Bulletin Shorts for Year C – 2022

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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August and September in Ordinary Time

This Bulletin Shorts Series began in 2016 during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Now, in this seventh year, it still aims to help the faithful and catechumens delve into the Sunday Scriptures and wrestle with Christian life. The hope is to rest more and more in God’s grace and act in more merciful ways. It is a life-long task.

Use these shorts with your diocese, parish, ministry, and friends. Put in the postal and electronic mail, post on the website, print in bulletin or newsletter, and share in other helpful ways. They are a gift. They are also posted on some diocesan worship office web pages. Here are two direct links

* Diocese of Springfield in Illinois: <http://www.dio.org/worship/liturgical-year.html>
* Diocese of Belleville: <https://dps.diobelle.org/dps/worship/seasonal-resources>

**This is my final year for writing these Bulletin Shorts. Seven Years (five in retirement) seem a good sacramental number. It has been a joy. If you or someone you know wants to take up this task, let me know and we can see what the next steps might be.**

 ♦ Eliot Kapitan, Springfield, Illinois USA – ekapitan89@gmail.com

**Corporal Works of Mercy** ♦ Feed the hungry ♦ Give drink to the thirsty ♦ Shelter the homeless ♦ Clothe the naked ♦ Visit the sick ♦ Visit the prisoners ♦ Bury the dead ♦ Give alms to the poor ♦ Care of our Common Home ♦ **Spiritual Works of Mercy** ♦ Counseling the doubtful ♦ Instructing the ignorant ♦ Admonishing the sinner ♦ Comforting the sorrowful ♦ Forgiving injuries ♦ Bearing wrongs patiently ♦ Praying for the living and the dead ♦ Caring for our Common Home ♦

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| Bulletin Shorts for August and September in Year C – 2022  |

**The Transfiguration of the Lord, Feast – Saturday, 06 August 2022**

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14. Psalm 97:1-2, 5-6, 9. 2 Peter 1:16-19. Luke 9:28b-36.

**What Can Prayer Do?** In the gospel today, we hear this about Jesus: “While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.” Prayer can change us. Dazzling on the inside and out. If we let it.

* What will I take to prayer today?

**Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07 August 2022**

Wisdom 18:6-9. Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22. Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19. Luke 12:32-48.

**What Shall We Do?** Jesus tells us today: “Do not be afraid any longer.” He also tells us what to do next. Here is the list. Give alms. Gird your loins, that is, put on comfortable clothes so you can work. Wait at the ready for the coming of the Lord. Be prepared all the time. Know what God wants. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to be about his business and his Father’s business – not our own. Our business is also God’s business.

* What fear will I let go; what fear will I give up?
* What does God want me to do this week?
* How will I be full of mercy by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14 August 2022**

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10. Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18. Hebrews 12:1-4. Luke 12:49-53.

**Why Does Jesus Jar the Crowds?** He startles us today by announcing his baptism by fire (his coming Passion and Death). And he further reminds us that our own Baptism empowers us to undertake something new. Discipleship. It is constantly learning anew how to live in this world as preparation for living forever in the next. But we do this not alone. The writer of Hebrews reminds us we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.

* What surprise does Jesus present?
* Whom will I want to surround me? Why?
* What discipleship work does Baptism empower me to do today?

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity – not a day of obligation this year [USA]**

**At the Vigil Mass – Sunday evening, 14 August 2022**

1 Chronicles 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2. Psalm 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14. 1 Corinthians 15:54b-57. Luke 11:27-28.

**Mass during the Day – Monday, 15 August 2022**

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab. Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16. 1 Corinthians 15:20-27. Luke 1:39-56.

**Why Is Death Not the End of Us?** Though not a holyday of obligation this year in the USA because it falls on Monday, the Assumption of Mary remains important. She teaches us to face death this way – falling asleep in the Lord – one more way to proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

* How am I preparing for my own death this day?

**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 21 August 2022**

Isaiah 66:18-21. Psalm 117:1, 2. Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13. Luke 13:22-30.

**Are Only a Few to Be Saved?** It is not uncommon for someone to ask us: “Have you been saved?” Often, they are looking for one fixed date, one specific event. But we know these truths. (1) We are saved everyday – because of God’s grace. (2) God chooses to save everyone – me and them. (3) Salvation is strengthened by working for justice, by living merciful lives.

* How will I acknowledge that I am being saved by Christ **every** day.
* How will I cherish that everyone is saved – even those people I do not like but need to still love?
* What mercy work does this summon me to do this week?

**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 28 August 2022**

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29. Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11. Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a. Luke 14:1, 7-14.

**Who Is Being Carefully Watched?** We all know what it is like to be scrutinized by prying eyes and nosey noses. We might be tempted to bloat ourselves up to look better, to garner the praise and esteem of others. Jesus preaches some different behavior today. Don’t seek the exalted places. Care for the poor, the cripple, the lame, the blind.

* What tempts me to feed my ego?
* What can I learn by watching those who are humble?
* What mercy work will I do to care for the sick and poor this week?

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 04 September 2022**

Wisdom 9:13-18b. Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17. Philemon 9-10, 12-17. Luke 14:25-33.

**What Does It Take to Be a Disciple?** Jesus is relentlessly traveling to Jerusalem. He urges the following crowds to be relentless disciples. How? (1) Be loyal to me and my Father. (2) Carry your own cross – every day. (3) Don’t let possessions get in the way.

* What does my loyalty to God expect of me?
* What cross will I carry today, tomorrow, and each day this week?
* What of my possessions will I share in merciful ways?

**Labor Day [USA], Labour Day [Canada] – 05 September 2022**

**Work Is Good.** November will bring an end to this weekly sharing of Bulletin Shorts. It began seven years ago in the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Blessings to those who have used it and shared it. – Eliot Kapitan, Springfield IL, ekapitan89@gmail.com.

* How will I give thanks for the good work I am able to do?

**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 11 September 2022**

Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14. Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19. 1 Timothy 1:12-17. Luke 15:1-32.

**Why Hang Around with the Lost Ones?** We can read Luke Chapter 15 as parables of lost sheep, lost coin, and lost child. But basically, they are stories of joy resulting in lavish parties for what is found: a full flock, a complete dowry, a returned relationship of parent and child. Ultimately, they show God’s desire to be reunited with anyone who becomes lost in little or big ways. It needs to be our desire, too.

* For whom will I go looking who needs to be found?
* Who am I called to hang around (I may be surprised)?
* How will I be like the generous father standing on the porch awaiting the return of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast – Wednesday, 14 September 2022**

Numbers 21:4b-9. Psalm 78:1-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38. Philippians 2:6-11. John 3:13-17.

**How Shall I Not Forget?** The empty cross reflects the self-emptying of Christ Jesus to not hang on to life at all cost. He gave it up for our benefit. The result – the salvation of the world and everything and everyone within it.

* How will I glory in the cross of Christ today?

**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 18 September 2022**

Amos 8:4-7. Psalm 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8. 1 Timothy 2:1-8. Luke 16:1-13.

**How to Use Material Possessions?** This is a tough gospel today. An employee squanders the boss’s property. That same employee, on firing, gives away even more. What is the point? Don’t let possessions possess. In the words of Amos, the prophet, do not trample the needy or destroy the poor.

* What do I own that controls my life?
* How can I trust more in God than in the things I have?
* How will I tend to the poor and needy with this merciful behavior: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 25 September 2022**

Amos 6:1a, 4-7. Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10. 1 Timothy 2:11-16. Luke 16:19-31.

**Are the Rich in Trouble?** Here, today, is the story of a rich man and a poor man, Lazarus (means, “My God helps”). The impoverished life of the latter and the sumptuous life of the former gets reversed in death and the life that follows. Are the rich in trouble? It depends.

* How will I keep one eye on heaven, my final home?
* How will I be generous today?
* How can I feed those who are hungry?