a word, phrase, thought, or image that speaks to them today. The text is then read slowly and meditatively. After a moment of silence, continue with the discussion questions for the reading.

Repeat this format for the Second Reading.

Repeat this format for the Gospel, but after the reading and moment of silence, invite group members to speak their word, phrase, thought, or image aloud with no elaboration or discussion. They may also "pass." When all who wish to speak have done so, silently meditate on what has been shared for a few moments, then continue with the discussion questions for the Gospel.

At the end of the discussion, invite everyone to offer prayers of petition. Conclude with: "For these prayers that we speak, and for those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we pray together in the words that Jesus taught us, 'Our Father, ...' Amen."

## *SCC Guide*

### **26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time through Solemnity of Christ the King**

<p>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 5 September 29, 2024</p>	<p>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 15 November 3, 2024</p>
<p>27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 7 October 6, 2024</p>	<p>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 17 November 10, 2024</p>
<p>28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 9 October 13, 2024</p>	<p>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 19 November 17, 2024</p>
<p>29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 11 October 20, 2024</p>	<p>The Solemnity of Christ the King . . . 21 November 24, 2024</p>
<p>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time . . . . . 13 October 27, 2024</p>	

**26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    September 29, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Numbers 11:25-29

**A reading from the Book of Numbers.**

The LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to Moses. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, the LORD bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied.

Now two men, one named Eldad and the other Medad, were not in the gathering but had been left in the camp.

They too had been on the list, but had not gone out to the tent;

yet the spirit came to rest on them also, and they prophesied in the camp.

So, when a young man quickly told Moses, "Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp, " Joshua, son of Nun, who from his youth had been Moses' aide, said,

"Moses, my lord, stop them."

But Moses answered him,

"Are you jealous for my sake?"

Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets! Would that the LORD might bestow his spirit on them all!"

**SECOND READING**

James 5:1-6

**A reading from the Letter of James.**

Come now, you rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries.

Your wealth has rotted away, your clothes have become moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and that corrosion will be a testimony against you;

it will devour your flesh like a fire.

You have stored up treasure for the last days.

Behold, the wages you withheld from the workers who harvested your fields are crying aloud;

and the cries of the harvesters

have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts.

You have lived on earth in luxury and pleasure; you have fattened your hearts for the day of slaughter.

You have condemned;

you have murdered the righteous one;

he offers you no resistance.

**GOSPEL**

Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

At that time, John said to Jesus,  
"Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him.

There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off.

It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out.

Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"

**FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS**

**FIRST READING**

- The first reading implies that all people of the world are prophets. Who are the prophets that are not necessarily part of the formal Church structure?
- Have you ever felt the spirit nudge you toward or away from something? What did it feel like?

**SECOND READING**

- The reading is an appeal to take care of the community with concern for perverse attitudes and actions of the wealthy. How can one balance wealth and giving back to the community? Who do you know that exemplifies doing so?

**GOSPEL**

- What is Jesus implying when he states that "whoever is not against us is for us?"
- How do you handle other Christians or denominations who show their discipleship differently than we do?

**27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    October 6, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 2:18-24

**A reading from the Book of Genesis.**

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;

whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;

this one shall be called 'woman, '

for out of 'her man' this one has been

taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife,  
and the two of them become one flesh.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 2:9-11

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Brothers and sisters:

He "for a little while" was made "lower than the angels," that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

For it was fitting that he, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the leader to their salvation perfect through suffering.

He who consecrates and those who are being consecrated all have one origin.

Therefore, he is not ashamed to call them "brothers."

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:2-16

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

The Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, "Is it lawful for a husband to divorce his wife?"

They were testing him.

He said to them in reply, "What did Moses command you?"

They replied,

"Moses permitted a husband to write a bill of divorce and dismiss her."

But Jesus told them,

"Because of the hardness of your hearts he wrote you this commandment.

But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female.

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.*

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

In the house the disciples again questioned Jesus about this.

He said to them, "Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

And people were bringing children to him that he might touch them, but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you,

whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it."

Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.

**FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS**

**FIRST READING**

- What is the symbolism between animals being formed out of the ground and a woman being built from the rib that had been taken from a man?
- What does the phrase "two become one flesh" mean to you?

**SECOND READING**

- The reading states that Jesus found salvation through suffering. How can our own suffering bring us to salvation?

**GOSPEL**

- Do you think divorce is ever appropriate, and if so, under what circumstances?
- What does it mean to "accept the Kingdom of God like a child?"
- Do you tend to think of God's kingdom as a gift that we all receive or as something to earn? How have your views changed over time?



**28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time      October 13, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Wisdom 7:7-11

**A reading from the Book of Wisdom**

I prayed, and prudence was given me;  
I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire.

Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, and I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.

Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 4:12-13

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Brothers and sisters:  
Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

## GOSPEL

Mark 10:17-30

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus answered him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

You know the commandments:

*You shall not kill;*

*you shall not commit adultery;*

*you shall not steal;*

*you shall not bear false witness;*

*you shall not defraud;*

*honor your father and your mother."*

He replied and said to him, "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth."

Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me."

At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

Jesus looked around and said to his disciples,

"How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at his words.

So Jesus again said to them in reply, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, "Then who can be saved?"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

Peter began to say to him, "We have given up everything and followed you."

Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come."

## FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

### FIRST READING

- The reading focuses on an appeal to gain wisdom and to allow this wisdom to affect one's moral life. As you look back at your life, how have you developed the spiritual wisdom that you have today?
- Who have you considered a "wisdom elder" in your life? What were his/her characteristics and actions?

### SECOND READING

- What does it mean to you to be "naked and exposed" to God and to have to "render an account?"

### GOSPEL

- In the reading Jesus talks of the need to give up personal wealth and possessions to enter the Kingdom of God. How do you interpret this reading in today's society, given the wealth that many people have in the United States compared to the rest of the world?
- What have you personally given up to gain eternal life? Should you do more?

**29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    October 20, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 53:10-11

**A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel.**

The LORD was pleased  
to crush him in infirmity.  
If he gives his life as an offering for sin,  
he shall see his descendants in a long life,  
and the will of the LORD shall be  
accomplished through him.  
Because of his affliction  
he shall see the light in fullness  
of days; through his suffering, my  
servant shall justify many,  
and their guilt he shall bear.

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 4:14-16

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Brothers and sisters:  
Since we have a great high priest who has  
passed through the heavens,  
Jesus, the Son of God,  
let us hold fast to our confession.  
For we do not have a high priest  
who is unable to sympathize with our  
weaknesses, but one who has similarly been  
tested in every way, yet without sin.  
So let us confidently approach the throne of  
grace to receive mercy and to find grace for  
timely help.

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:35-45

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Jesus and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish me to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking.

Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared."

When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John.

Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS**

**FIRST READING**

The first reading is one of the suffering servant songs in Isaiah. Here the servant is vindicated, saved from a terrible fate.

- Has there been a time in your life when you or someone you loved came through a challenging situation? How did it feel to know that it was behind you? If you could speak to God about it now, what would you say?

**SECOND READING**

This section of Hebrews assures us that we not only have a friend in Jesus, but a powerful ally who is merciful, forgiving, and understands the joys and frailties of our human condition.

- Forgiveness is not always easy. Think of a time when you have been challenged by forgiveness – either receiving or giving – Why was it difficult?
- How does this picture of Jesus as the ever-merciful High Priest make you feel?

**GOSPEL**

The gospel story occurs between two stories of Jesus healing blind men (8:22-26 and 11:46-52). The stories in between show how the disciples are “blind” to who Jesus truly is.

- James and John want Jesus to recognize them as the greatest, but Jesus tells them that service is more important than power. Are power and service always opposed to one another? How can service be a powerful action and witness in our world?

## 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    October 27, 2024

### FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:7-9

#### A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD:  
Shout with joy for Jacob,  
exult at the head of the nations;  
proclaim your praise and say:  
The LORD has delivered his people,  
the remnant of Israel.  
Behold, I will bring them back  
from the land of the north;  
I will gather them from the ends of the  
world, with the blind and the lame in their  
midst, the mothers and those with child;  
they shall return as an immense throng.  
They departed in tears,  
but I will console them and guide them;  
I will lead them to brooks of water,  
on a level road, so that none shall  
stumble. For I am a father to Israel,  
Ephraim is my first-born.

### SECOND READING

Hebrews 5:1-6

#### A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:  
Every high priest is taken from among men  
and made their representative before God,  
to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.  
He is able to deal patiently with the ignorant  
and erring, for he himself is beset by  
weakness and so, for this reason, must make  
sin offerings for himself as well as for the  
people.  
No one takes this honor upon himself but  
only when called by God, just as Aaron was.  
In the same way, it was not Christ who  
glorified himself in becoming high priest,  
but rather the one who said to him:  
*You are my son:  
this day I have begotten you;*  
just as he says in another place:  
*You are a priest forever  
according to the order of Melchizedek.*

*30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time • October 27, 2024*

**GOSPEL**

Mark 10:46-52

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

**FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS**

**FIRST READING**

This reading is one of 6 oracles of consolation in Jeremiah. God calls back the weakest and most marginalized members of the nation to the fold.

- When have you felt consoled by God's love when you needed it most?

**SECOND READING**

As we continue readings from the book of Hebrews, the theme of the High Priest continues. But despite their elevated status, the High Priest must be humble and recognize their own weaknesses.

- Why is it important for community members and leaders to recognize their own weaknesses?
- How does this humility and self-awareness keep the community strong?

**GOSPEL**

This is the second of two blind man stories in this section of the gospel. People in the crowd tell Bartimaeus to be quiet, but the disciples tell him to take courage, get up.

- When have you needed someone else to give you this type of encouragement?
- When have you been there to encourage others when they have felt unable to do it for themselves?

**31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time      November 3, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

**A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy**

Moses spoke to the people, saying:  
 "Fear the LORD, your God, and keep,  
 throughout the days of your lives,  
 all his statutes and commandments which  
 I enjoin on you, and thus have long life.  
 Hear then, Israel, and be careful to  
 observe them, that you may grow and  
 prosper the more, in keeping with the  
 promise of the LORD, the God of your  
 fathers, to give you a land flowing with  
 milk and honey.  
 Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the  
 LORD alone!  
 Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your  
 God, with all your heart,  
 and with all your soul,  
 and with all your strength.  
 Take to heart these words which I enjoin  
 on you today."

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 7:23-28

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Brothers and sisters:  
 The levitical priests were many  
 because they were prevented by death from  
 remaining in office, but Jesus, because he remains  
 forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away.  
 Therefore, he is always able to save those who  
 approach God through him, since he lives forever  
 to make intercession for them.  
 It was fitting that we should have such a high  
 priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from  
 sinners, higher than the heavens.  
 He has no need, as did the high priests,  
 to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own  
 sins and then for those of the people; he did that  
 once for all when he offered himself.  
 For the law appoints men subject to weakness to  
 be high priests, but the word of the oath, which  
 was taken after the law, appoints a son,  
 who has been made perfect forever.

## Gospel

Mark 12:28b-34

### A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?"

Jesus replied, "The first is this:

*Hear, O Israel!*

*The Lord our God is Lord alone!*

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*

The second is this:

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.'

And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices."

And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

## FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

### FIRST READING

This passage includes one of the most sacred passages in all the Jewish scriptures. We are commanded to hear and love God. The adage is that we have two ears and one mouth so we should listen more than we speak. Is this a challenge for you as you listen for God's voice in your life?

- How and when do you spend quiet time with God?

### SECOND READING

- Jesus as High Priest has no need for sacrifices but instead asks that we love him. What do you think the word *sacrifice* means in your experience? How can it show the love of Jesus?

### GOSPEL

- Mark shows Jesus putting together two passages from Jewish scripture 1) to teach and important idea: How do we love God with all our heart (Deut. 6:6)? 2) We love our neighbor in tangible ways. How does this teaching play out in your life?
- Do you think it is possible to love God without loving your neighbor?



## **32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time    November 10, 2024**

### **FIRST READING**

1 Kings 17:10-16

#### **A reading from the First Book of Kings**

In those days, Elijah the prophet went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the entrance of the city, a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her, "Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink."

She left to get it, and he called out after her, "Please bring along a bit of bread."

She answered, "As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a couple of sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die."

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid.

Go and do as you propose.

But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son.

For the LORD, the God of Israel, says, "The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth."

She left and did as Elijah had said.

She was able to eat for a year, and he and her son as well; the jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as the LORD had foretold through Elijah.

### **SECOND READING**

Hebrews 9:24-28

#### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Christ did not enter into a sanctuary made by hands, a copy of the true one, but heaven itself, that he might now appear before God on our behalf.

Not that he might offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters each year into the sanctuary with blood that is not his own; if that were so, he would have had to suffer repeatedly from the foundation of the world. But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages to take away sin by his sacrifice.

Just as it is appointed that human beings die once, and after this the judgment, so also Christ, offered once to take away the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to take away sin but to bring salvation to those who eagerly await him.

## GOSPEL

Mark 12:38-44

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.

Many rich people put in large sums.

A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood."

## FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

### FIRST READING

- In the reading the widow trusts Elijah that the Lord will provide for her and her son even though she was down to her last cup of flour. When have you been in a position when you needed to put your complete trust in God to see you through a difficult situation? How did you find the faith to do so?

### SECOND READING

- What is your reaction to God's will for His Son to become human, to suffer and die for all our sins?

### GOSPEL

- In the reading Jesus condemns the religious leaders of his time for acting righteous while exploiting the poor and widows. How would you handle the situation if you observed someone in a leadership position performing an unjust act?
- What gifts do you give to Holy Family in terms of time, talent, money, prayers, etc? What is preventing you from giving more?

**33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time      November 17, 2024**

**FIRST READING**

Daniel 12:1-3

**A reading from the Prophet Daniel.**

In those days, I Daniel,  
 heard this word of the Lord:  
 "At that time there shall arise  
 Michael, the great prince,  
 guardian of your people;  
 it shall be a time unsurpassed in distress  
 since nations began until that time.  
 At that time your people shall escape,  
 everyone who is found written in the book.  
 "Many of those who sleep in the dust of the  
 earth shall awake;  
 some shall live forever,  
 others shall be an everlasting horror and  
 disgrace.  
 "But the wise shall shine brightly  
 like the splendor of the firmament,  
 and those who lead the many to justice  
 shall be like the stars forever."

**SECOND READING**

Hebrews 10:11-14,18

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.**

Brothers and sisters:  
 Every priest stands daily at his ministry,  
 offering frequently those same sacrifices  
 that can never take away sins.  
 But this one offered one sacrifice for sins,  
 and took his seat forever at the right hand of  
 God;  
 now he waits until his enemies are made his  
 footstool.  
 For by one offering he has made perfect  
 forever those who are being consecrated.  
 Where there is forgiveness of these,  
 there is no longer offering for sin.

## GOSPEL

Mark 13:24-32

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark.**

Jesus said to his disciples:

"In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree.

When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near.

In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

## FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

### FIRST READING

In our first reading we hear God's judgement will reign at the end of times. While some will suffer divine wrath through eternity, many who have died will rise and live forever and they will shine brightly like the stars.

- Who had the largest effect in illuminating your spiritual path? What examples did they set? How did they affect you?

### SECOND READING

Hebrews builds upon last week's reading, reaffirming Jesus as the perfect High Priest. Jesus' perfect offering fulfills all sacrifices for the forgiveness of sins until the end of times. We are becoming consecrated (being made holy) to enjoy life with God forever.

- How, in our lives, are we becoming consecrated to gain eternal life?

### GOSPEL

- We are told that at the end of times all of Creation will see God's glory. Yet no one but the Father knows when that time will come. Perhaps this reading is meant to remind us of our own mortality. In that context, what are your thoughts about your own mortality?
- What legacy would you like to leave? How would you hope to be remembered?

## **Solemnity of Christ the King November 24, 2024**

### **FIRST READING**

Daniel 7:13-14

**A reading from the Prophet Daniel.**

As the visions during the night continued,  
 I saw one like a Son of man coming,  
     on the clouds of heaven;  
 when he reached the Ancient One  
     and was presented before him,  
 the one like a Son of man received  
 dominion, glory, and kingship;  
     all peoples, nations, and languages  
 serve him. His dominion is an everlasting  
 dominion that shall not be taken away,  
     his kingship shall not be destroyed.

### **SECOND READING**

Revelation 1:5-8

**A reading from the Book of Revelation.**

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness,  
 the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the  
 kings of the earth.  
 To him who loves us and has freed us from  
 our sins by his blood,  
 who has made us into a kingdom, priests for  
 his God and Father, to him be glory and  
 power forever and ever. Amen.  
 Behold, he is coming amid the clouds,  
 and every eye will see him, even those who  
 pierced him.  
 All the peoples of the earth will lament him.  
 Yes. Amen.  
 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the  
 Lord God, "the one who is and who was and  
 who is to come, the almighty."

## **GOSPEL**

John 18:33b-37

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.**

Pilate said to Jesus, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.

For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

## **FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS**

### **FIRST READING**

- In the reading, Daniel expresses that all peoples, nations and languages will serve God. Given that, do you believe that there is only one universal God?
- Do you believe that those who believe in other Gods will participate in the "everlasting dominion?"

### **SECOND READING**

- How do you live your life with confidence that Christ's boundless love saves and transforms you? What examples have you seen of this in your life?

### **GOSPEL**

- Like others in the gospels, including Jesus' own disciples, Pilate cannot see who Jesus is because His kingship extends beyond this world. Do we sometimes struggle with recognizing Jesus? What does he look and act like to you?
- As we begin this Liturgical year, where has your faith taken you over the course of the year? What have been your spiritual ebbs and flows?
- Where are you spiritually in preparation for Advent?