



October 23, 2022

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Upcoming Dates

Oct 23, St. Colman Guild meeting 12pm
 Nov 2, St. Elizabeth Guild meeting 1pm
 Nov 16, Finance Committee meeting 4pm

Mass Intentions

For all parishioners

Readings

Sir 35: 12-14. 16-18
 Ps 34: 2-3. 17-18. 19. 23 (7a)
 2 Tm 4: 6-8. 16-18
 Lk 18: 9- 14

Parish Donations

New feature: Scan the QR code to make a donation.

October 15 - 16	1 st Collection	2 nd Collection
St. Elizabeth	\$1,240.00	\$198.00
St. Catherine	\$182.00	\$196.00
St. Colman	\$37.00	\$90.00
<i>Thank you for your generosity!</i>		\$1,943.00

Spirituality Of The Readings

Courtesy of John Foley, SJ, St. Louis University

The Cry of the Poor

I remember when a certain Jesuit brother died, a most unassuming man. His name was Julius Petrik, always known to us as just Brother Petrik. His funeral Mass took place a few days before the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time, with the same readings we will hear this Sunday. They were perfect for him. He was 94 years old, and in the very best sense of the word, he was ordinary. He had been a quiet presence ever since I was a very young man in the Jesuits. He did not attract attention. He took pains to avoid it, so it seemed.

In one sense I never knew him, such was his silence. His gentle eyes pointed down, he carried out his tasks without fuss, and—for a long time, maybe always—he ate his meals in a room by himself. I suppose some

would just have called him a “character,” or would have branded him as pathologically shy.

My intuition said otherwise. I sensed something very holy about Brother. As the years went by I would take care to greet him when I would meet him and he would smile with a wide grin and greet me with real gladness. We would exchange some small talk and then each go back to our tasks. Introversion took second place to the palpable spirit of love within him.

I speak of this good man not to publicize him, something that would be a shock to him, but because my heart is more at ease for my encounters with him. In a word, Brother was a humble man. His prayer surely must have reached God.

He served gladly.

I think such humility is the key to this Sunday’s scripture. Listen to what the First Reading says:

The one who serves God willingly is heard; his petition reaches the heavens.

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds; it does not rest till it reaches its goal,

nor will it withdraw till the Most High responds, judges justly and affirms the right, and the Lord will not delay.

Such prayer pierces the clouds and does not rest till it finds its goal! Of course our minds race to power: anyone who can force their prayers through to heaven must be able to get everything he wants. No worries about being weak or unworthy: such a one has command over the Most High God!

At least it is tempting to think that way.

But look closely. The prayer that finds heaven is that of the lowly. Such prayer stays before God’s throne not because it is wild and stormy but because it embodies the hushed spirit of truth. It whispers humble needs to the very one who can answer them. It does not have a hidden purpose.

Which of the following two people do you think embodies such lowliness? The Pharisee?

O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity—greedy, dishonest, adulterous—or even like this tax collector;

I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.

or the Publican?

O God, be merciful to me a sinner.

We know what Jesus thinks. In the Gospel he says, “I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former; for whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Whatever internal battles Brother Petrik may have faced, I thank God that I was blessed to receive his gracious, shy, unassuming love.

I would love to be like him.

John Foley, SJ

Announcements

Second Collection

The second collection is for World Mission Sunday.

Sign up to host Hospitality

We are inviting families to sign up for Hospitality. To prepare and pick up the donuts and coffee at Safeway for our fellowship after the 9:30 am mass. The items are already paid for. It gives family a chance to participate and know our community and it gives us chance to get to know your family.

Confessions

Fr Luis is available to hear Confessions after 9 am Mass on Fridays and before weekend Masses. Please call the rectory at 707-869-2107 to confirm with him, so that he knows to arrive early on the weekend, or stay late on Friday. Alternatively, a more convenient time can be scheduled with him by calling the rectory.

Discussion Questions

First Reading: Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18

1. “The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.” How are the orphan, widow and oppressed lowly or humble? Name some people you know who fit their description. What does humility look like on them? How is your humility? Are you honest with God?

How can I help during these hard times?

You can now easily donate online *by scanning the QR code with your smartphone* or using the donate button at stelizabeth.churchtrac.com. Another great way to help is by selecting us as your charity when shopping online at Amazon -a small percentage of each purchase will benefit our parish. Just visit smile.amazon.com/ch/82-4690577 to get started! Please also remember St. Elizabeth Parish in your will and estate planning.

2. Do you do anything when you hear the cry of the oppressed, the wail of the orphan or the widow’s complaint? Is there something you could do to help anyone in need that you are not doing now? How is our own Pope Francis like Sirach in biblical times?

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

1. Do you sometimes feel as if you are being “poured out like a libation,” or that everyone has deserted you? What do you think Paul did to combat these feelings in himself? What do you think would help you?

2. Paul was rescued from the lion’s mouth and he trusted that he would be safe from every evil threat. What are the evil threats to the earth? To the Church? What threatens to you? How is your trust?

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

1. The Pharisee says a prayer in this Gospel. Is it to God or to himself? If you were in God’s place, what kind of prayers of the two would you answer first? Which one has a sincere heart?

2. According to Pope Francis, God has a weakness for the humble ones and their prayers open God’s heart wide. Which heart can God fill with his mercy: the humble empty one, or the one who keeps track of all his/her good deeds and his/her neighbors’ misdeeds?

Dear Brothers and Sisters: In our continuing catechesis for this Holy Year of Mercy, we now turn to the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Lk18:9-14). Jesus contrasts the arrogance and self-righteousness of the Pharisee’s prayer with the tax collector’s humble recognition of his sinfulness and need for the Lord’s mercy. True prayer is born of a heart which repents of its faults and failings, yet pleads for the grace to live the great commandment of love of God and neighbor. Indeed, the proud disdain of the Pharisee for the sinner at his side prevents him from being righteous in God’s sight. To pray well, then, we need to look into our own hearts and there, in humble silence, let the Lord speak to us. The honesty and humility which God asks of us is the necessary condition for our receiving his mercy.

General Audience, June 1, 2016

Pope Francis: humbleness, honesty lead to God’s mercy

St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting	1 st Wednesday, 1 pm	St. Hubert Hall
Finance Committee Meeting	3 rd Wednesday*, 4 pm	St. Hubert Hall
St. Colman Guild Meeting	4 th Sunday, 12 pm	St. Colman

* of February, May, August and November

