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Sunday, August 28th, 2016
Twenty Second Sunday In Ordinary
Time

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” – Lk 14:13-14

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Today Jesus instructs us to be generous enough to serve others without expecting repayment. At least, without expecting to be repaid in THIS life. It's interesting that the Gospel concludes with Jesus' promise that if we follow this teaching, we "will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." In other words, God will "repay" our generosity on earth by welcoming us into heaven. Really, what better investment could there possibly be?

It can be tempting to think of our money as purely our own. We work hard to earn it. Or we receive it from others who wanted US to have it. Or luck came our way (and too bad for you that it didn't come your way). We thus feel possessive of our money and often struggle with the idea of giving it away or lending it without hope of being paid back (with interest!). But today's Gospel challenges us with a different perspective. In essence, Jesus tells us to use our money for the sake of others, not just to assure our own earthly comfort. As difficult as this request may be, its important to remember that Jesus honors the sacrifice! This is why he promises repayment in heaven. He understands that it "costs" us a great deal to part with the security of using our money for ourselves alone. He understands that in caring for the poor, we risk putting ourselves in their company.

But God's ways are not the ways of the world. Instead of investing everything in a bank, Jesus asks us to invest in the poor. After all, no bank on earth can possibly provide the infinite rate of return that Jesus promises.

Mass for Earthquake Victims: His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie will be celebrating a Mass at St. Ann's Parish in Niagara Falls on Thursday, September 1, 2016 for all the victims of the recent earthquake in central Italy. The Mass will be celebrated at 7pm. We will pray for the deceased, those who mourn and the rescue workers who have saved many lives. All are welcome to attend.

Prayer Intentions Month of September:

Universal: *Centrality of the Human Person*—That each may contribute to the common good and to the building of society that places the human person at the centre.

Evangelization: *Mission to Evangelize*—That by participating in the Sacraments and meditating on Scripture, Christians may become more aware of their mission to evangelize.



The Legion of Mary: Do you want to grow closer to Jesus and His Beloved Mother? Are you being called to help the Church through prayer and works? The Legion of Mary is seeking active and praying members in our parish. Members from the Legion of Mary will be conducting a membership drive in our parish on **September 10 at the 5pm Mass and on September 11 at the 9:30 and 11am Masses.** Come and join this wonderful organization.

The DIOCESAN SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY support group meetings will resume **Monday, September 12, 2016.** Meetings are held every second and fourth Monday (except holidays) from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls. For a pamphlet or information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com. No pre-registration required.

Sunday, September 4th, 2016
Twenty Third Sunday In Ordinary
Time

“Which of you wishing to construct a tower does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if there is enough for its completion? ... In the same way, anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” – Lk 14:28, 33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." It's a modern misconception to think of Jesus as the ultimate nice guy who only said things that everybody loved to hear. Of course Jesus is the perfect model of charity and compassion, but he also gave some very challenging teachings. Today's Gospel is a case in point. Not many people are thrilled by Christ's lesson today that insists God MUST be first in our lives. Few are those who love to hear this instruction to renounce our beloved things as well as our beloved relationships. But Jesus does not mince words. We are to "hate" our "father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters," and even our own life.

It's important to understand that the use of the word "hate" here does not mean to despise anyone or treat them unkindly. It means rather to prefer something--or Someone--else, namely, God, to these important relationships. Taken in the context of the Gospel as a whole it is clear that Jesus is not advocating cruelty or animosity. On the contrary, just a few weeks ago we heard from Luke 10:27 as Jesus instructed us to love our neighbors as ourselves. However, in putting God first, inevitably something else must take second place. It is a kind of hatred of family, self, and "stuff" when we don't allow these things to become mini-gods in our lives. Instead, we keep God as God. What does this mean for us? It means not allowing a family member to prevent us from practicing our faith to the fullest, and also not putting our trust in gadgets and gizmos. It means, instead, putting all our trust in God, whatever the cost may be.

Mon. Sept 5	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation Cancelled
Tues. Sept 6	9:30am	✠ Teresa Sporbeck (John Sporbeck)
Wed. Sept 7	9:30am	Intention Available
Thurs. Sept 8	9:30am	Intention Available
Fri. Sept 9	9:30am	Intention Available
Sat. Sept 10	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Cancelled Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Sept 11	9:30am	✠ Kristina & Frank Hozjan (Stefan Hozjan & Family)
	11:00am	✠ Beverly Rosile (Sherry Lancione & Family)

We welcome the following in Baptism: Adaline Blythe Woronchak, daughter of Philip Woronchak & Jennifer Gaboury & **Ayden Allen Edward Copeland,** son of Todd Copeland & Michelle Marie Lach.

Parish Calendar

September.....	
Sept 5th....	Holy Hour & Reconciliation Cancelled
Sept 6th....	First Day of School
Sept 7th....	Youth Ministry Volunteer Night 6:30pm
Sept 10th/11th..	Legion of Mary Membership Drive
Sept 11th....	Sundae Sunday for school children
Sept 13th....	Tuesday Bingo Resumes 7pm
Sept 13th....	Syrian Refugee Resettlement Committee Meeting, Fenwick Lions Hall, 7pm
Sept 14th....	Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm
Sept 14th....	Finance Council meeting 6:30pm
Sept 25th....	Special Collection—Bishop's Collection for Needs of the Church in Canada
Sept 28th....	Confirmation Class 5-6:30pm

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Ministry will resume October 5th, 2016

Genevieve Broadley will be taking over as St. Ann's new YM Co-ordinator effective immediately. Please extend a warm welcome to Genevieve as she begins her ministry here.

Bingo's Back! Starting this **Friday, September 2nd**, we will once again be asking all youth to join us at Lookout Ridge for our First Friday Bingo night! We will start at 6:30pm and run to 8:30pm. Don't forget to bring your nickels!

Weekly Youth Ministry nights resume on Wednesday, October 5th from 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

Call for Volunteers! St. Ann's Youth Ministry program is starting up again in just a few weeks. If you are interested in volunteering with us or are already on our team please join us for our kickoff meeting in the parish hall on **September 7th at 6:30pm.** If you are looking for more information or just want to discuss what this opportunity entails please join us! Refreshments will be provided.

The Chosen Confirmation prep courses will be starting up again for all grade 8's! The program will run **every other Wednesday from 5:00 – 6:30pm in the parish hall from September 14th to March 22nd.** Dinner will be provided. Looking forward to seeing you all there as we continue on the journey towards Confirmation!

First Eucharist and Confirmation: If you have a child attending another school who is planning to receive the Sacrament of First Eucharist or Confirmation this coming school year, please phone the office to receive information regarding upcoming registration and classes.

Come on out to Bled Hall in Beamsville and help us celebrate Father Philip English's 25 years in the Priesthood and 30-year Anniversary of St. Helen as a parish. You are invited to attend for a wonderful meal of Roast Beef and gravy, Chicken Schnitzel and red pepper sauce, soup, salad, mashed potatoes, rice, vegetables, and coffee and desert. Wine and Beer will be available for purchase. **September 24th @ 6:30.** Tickets are \$25.00 each for adults and \$ 10.00 each for children 10 and under. There will be a DJ and dancing, silent auction, 50/50 draw and prizes. Profits will go to debt reduction. Best wishes only. Tickets available at St. Helen Church after all weekend masses or the office from 9:00 a.m. -3:00 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

Prayer for the Beginning of a New School Year: Father, We thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year, and we ask that you bless the students, faculty, and student families that make our school a great place. We pray that you will guide us in your ways, so that we will seek your will in everything that we do, and love others as you love us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Sat. Aug 27	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Aug 28	10:00am	✠ Mary Vanderlee (Leo & Emmy Reus) ✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins)
Mon. Aug 29	7:00pm	Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Aug 30	9:30am	✠ Teresa Sporbeck (Liliana Haynes)
Wed. Aug 31	9:30am	✠ Afra Christina Ootes (Leo & Emmy Reus)
Thurs. Sept 1	9:30am	✠ Rose & Cherian & Mary (Vianney Family)
Fri. Sept 2	9:30am	✠ Rita & Leo MacDonald (Cargnelli Family)
Sat. Sept 3	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Sept 4	9:30am	✠ Meindert Marie Reus (Leo & Emmy Reus)
	11:00am	✠ Anthony Filbert (Liliana Haynes)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.

Offertory August 13th & 14th, 2016

66 Envelopes	\$1, 597.60
Loose Collection	\$ 91.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 688.60

Offertory August 20th & 21st, 2016

51 Envelopes	\$1, 341.75
Loose Collection	\$ 144.00
Total Offertory	\$1, 485.75
Catholic Missions in Canada	\$ 515.00

Regular Weekend Mass hours will resume next weekend, September 4th & 5th—Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9:30 & 11am.