

**LITURGIES FOR THE THIRTY-
SECOND WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
AND THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

November 13 - 19, 2023

**Monday, 11/13 † Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini,
Virgin**

6pm: Ella

Tuesday, 11/14 † Weekday

8am: Addie

9am: A.S.-Judith Jacobs by Son Andy Sporer

**Wednesday, 11/15 † Weekday, Saint Albert the
Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9am: A.S. Living members of All Saints Ladies
Sodality

6pm: Noelle

**Thursday, 11/16 † Weekday, Saint Margaret of
Scotland; Saint Gertrude, Virgin**

8am: Rebecca Barcus by Family

9am:A.S.

Friday, 11/17 † Saint Elizabeth

8am: No Mass

9am: A.S. No Mass

**Saturday, 11/18 † The Dedication of the Basilicas
of Saint Peter & Paul, Apostles, Saint Rose
Philippine Duchesne, Virgin, BVM**

8:30am: Tom

**Saturday, 11/18 † Vigil, Thirty-Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

4:30pm: Sherry Jorzak by Thomas Jorzak Family

**Sunday, 11/19 † Thirty-Third Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

7:30am: Mary & Elizabeth

9am: A. S. Anniversary of Chester & Peg Potempa by
Patricia Binkley

11am: Raymond & Patricia Caron by Family

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Mon., Nov. 13 – 3:30pm – SVDP, Parlor

Thurs., Nov. 16 – 2:15pm – Legion of Mary

Thurs., Nov. 16– 4pm – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sun., Nov. 19– 9:30am – Religious Education

Sun., Nov. 19 – 12N – Finance Council

Has This Ever Happened to You?

The ushers come forward to begin the Offertory collection process. You lean over and ask your spouse if she has the envelope? She replies that she left it on the table for you to put in your pocket. Ooops! No envelope to give this week! In the rush of getting off to church, we all forget the envelope once in a while. Check out an easier way to give. Go to *our website; scmccnj.org* and click on the *online giving link.*) It's simple! It's safe! And it keeps God at the top of your giving list!

We will once again be selling our beautiful Christmas Cards featuring our own beautiful stained glass windows. They will be on Sale \$10 per box or \$15 for 2. Someone will be in the back of the church after each Mass selling them.

Starke County Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, salt, pepper, small packages sugar & flour, sanitary pads, fresh fruits & vegetables, canned meat, canned pasta with meat.

Items for Thanksgiving would be very nice.

In today's Gospel Jesus challenges us to "stay awake" by taking time to seriously look at ourselves, the priorities of our lives, and how we are growing spiritually.

Ask yourself "What would Jesus Christ do?" and then put your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul poor box so that those who are suffering will be able to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Dear Padre

November 12, 2023

I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when they're damaged and can no longer be repaired or their repair is impractical or they no longer effectively serve their purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens them for nonsacred use. Subsequently, they can be torn down or sold, as long as the new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which they were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift, local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ●

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org

© 2023 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in USA. Imprimatur: "In accordance with CIC 827, permission to publish was granted on February 13, 2023, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication, nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved.

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - Matthew 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Don't delay. None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

Good News!

November 12, 2023

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 6:12-16 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 or 4:13-14 /
Matthew 25:1-13

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The dark of night can unsettle and frighten children, but darkness can disturb adults, too. It's not so much the feeling when the lights go off that unsettles us grownups as it is the dark of uncertainty. We graduate from school and wonder what to do with our lives. Should we stay in a relationship? How do we find meaning again in the midst of grief and the loss of someone we love? And sometimes most of all, where is God when we need God? We may even wonder whether to believe. At such times, we bump and bruise our way through the obstacles that life's darkneses cause.

Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" echoes a note of hope when we feel lost in the dark as he sings about how light always seems to find a way to seep in between the cracks of our everyday living. Like stars that are visible only at night, new opportunities are often most readily recognized when we find ourselves stumbling through the dark.

Long before Leonard Cohen, Jesus told the parable of ten virgins, some wise and some foolish. In the midst of that story, he tells of a bridegroom who comes to the waiting virgin attendants at midnight. In other words, it is the Lord God who comes into our lives in the darkest times, if only we are wise enough to recognize such a coming.

How then to negotiate the darkness? Stay the course. In time, wisdom reveals a path. Trust that light will come, all in God's time and not ours. Finally, wisdom always comes in the darkest of times, seldom when our lives are bright as day. ●

© 2023 Liguori Publications, Liguori, MO 63057-9999. Printed in U.S.A. Imprimatur: "In accordance with c. 827, permission to publish has been granted on February 13, 2023, by the Most Reverend Mark S. Rivituso, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of St. Louis. Permission to publish is an indication that nothing contrary to Church teaching is contained in this work. It does not imply any endorsement of the opinions expressed in the publication, nor is any liability assumed by this permission." No part of this work may be used in any form without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications. Scripture texts in this work are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. To order Liguori Sunday Bulletins, call 800-325-9521.

Fulton Sheen and the Persistent Specter of Communism

COMMENTARY: In the turbulence and confusion that is going on in America these days, one idea seems to be gaining ascendancy — communism. Should we exchange “We the people,” as written in the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution, for “we the masses”? Should we trade democracy for a totalitarian state? Should we extinguish God in favor of self-worship? How did things come to this point? The abysmal failures of communism in Russia, North Korea, China,— Cuba and wherever it was employed are not difficult to see.

The United States is in need of a strong, clear voice that has the ring of authority. Nearly 100 years ago, Pope Pius XI told Bishop Fulton Sheen to study Marxism and communism and never to speak in public during his pontificate without exposing their fallacies. Obedient to the Pontiff, Bishop Sheen studied Marxism and did his eloquent best to lay bare its errors both in his talks and in his writings. And he did so with both clarity and passion.

For Bishop Sheen, the notion of welcoming communism as an innovative remedy for all social ills was puzzling. “Why can’t the modern mind see there is nothing new in communism?” he asks. “It is a groan of despair, not the revolution, that starts a new age. It is the logical development of civilization which for the last 400 years has been forgetting God” (*The New York Times*, March 16, 1936). After its record of failures, whatever attraction communism may have for the present world should be even more puzzling.

Stalin declared that at the end of his Five-Year-Plan of Atheism, the last church would be closed, the last priest would be executed, and one would not find a trace of religion anywhere. Belief in God would be punishable by death.

Before the Soviets seized power, there were approximately 46,000 Orthodox churches. By 1941, the number was reduced to 4,225. Ninety-seven percent of Orthodox monasteries were either closed or destroyed. Cultural elites and intellectuals were sent to the gulag or shot. This does not paint a pretty picture.

In 1938, Bishop Sheen told a rally in New York’s Carnegie Hall that Americans had been too tolerant of man’s inhumanity to man:

“We were silent before when 2,000,000 kulaks met death and 60,000 churches were closed by an atheistic government in Russia; we were silent before when 20,000 churches and chapels were desecrated, burned and pillaged and when 6,000 diocesan clergy were murdered in Spain. ... Those who cannot pull God down from heaven are driving his creatures from the face of the earth.”

If there is no God, man cannot be created in his image and likeness. Rather, as the father of modern communism, Karl Marx insisted, man is without personal significance. He is relegated to a category.

Marx states in *Das Kapital*, “I speak of individuals insofar as they are personifications of economic categories and representatives of special classes of relations and interest.” In stating

that “the individual, of and by himself, has no values unless he is a member of the revolutionary mass,” Marx was likening human society to an ant colony.

As Bishop Sheen wrote in his 1964 book *The Church, Communism and Democracy*, “to the Soviets, a person is very much like a grape who continues to exist only on condition that his individual, personal value is squeezed out of him so that he exists only in the wine of the state.”

Pope St. John Paul II’s criticisms of communism were less passionate, no doubt because, as a Pole born behind the Iron Curtain of the Soviet Union, he was writing in the shadows of Marxism, which still held dangerous sway over half of Europe during the first decade of his papacy.

In *The Acting Person*, he situated the authentic human being between the extremes of sheer individualism and absorption into the masses. He viewed the human being as a person who is a dynamic unity of individual uniqueness and communal responsibility. Bishop Sheen was more theological and focused on how communism was an enemy of the Catholic Church.

“The Church knows,” he wrote in 1941’s *War and Guilt*, “after 1,900 years’ experience that any institution which suits the spirit of the age will be a widow in the next one.”

Bishop Sheen saw the Church as a balance between two competing forces, the “reactionaries” who wanted to entrench and the “liberals” who wanted ill-advised change.

The Catholic Church is “a house built on the immutable rock with an abiding proprietor, Peter, [who] has a key that admits strangers. The reactionaries want the rock without the keys, the liberals want the keys without the rock; and we who believe in Christ, who gave both to Peter, want both,” he wrote.

How important is religion, which in a more general way strikes this balance between extremes, to America? We may consider the words of Alexis de Tocqueville in his classic work, *Democracy in America*. He looked for the key to the greatness and genius of America wherever it might be, in her fields, in her schools, in her institutions of learning, in her Constitution and in her Congress. But it was not there.

“Not until I went into the churches of America,” he writes, “did I understand the greatness and genius of America. America is great because America is good. If America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great.”

It is a sad spectacle to witness the current burning of churches, toppling of religious statues and denigration of the clergy.

America has the potential within itself to heal its present wounds. Her tradition is not something that should be trashed, as some people would like to see happen. In fact, it contains the wisdom needed for a reformation. Bishop Sheen’s words are still relevant, not only for society, but for the Church, as well. Communism would undo America. “In God we trust” remains a vital spark.

Each of Us Is Necessary

"God has created me to do Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission—I may never know it in this life but I shall be told it in the next. Somehow I am necessary for His purpose, as necessary in my place as an Archangel in his—if indeed I fail, He can raise another, as He could make the stones children of Abraham. Yet I have a part in this great work: I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work, I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

"Therefore I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am,

I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My perplexity or sickness or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain; He may prolong my life, He may shorten it; He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends, He may throw me among strangers, He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sing, hide the future from me—still He knows what He is about" (John Henry Newman).

"The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. It is good for a man to bear the yoke while he is young. Let him sit alone in silence, for the Lord has laid it on him. Let him bury his face in the dust—there may yet be hope. Let him offer his cheek to one who would strike him, and let him be filled with disgrace. For men are not cast off by the Lord forever. Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love. For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to the children of men" (Lam. 3:25-33).

Prayer of Dedication

Dedicating our entire being to God's service.

God, today I dedicate my mind to You. I want to think on things that are good, right, pure, and excellent. I want to take captive any thoughts that aren't from You. I want to remember Your past faithfulness when I am tempted to doubt.

Today, I dedicate my eyes to You. I want to see other the way You see them. I want to view my circumstances through the lens of hope and faith. I want to look at life as one who knows that You are with me.

Today, I dedicate my ears to You. I want to hear Your voice above all the others clamoring for my attention. I want to listen to You and to honor others by listening well to them.

Today, I dedicate my mouth to You. I want my words to be life-giving. I want to speak honestly and sincerely. I want to think before I speak. I want to let others have the last word.

Today, I dedicate my heart to You. I want my heart to be pure and undivided. I want to master my emotions, not serve them. I want my dreams and desires to please You.

Today, I dedicate my hands to You. I want to work hard at whatever I put my hands to. I want to touch others in love and goodwill. I want my hands to be open for whatever You want to give me and willing to release anything You want me to surrender.

Today, I dedicate my feet to You. I want to go wherever You send me. I want to walk toward heaven and not run from it. I want to stand firmly on the promises of Your Word.

The magnificent relationship I have with You deserves my greatest expression of worship: a dedicated life.

Elaine Scott
Browns Bridge Church