Bulletin Shorts for Year C – 2022

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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October and November 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 the final segment and my final year for these Bulletin Shorts. Seven Years (five in retirement) seem a good sacramental number. It has been a joy.**

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**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 October and November in Year C – 2022 |

**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 02 October 2022**

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4. Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9. 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14. Luke 17:5-10.

**What About Seed and Service?** Here are two puzzling teachings for today. One, of mulberry tree and mustard seed. Another, of servant and master. The first assures us that even a little faith can accomplish very big, even unimaginable things. The second distinguishes between part-time or full-time service. Add to this Paul’s advice to Timothy: “bear your share of hardship for the gospel.” Disciples, that is, followers of Christ, need to be all-in.

* What big things will my faith in God accomplish today?
* What hardship will I bear to be a full-time follower?
* What mercy work can I do to accomplish this?

**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 09 October 2022**

2 Kings 5:14-17. Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4. 2 Timothy 2:8-13. Luke 17:11-19.

**How Does Faith Save?** In the first reading today, Naaman, the foreigner, wants two loads of earth for his home so that he can always stand on God’s holy ground and give thanks. In the gospel, the ten cry out: Kyrie, eleison – Lord, have mercy. Of the ten, only one, the foreigner, returns to Jesus to give thanks. God responds to cries for help. Those who are cured, as all who are helped, respond.

* What help, what mercy do I seek from the Lord?
* How will I be grateful? What will I do or say?
* Because help, because mercy is given to me, what mercy work will I do for another this week?

**Thanksgiving Day (Canada) – Monday, 10 October 2022**

See the last item below at the end of this series.

**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 16 October 2022**

Exodus 17:8-13. Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. 2 Timothy 3:14–4:2. Luke 18:1-8.

**Is God Slow to Answer Prayer?** Moses wearily struggles to keep his hands raised in prayer for the benefit of the People. He needs help. Don’t we all! Timothy is charged to remain faithful to the Scriptures. Us, too! Jesus tells a parable about praying. Don’t be weary, he says. Be persistent, he says. Do it always, he says.

* How is my life of prayer?
* How will a small daily dose of reading the Bible foster my daily prayer? If unsure where to start, read and reread the Sunday texts.
* How can I be relentless in praying day after day, even if it seems God is slow to act?

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23 October 2022**

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18. Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18. Luke 18:9-14.

**Does God Have Favorites?** The first reading asserts that while God, indeed, attends to everyone, there is special attention to the cries of the poor, the weak and the oppressed, the widow and the orphan. (This is why the Church has a preferential option for the poor. See *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 2443-2449.) The gospel parable of Jesus contrasts the prayers of a self-righteous religious leader with a despised and shady business man. The question: who is justified. The point: be humble.

* Why does God, who loves and cares for everyone, favor the poor, the week, the oppressed?
* What does this tell me about my own prayer?
* Since good prayer leads to good action, what mercy work will I do for those crying out in need?

**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time – 30 October 2022**

Wisdom 11:22–12:2. Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14. 2 Thessalonians 1:11–2:2. Luke 19:1-10.

**Whom Does Jesus Seek?** The short of stature Zacchaeus runs ahead, climbs a tree, and seeks Jesus as he passes by. But Jesus stops, seeks Zacchaeus out, and invites himself to dinner. This story, as is all of the gospel, is about us, too. In our seeking Jesus, we discover he has been seeking us. All. The. Time.

* Why does Jesus want to stay with me?
* How does his invitation to stay with me urge me to change some behaviors?
* How does all of this help me to be more generious? What mercy work will I do this week?

**All Saints, Solemnity – Tuesday, 01 November 2022**

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14. Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. 1 John 3:1-3. Matthew 5:1-12a.

**Do We Stand Among the Saints?** Saintly, holy behavior is described in the gospel beatitudes today. The Second Letter of Saint John tells us, “we are God’s holy children now.” We do not have to wait to be dead to be holy. Pope Francis wrote to us on holiness – Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* on the Call to Holiness in Today’s World. He urges us to be holy ourselves (it is possible) and to look for the saint next door (they do exist).

* What holiness will I seek out in those I see today?

**The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls) – Wednesday, 02 November 2022**

Each community chooses from the list of 31 readings. Here is one to start: Romans 14:7-12.

**Why Pray for the Dead?** Because those who have died are on the last journey to God, we pray to help them on the way. We hope that others will pray for us when it is our turn for that final journey.

* For whom will I pray today?

**Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 06 November 2022**

2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14. Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15. 2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5. Luke 20:27-38.

**What Is This Resurrection?** The Bible readings have something to say about faithfulness. The brothers Maccabees remain faithful to the Lord even while facing torture and death. Saint Paul tells the Thessalonians – and us – God is faithful and, thus, be faithful in return. In conversation with the Sadducees, Jesus says that as important as this life is, resurrected life is more so and will be much more than we imagine.

* How will I be faithful this week?
* To whom will I be faithful?
* How will I keep my focus on resurrected life and not let prosperity of this life get in the way?

**The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast – Wednesday, 09 November 2022**

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12. Psalm 46:2, 3, 5-6, 8, 9. 1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17. John 2:13-22.

**Why Are Churches Important?** Today we celebrate the dedication (setting aside for holy action) of the cathedral church of the Diocese of Rome – Saint John Lateran. It reminds us that we set aside church buildings as places for the Church, the People of God, to pray and worship. The building is important only because the People whom God has chosen are more important.

* How will I revel today in being part of the holy People of God, the Church?

**Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 13 November 2022**

**and World Day of the Poor**

Malachi 3:19-20a. Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9. 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12. Luke 21:5-19.

**Why Should We Care for the Poor?** The first and gospel readings are responses to the long and tedious waiting for the Lord to come again. It might not be pretty while we wait for this unknown time. What shall we think? How shall we behave, then? Pope Francis, among a long list of popes, tells us to care for the poor. Read again the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World *Gaudium et Spes*, Chapter III, nos. 63-72.

* Why are there still poor among us?
* Who are the poor among us – in my town, in my neighborhood?
* What will I do to help?

**Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Solemnity – 20 November 2022**

2 Samuel 5:1-3. Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5. Colossians 1:12-20. Luke 23:35-43.

**Who Is This Beloved Son?** In today’s gospel, we hear the conversations of the two thieves with Jesus. It is talk about the Kingdom of Heaven. The second reading is worth rereading all week long. It describes what we believe about this beloved Son, this firstborn from the dead, this Jesus the Christ.

* Spend time with the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds that affirm what we believe.
* How can I fall more and more in love with this beloved Son?
* What can I do and say to make my way to heaven?

**Thanksgiving Day (Canada) – Monday, 10 October 2022**

**Thanksgiving Day (USA) – Thursday, 24 November 2022**

**Thanksgiving Day (Australia) – Wednesday, 30 November 2022**

So many choices. Pick one of these: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. Ephesians 1:3-14. Colossians 3:12-17.

**Let Us Always Give Thanks.** This brings to an end this season and the seven-year series of weekly Bulletin Shorts. It has been a blessing for me to ponder and write, to publish and share them. I am most grateful to all who have proofed and edited, who have printed and emailed, who have shared and used.

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* How will I be thankful?

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