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Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Render a just decision for me against my adversary." Today's Gospel features a persistent widow who ekes out justice from a notoriously cold-hearted judge. Why does she win the day? "Because the widow keeps bothering me." Jesus' recommendation to the disciples is to be persistent in prayer, because surely God the Father is far more attuned to their needs than this judge. If only it were that easy, right? We've all experienced the unanswered prayer, the silence after our cries. When this continues, sometimes it can be difficult to have faith in God or believe He answers prayers. It can be easy to lapse into a sense of His distance. We want Him to do something "fair," which — in our limited



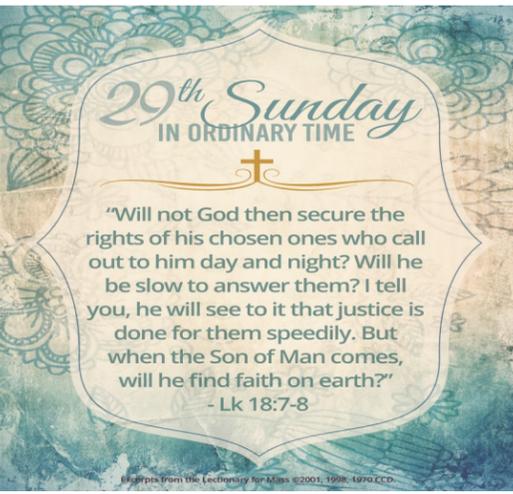
view — typically means that something works out in our favor. There are, of course, many legitimate cries for justice. We live in a fallen world filled with flawed human beings. We hurt each other, sometimes grievously, and our efforts to remake the world in our image can result in unjust, inhumane systems. Faced with the problem of evil, we may wonder how God will "secure the rights of his chosen ones." Sometimes, He may well seem "slow to answer them." In the face of these very real questions, it's important to recall the words of the prophet Isaiah, that God's thoughts "are not [our] thoughts." His ways are not our ways. God respects the freedom He has given us. When we see what free will has wrought, perhaps we question God's better judgment! Yet somehow, we hear that He mysteriously works all things for our good. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we are always free to love. We are invited to be persistent in our prayer, to continue bringing our concerns before God in trusting surrender. We are invited to love well in the circumstances we find ourselves in, to be a light in the darkness. No matter when — or if — our prayers are answered the way we would like, we are nonetheless invited to witness to "faith on earth."



The Feast of St. John Paul II
 On October 21st, we celebrate the pope who inspired the world! Born Karol Wojtyla in Krakow, Pope John Paul II became the first-ever Polish pope. He came of age in the early 20th century and lived through both the Nazi and communist occupations of Poland. His resistance activities were cultural, operating an underground theater company and entering a secret seminary. Karol was ordained a priest in 1946 and later a bishop. He was elected pope in 1978. As pope, the interests that captured his heart as a young man continued -- his pastoral concern for young people, his philosophical emphasis on the human person, and his devotion to Mary and to the mercy of God. St. John Paul II, pray for us!

Cathedral Appeal: In 1995 the Most Rev. Thomas B. Fulton wrote: "From the day of its founding, one hundred and fifty years ago, the Parish of St. Catherine of Alexandria was destined to become one of the premier parishes in Ontario. Not only was it one of the original parishes established in the Niagara Peninsula, but from the outset it assumed a position of prominence in the wider community of Upper Canada. This auspicious position was given further recognition when the parish church was chosen as the Cathedral of the new Diocese of St. Catharines at the time of its creation in 1958." As we now prepare for the 175th Anniversary of our Cathedral, we invite you to play a part of history with our renovation and rejuvenation project, **now at 47% of our \$1.2 million goal.** Visit www.saintcd.com/appeal or pick up a brochure in your church. **Our own parish to date has donated \$5350.**

Sunday, October 20th, 2019



Sat. Oct 19	9-10am	Confessions
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	Missa Pro Populo
Sun. Oct 20	9:30am	✠ Cor & Mary Vanderlee (Leo & Emmy Reus)
	11:00am	25th Wedding Anniversary for Frank & Karen Jankovich (Karen & Michael)
Mon. Oct 21	9:30am	✠ Marion Mullin (Teresa Walters)
	7-8pm	Holy Hour & Confessions
Tues. Oct 22	9:30am	Intentions of Teresa Walters (Teresa Walters)
Wed. Oct 23	9:30am	✠ Helen Albanese (Vince Addario) Good Health for Gloria Egert
Thurs. Oct 24	9:30am	✠ Mary Whalen (Teresa Walters) Special Intention (Patti & Cyril Simek)
Fri. Oct 25	9:30am	✠ Maria Zaraza (Dayna Young) Good Health for Gloria Egert
Sat. Oct 26	9-10am	Confessions
	4 -4:45pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions
	5:00pm	✠ Stephen Bozik (John & Veronica Douglas)
Sun. Oct 27	9:30am	✠ Mark Simmonds (Carolyn Botari)
	11:00am	Missa Pro Populo

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekend Masses.
Offertory October 5th & 6th, 2019

54 Envelopes	\$1, 375.00
Loose Collection	\$ 77.90
Total Offertory	\$1, 452.90

Church history study in our parish hall at 7pm each Tuesday evening. All are welcome to attend.

Catholic Women's League
 Our CWL Annual Bazaar will take place Nov. 16th., 9am-1pm. **New items will be needed for gift baskets, penny sale and silent auction. Look for the flyer in next weekend's bulletin for details. New this year....** On Thursday, Nov. 14th, from 3-5pm, we invite the parents and children of St. Ann School to visit the parish hall for children's games and an opportunity to do some early Christmas shopping. **Pierogies will also be available for sale. This is a parish and community event and we hope many will respond to the invitation.**

Welland Region Fall Conference: Saturday, October 26th, 2019 1-4pm. St. Alexander Parish, Fonhill. Guest Speakers: Carmelina Passero, Topic: Life as the mother of a priest. Deedee Alexander, Topic: The Mantilla (veil & headpiece) and the importance of it.

Mass for the Deceased: The Knights of Columbus Councils of the Diocese of St. Catharines and the Catholic Women's League of Canada, St. Catharines Diocesan Council will offer a Mass in honour of their **deceased member on Wednesday, November 6th, 2019 @ 7pm.** Star of the Sea Parish, 34 Elgin St., St. Catharines. Celebrant: His Excellency Bishop Gerard Bergie. All are welcome. A social will follow in the parish hall.

CWL Membership: We would like to INVITE ALL LADIES OF OUR PARISH to join or renew as members of our Catholic Women's League. Memberships are due as soon as possible for the coming year ahead. Please submit your envelope in the collection plate at Mass or to the church office no later than the end of November as all information and money must be sent to our national office. **Envelopes are in your offertory boxes dated Nov. 3rd, 2019 or you may use a plain envelope. FEES ARE \$25.** Please ensure your FULL MAILING ADDRESS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS is included on your envelope with your payment. If you are joining us from another parish, please include that info as well as the year that you joined. We look forward to your active participation in our league!

All Souls' Day- Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed November 2nd, 2019: Everyone is invited to write the names of deceased loved ones on the **special envelopes (if you wish to make a donation)** available at the back of the church. Place the envelopes in the offertory over the next few weeks or bring to the parish office. The names will be written in a **Book of Remembrance** which will be on display as a reminder to pray for those who have passed before us and left an impact on our lives. **Please print the names clearly. If making a donation, include your name and offertory number.**

The clergy of the Diocese will gather at the Priests' plot at Victoria Lawn Cemetery, St. Catharines on Saturday, **November 2nd, 2019 at 11am.**, to remember our deceased brothers and to pray as well for all the faithful of the Diocese who have gone to their eternal reward. All parishioners are invited to attend.

On Saturday, November 23rd, join Branches Catholic Ministries at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario as it hosts **Regenerated 2019** with an urgent theme, "You are Called". **Regenerated Youth** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18. For more info about these conferences visit: branchesoftheword.org or call Branches at 905-685-7000.

October- Month of the Rosary: The Rosary will bring great peace and holiness to your life. It is a **powerful instrument for conversion.** The Rosary is the **best** method of honouring Mary.

Parish Calendar
 Oct 20th.... World Mission Sunday
 Oct 22nd.... Finance Committee meeting 6:30pm
 Oct 22nd..... **First Communion parent meeting & registration in parish hall, 5:30pm**
 Oct 23rd.... Confirmation Class 3:30-5pm
 Oct 28th..... **7pm Holy Hour and Confessions cancelled**
 Oct 29 & 30..... **Weekday Masses cancelled**
 Oct 30th..... Confirmation Class 3:30-5pm
Youth Ministry Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm. All Youth in Grades 5-12 are invited to attend.
Bingo every Thursday 7pm in the parish hall. All are welcome!



World Mission Sunday—October 20th. On World Mission Sunday, we are invited to celebrate our mission's vocation, to pray for the people who are actively engaged in mission, and to generously contribute to our worldwide mission solidarity fund through this collection. Your gift on this day helps: People in remote villages, towns and cities, through the witness and work of missionaries and local priests; Children, the elderly, refugees, the sick, and orphans through the services of religious Sisters and Brothers; To bring the Gospel to the poorest of our human family; Catechists proclaim the message of hope and peace that only Christ can give. Please offer your prayers for the work of the Church in the missions today and be as generous as you can on World Mission Sunday.

World Missions Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you told your apostles to proclaim the good news and to make followers of all nations. They gave their lives to you, and for you, to spread the Gospel throughout the world. Today, the faithful still strive to bring your name to those who need it most. Give your strength to missionaries around the world who give their lives every day in lands far from home. Help those charged with bringing your word to be an example of you for those who cannot read your word for themselves. Help those who do their work in your name to inspire others to seek you as their Savior. We ask this through you, Christ, our Lord, Saviour of the world. Amen.

Sunday October 27th marks the day for Notre Dame College School's 44th Annual Pilgrimage for the Developing World. Please support Notre Dame students as they walk in solidarity with those who are less fortunate. Donations can be made online at www.notredamewelland.com, or to a student in our parish.

Kindergarten Open House and Online Registration 2019: November is Kindergarten Registration month across Niagara Catholic. Open House at St. Ann School will be **Wed., November 20th, 2019 from 9am-6pm. 905-892-3942.** Online registration is available throughout the school year and through the board website or by visiting the school.

A Lifeline for Marriages — So many couples struggle alone and confused with their difficulties. Retrouvaille has helped countless marriages and the chance to rediscover themselves, their spouse and restore a loving relationship in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **October 25, 2019** at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: Teamrecine@gmail.com or visit the web site at www.retrouvaille.org.

The funeral Mass for John Van Teunenbroek will be celebrated on Saturday, October 26th at 10:30am.

