
28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OCTOBER 13, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading

Wisdom 7:7-11

Wisdom is preferred above gold and silver.

Second Reading

Hebrews 4:12-13

The Word of God exposes the heart.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10:17-30 (shorter form Mark 10:17-27)

A man with many possessions asks Jesus what he must do to gain eternal life.

Focus: **Seek Christ above all else.**

Jesus is the Word of God, living and effective, able to discern the thoughts and reflections of our hearts. Jesus is the wisdom of God, more precious than power, riches or beauty. To follow Christ is to place him at the center of our lives, to seek him before all the good things of this world, including ties to family, friends and colleagues.

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, Solomon prayed for wisdom and received all good things "in her company." The Letter to the Hebrews says the Word of God is "living and effective," able to discern thoughts of the heart. In the Gospel, a man asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to sell what he has, give to the poor and follow him.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: **The Faleni Family, Thomas McClure and August J. Hotetz**

10 a.m.: **Oswaldo Rivero, Carolyn McNeill, Patricia Odell and Jessica Lancellotti**

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Prayer Blankets

They are not merely blankets; they are messengers of hope and caring that are sent from the St. Paul's community to parishioners, their family members and friends. It's estimated in the eight years since the inception of the Prayer Blanket Ministry that the colorful fleece covers have brought comfort and warmth to about 1,000 people not only in Orange County but nationwide.

Rebecca Suchy has been a catechist for 11 years, focusing on seventh- and eighth-graders. As such, in 2016 she was seeking a way to make the required service hours more meaningful for the Confirmation candidates. Her research uncovered no-sew prayer blankets, and the proverbial lightbulb went off.

With Fr. Sean's input, it was decided that this would be a ministry that also offered service hours. Twice a year there are bake sales, in which the students participate, to raise funds for supplies. Although coupons are now rare, Rebecca still scrutinizes the sales to stretch every dollar. After purchases are made, the ministry volunteers meet with the students on a Friday evening to make the blankets, which are blessed at the following weekend's Masses. In between, the ministry gathers when blanket reserves run low – typically at least two more times a year.

"Thanks to the bake sale and donations, this has always been a self-funded ministry," says Rebecca, despite the fact that the cost of the fabric has almost doubled in eight years – and a pair of sturdy scissors alone is \$22. "And polar fleece is tough on scissors!"

The next bake sale is the weekend of **October 26-27**, and Rebecca hopes that people come to Mass with a sweet tooth to satisfy. She is also hoping for a few more ministry volunteers.

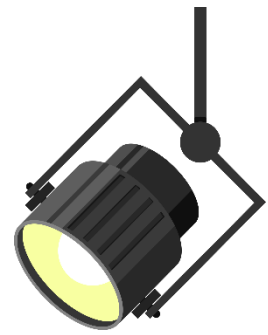
"It's very laid back and not a huge commitment," says Rebecca. "People just come when they can."

But the joy this ministry brings is immeasurable.

"We hear all the time sentiments like, 'I love my blanket and use it all the time' or 'I bring my blanket every time I have to go to the hospital.'"

Students come to understand what the blankets mean and make requests for their ill loved ones, too.

For more information, give Rebecca a call at 845-699-7181. If you know someone who could use a prayer blanket, call the office.



LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 86

10 a.m. – 181

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to John and Mary Wheeler upon the recent death of his sister, Joan Vigilante. Please keep them in your prayers.

Listen.
Escucha.
Escuta.
Makinig.
Nghe.
Ecoutez.
Słuchać.
Ascolta.
Audi.
Hören.

The Church is listening.



PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Parish Council Elections will take place the weekend of **October 26-27**. The act of voting will be sweetened by the Prayer Blanket Ministry's Bake Sale, which will be going on at that time, too.

The nominees for the three vacant seats are:

Julie Laurenzi
Beth Schick
Chris Murphy
gTony Mazzeo

Bios and photos will be in the church vestibules next weekend.

IN THE LOOP

The next **Game Night** is **Friday, October 18**, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Bring snacks and your favorite game.



The **Men's Faith Sharing Group** continues to meet at 6:45 **Monday evenings**, and the **Book Club** discussion of "Every Saint a Sinner" begins 10 a.m. **Thursday, October 24**. Both are via Zoom.



The next six-week **Bereavement Group** session starts at 9 a.m. on **Saturday, October 26**, and the annual **Memorial Mass** to honor deceased relatives and friends will be celebrated at 10 a.m. here on **All Soul's Day, November 2**. Call the office for more information.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

September 30-October 6 \$ 7,343.94

Envelopes: 2,715.00 – Online: \$ 4,628.94

THANK YOU!

LISTENING SESSION QUESTIONS

Our listening sessions offer us the opportunity to be with each other, to invite our family and friends back to the faith, to listen to each other's joys and sorrows, and share our hopes and dreams for our parish. We are called to "journey together," and this involves listening. Here are some questions to get us thinking:

Questions - Listening Session 2

- What do you desire God to do through you to build up our St. Paul's community?
- What social event, spiritual-growth offering or other opportunity would you most like to see at St. Paul's, and how would you be involved in bringing that about?
- What has made you feel included in our community at St. Paul's? What can you do to involve other parishioners at St. Paul's?
- What are some ways we might give parishioners more of a voice in the parish?



HARVESTING FUN!

More than 70 people of all ages wandered through the church parking lot last Friday night – along with about eight dogs and a lone lizard!

The **Fall Festival** opened with a blessing of the pets in attendance. It continued with about a dozen trunks from which to gather treats and some high-energy and laughter-filled games orchestrated by Deb Harrison that even engaged the high-schoolers – such as Simon Says, and balloon and egg races. Plus, there was a photo booth to capture the festive memories.

"There was wonderful participation, new people involved, and the families really seemed excited to be there," says Chris Worthington.



