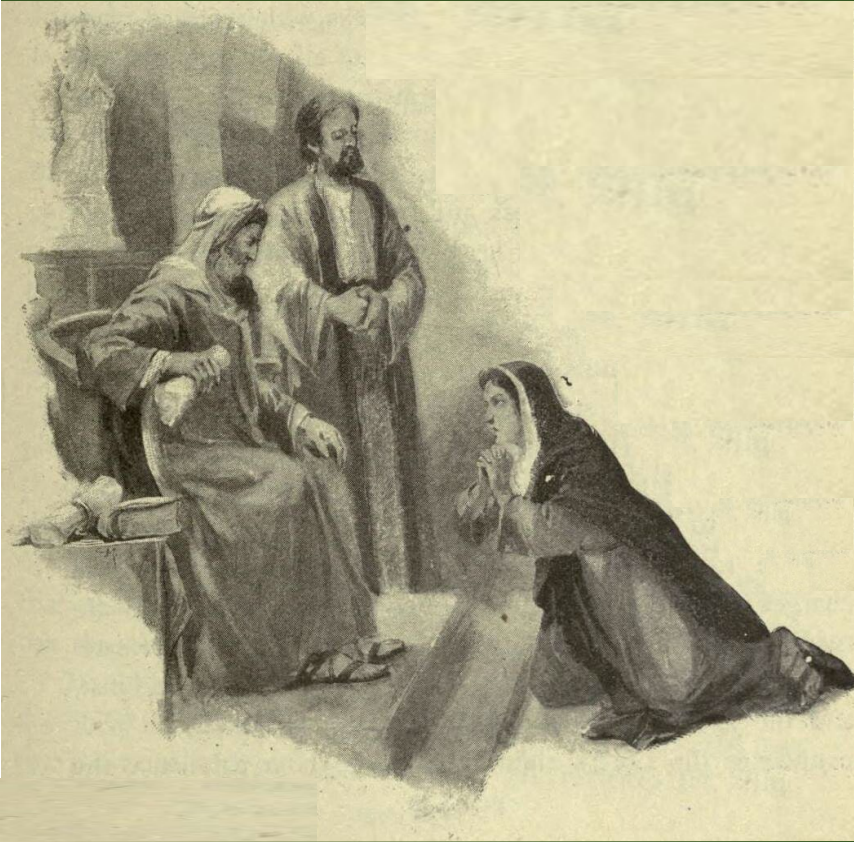


Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 16, 2022



MASS SCHEDULE

SACRED HEART CHURCH

Sunday: 8:00 am
 Sunday: 11:00 am (Live-streamed)
 Every Sunday: 12:30 pm Spanish Mass
 Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER CHURCH

Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil
 Sunday: 9:30 am
 Monday through Friday: 8:00 am
 Saturday AM Mass: 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

held at ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER CHURCH
 Saturday: Following 9:00 am Mass
 Saturday: 3:00 pm
 or by appointment anytime (Call 856-691-9077)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT (at ST. ISIDORE'S)

Begins after the Thursday 9:00 am Mass
 until Friday at 8:45 am before the 9:00 am Mass

PARISH STAFF

Father Junior Flores, Administrator
 Father Anthony Infanti,
 Parochial Vicar
 Father John Wasilewski, Part-time
 Parochial Vicar/Hospital Chaplain
 Mrs. Lillian Simpkins, Executive
 Assistant to Father Junior Flores
 Ms. Christina Martinez,
 Administrative Assistant
 Mrs. SherryLynne Pierro,
 Bookkeeping
 Miss Caitlyn Covella, IT
 Mr. Paul Spinelli, Parish Liaison
 Mr. Angel Sanchez, Custodian
 Mr. William Rivera, Maintenance
 Mr. Arnie Santos Jr., Music Ministry
 Mrs. Mary Watson, CTGS Preschool
 Director
 Mrs. Lauren Perna, CTGS Preschool
 Assistant Director



SACRED HEART CHURCH

1010 East Landis Avenue
 Vineland, NJ 08360

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER CHURCH

1655 Magnolia Road
 Vineland, NJ 08361
 Rectory: (856) 691-9077
 Office Hours: Monday through Friday
 9 am-4 pm (Closed from 12-1 pm)

ChristTheGoodShepherd1655@gmail.com
 www.ChristTheShepherdVineland.org

BISHOP SCHAD REGIONAL SCHOOL

Sr. Olga Cano, Principal
 Mrs. Jane Lambert, Administrative
 Assistant
 922 E. Landis Avenue
 Vineland, NJ 08360
 (856) 691-4490
 www.bsrschool.org

VINELAND CATHOLIC COLLABORATIVE

Mrs. Felicia Navarro-Morris,
 Director of Life Long Faith
 Formation
 lffvineland@comcast.net
 (856) 500-6566
 www.vinelandcatholic.org



www.facebook.com/ctgsparishvineland

Readings for the Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**Gloria:**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

First Reading: Exodus 17: 8-13

In those days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel. Moses, therefore, said to Joshua, “Pick out certain men, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as Moses told him: he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight. Moses’ hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset. And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 121: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

- I lift my eyes toward the mountains;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. **R.**
- May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel. **R.**
- The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night. **R.**
- The LORD will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The LORD will guard your coming and your going,
both now and forever. **R.**

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 3: 14 – 4: 2

Beloved: Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

Alleluia: Hebrews 4: 12

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

➤ The word of God is living and effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart. **R.**

Gospel: Luke 18: 1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary.’ For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’” The Lord said, “Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Profession of Faith:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(All bow towards the tabernacle)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

PRAY FOR US

Saturday, October 15 (*Memorial of Saint Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church*)

9:00 AM	Parishioners of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish	
5:00 PM	The Infanti Families	Req. Fr. Infanti
	John Serra †	Req. Joe and Denise Landi
	Frederick Angelo †	Req. Bob and Susan Bencie
	Suzanne Casazza †	Req. Terry and Lou Casazza

Sunday, October 16 (*Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time*)

8:00 AM	James Ketcham †	Req. His Wife
	(<i>Wedding Anniversary</i>)	
9:30 AM	Drusa Paradisi †	Req. Her Sister & Family
11:00 AM	Mildred, Sam, and Sandy Pace †	Req. Roseann & Children
12:30 PM	Rosa Cordova †	Req. Esther Flores

Monday, October 17 (*Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr*)

8:00 AM	Mary Ann Vendrasco †	Req. Tillie Propheita and Son Tom Propheita
9:00 AM	Natalie Scarpa †	Req. Diane Vavricka & Family

Tuesday, October 18 (*Feast of Saint Luke, Evangelist*)

8:00 AM	Communion Service	
9:00 AM	Communion Service	

Wednesday, October 19 (*Memorial of Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests and Companions, Martyrs*)

8:00 AM	Communion Service	
9:00 AM	Communion Service	

Thursday, October 20 (*Saint Paul of the Cross, Priest*)

8:00 AM	Howard Milanese †	Req. His Wife & Children
9:00 AM	Daniel and Theresa Leonardo †	Req. Dolly D'Ippolito

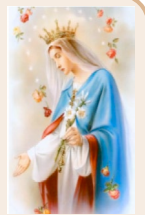
Friday, October 21

8:00 AM	Chalky Ottinger †	Req. His Wife Karen
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Saturday, October 22 (*Saint John Paul II, Pope*)

9:00 AM	The Infanti Families	Req. Fr. Infanti
5:00 PM	Johnnie St. Clair †	Req. His Wife Roseann
	Fred Angelo †	Req. Rosalie Hutchinson

BLESSED MOTHER ROSE



S.I: Parishioners of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish

S.H: Natalie Scarpa †
Req. Diane Vavricka &
Family

Remembering you and missing you
on your birthday and always.



SANCTUARY CANDLE

S.I: Parishioners of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish

S.H: Janet, Gertrude, and
David Belfi
Req. Silvio Belfi & Daughters

Any prayer requests for sick, deceased, or military family members that you would like added to, or removed from, the bulletin can be submitted to the rectory by phone or email:
(856) 691-9077
ctgssecretary@gmail.com

For Our Military...

John F. Blankemeyer – National Guard
Andrew Robinson – Army
Thomas A. Pease – US Coast Guard
Chief Warrant Officer
Joshua Robinson – Marines
Gabriel Solazzo – Air Force
Marco Bassetti – US Coast Guard

For Our Sick...

Capt. Angela Milano
Nicoletta Franchetta
Christopher Vega
Tiffany DiNiglio
Thomas Ardecki
Francis Dondero
Mario D'Addato
Betty McManus
Mildred Collini
Kathy Beckett
Letty Arrocho

Josie Sanchez
Norene Ritter
Esther Flores
Lynn Pepper
Ramon Diaz
Jim Casadia
Rose Valora
Tanni Trout
Judy Sacco
Patty Bush

In Loving Memory...

Valentina "Tina" Ann Curry
Ellen "Joan" MacDade
Suzanne W. Casazza
Florence B. O'Hara
Grace D'Augustine
Janene M. Sherban
Chase Fehrenbach
Lois T. Middleton
Carl R. Blanchet
Peter P. Casazza
Ellen M. Toman

Wayne F. Eby
Gay Renaldo
Fred Angelo
Erin Semus
Julia Conte
Diane Lee
Louis Vit

Administrator's Note

My Dear Friends,

Please read this exceptional article from Bishop Anthony B. Taylor. The Bishop gave this reflection at the Hispanic Charismatic Conference. I hope you enjoy it.

In today's Gospel Jesus tells a story to teach us that we must pray persistently. A woman pesters a judge relentlessly to remedy a wrong she has suffered and finally he gives in — just to get rid of her. Jesus says that if persistence pays off even in dealing with evil men, how much more will it pay off when praying to God!

But this does raise a question: If God knows everything, why do we have to ask him for what we need? He already knows our needs and unlike the woman who had to be persistent to get what she needed from a corrupt judge; God only wants what is best for us — so why do we have to be persistent with him?

At first glance it seems like the widow's persistence changed the judge, but notice: He may have changed his mind about what was expedient in this particular instance but he himself remained the same corrupt man as before. It's the woman who changes.

Her persistence in the face of obstacles stretches her, strengthens her and makes her fearless. Indeed, her strength of character became so great that the judge began to fear that she might do him harm. He says: I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me. How likely do you think that was? But even he could see how much stronger her persistence had made her.

That is why Jesus insists that we should pray always without becoming weary. Persistent prayer changes us, not God. It stretches us and strengthens us to confront evil and overcome obstacles. It fills us with power and light. To grow in holiness, we have to keep at it. And above and beyond whatever benefits others may receive from our prayer and good deeds, these acts of piety and service benefit us who pray — indeed, they are the means by which we become saints.

Jesus says to pray persistently not because God is hard to convince, but rather because our sinful human character is hard to change and does change only gradually. One of the main reasons God doesn't answer all our prayers just right away is that he wants to stretch us and cause us to open ourselves to trust more fully in God's grace and thus develop in us that spiritual fortitude which is the fruit of persistence ... and thus become disciples who will do his will faithfully and with self-sacrificing courage and love, regardless of the challenges and obstacles we face.

So what troubles are you dealing with right now? The woman in the parable was facing mistreatment and injustice. Jesus uses this story to assure us that God will vindicate, secure the rights of all who pray to him persistently day and night. Your troubles may be different, but God's promises are as true for you as they were for her.

So, turn to him and spend time in his presence and learn from him. Ask him to make you courageous in times of trouble and loving when you feel hate. Ask him persistently to mold you into the saint he wants you to be.

God bless you all!

Fr. Junior





Christ the Good Shepherd Collections

October 1-2, 2022: \$11,393.00

Thank you always to all our parishioners for their generous support.

Our Christ the Good Shepherd Bereavement Ministry invites you to offer your time and talent to share with those who have suffered a loss.

We offer support and comfort while working with families to plan the Funeral Liturgy. The expected length of commitment is three years. During this time, both parish and diocesan training will be offered.

For more information, contact the rectory at (856) 691-9077, or Paula Thibodeau-Hirsch at (856) 696-8653

There will be no full Mass on Tuesday, October 18th, and Wednesday, October 19th.

Due to the convocation, only Communion Services will be held during the regular daily Mass times at both St. Isidore's and Sacred Heart.



Welcome Back To
First Saturday Devotions at Christ the Good Shepherd
In Honor Of Our Lady of Fatima
and the 105th Anniversary of Her Apparitions

St. Isidore the Farmer Church
1655 Magnolia Road, Vineland, NJ

Schedule:

- 9:00 AM Holy Mass
- Rosary
- Meditation on the Mysteries of the Rosary
- Confession
- Procession and Crowning of the Blessed Mother Statue

Mary promises us salvation through this Devotion
Won't you accept her promise for
yourself and your family?

Remaining First Saturdays of 2022 are:

November 5th

December 3rd

FYI From Father Junior!

Please be advised that any advertisements for ministries and/or events cannot be hung on Church property without the prior approval of Fr. Junior. Unauthorized postings will be taken down.

To better aid the spiritual practices of our parishioners, anyone who would like religious articles blessed are asked to drop the items off in a bag at the parish office with your name and phone number. After one of the priests have blessed the items, the office staff will call for the articles to be picked up.

All major Mass celebrations will be held at Sacred Heart Church this year. We will begin to alternate Churches each year, with next year being held at St. Isidore the Farmer Church.

Please remember to not park in the area designated for priest parking at St. Isidore's.

Thank you,
Fr. Junior



Christmas Shop Fair

Early shopper for the holiday season? Looking for unique gift ideas? Come on by and support our school.....vendors and crafters with cash & carry! Food, drinks, and snacks will be available.

DATE: SATURDAY, NOV. 5TH

TIME: 10AM-4PM

PLACE: CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRESCHOOL

1655 MAGNOLIA ROAD

VINELAND, NJ 08360

*For more information, please contact the school: (856) 696-0506 or Mary Watson, Director (missmaryctgsp@gmail.com)

If you are interested in being a vendor for this event, a Vendor Request Form is available to pick up at the parish office.



2022 Camden Diocesan White Mass

South Jersey Catholic Medical Guild, a Charter Member of the Catholic Medical Association, and VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services welcome all to celebrate and honor doctors, nurses, and all healthcare professionals at the 2022 Camden Diocesan White Mass.

Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Our Lady of Peace Parish

Saint Mary Church

32 Carroll Avenue

Williamstown, NJ 08094

At the White Mass, Louis Keeler, Jr, MD, a parishioners of The Catholic Church of Saint Mary in Cherry Hill, will receive the 2022 Saint Luke Award for excellence in Catholic healthcare.

For more information about the White Mass, contact us at (856) 583-6123, or VITALity-Events@CamdenDiocese.org

ST. ISIDORE CHURCH
1655 MAGNOLIA RD.
VINELAND NJ 08361

Bishop Schad Regional School
Presents
CAMPUS MINISTRY
CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH



NOVEMBER 6, 2022

MASS AT 11:30AM

12:30PM - THE TALK! Introduction on teen violence and teen dating


1:00PM - Basketball Game

2:15PM - Food, Refreshments and discussion



Administrator
FATHER JUNIOR FLORES
Coordinator
Joe Vasturia
Coordinator of Catholic Charities
JoAnne B. Farrell

Coordinator of Catholic Charities
JoAnne B. Farrell



Hunger for
JUSTICE
Exploring hunger in our country and our world and long-term solutions

22
October
2022
9-3pm


Entrance Fee: a non-perishable food item to support the food bank

Church of the Holy Family
Aquino Center
226 Hurffville Road
Sewell, NJ 08080

Scan here

Registration closes on October 14, 2022
CAMDENDIOCESE.ORG/HFJ

For more information: Ann Marie Ours:
(856) 583-2904 | annmarie.ours@camdendiocese.org



Christ the Good Shepherd Parish

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Sunday, October 30th, 2022

Presentation immediately after the 12:30 Mass at Sacred Heart

Spanish Presentation Given By



Rizel Luna BSW

Topic on domestic violence

C.T.G.S. acknowledges the work and assistance of Jane Farrell of the Diocese of Camden Catholic Charities Division and Gloria Aviles Formerly of CASA PRAC.

Food and Refreshments to follow after presentation



Attend the ManUp
South Jersey Men's
Spirituality Conference
November 12, 2022

Become
The
Man
God
Created
You
To Be!

To Purchase Tickets and
For More Information:
www.manupsouthjersey.com

HELP SUPPORT Bishop Schach Regional School
(Non-Profit Organization)



ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 19, 2022
SHOP 8AM - 11PM

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- 25% OFF DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- REGISTER TO WIN A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
At every Boscov's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

For Shopping Passes or information, contact:
Michelle McFarland 856-691-4490

For more details visit boscovs.com/friendshelpingfriends
*Exclusions Apply

CATHOLIC CHARITIES, DIOCESE OF CAMDEN

Prison Ministry's UNDERWEAR & SOCK DRIVE



Catholic Charities' Prison Ministry is collecting items for inmates in the Camden Diocese who are in need of clothing. Some correctional facilities only supply jumpsuits, and many inmates have no means to buy clothing to wear under the jumpsuits.

The following is greatly needed in all sizes (new and unused only):

MALES: white tee-shirts and white boxers

FEMALES: white sports bras and white cotton briefs

MALES & FEMALES: white crew socks

DROP OFF/MAILING ADDRESS:

Catholic Charities' Camden office
1845 Haddon Avenue,
Camden NJ, 08103
Anytime Monday - Friday
between 8:30 AM & 4:00 PM.

FOR QUESTIONS, CONTACT:

Sister Mary Cronin,
Prison Ministry Coordinator
Mary.Cronin@CamdenDiocese.org
856-342-4106

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25:40



DISCERNMENT GROUP



YOUNG ADULT

OCT 16	Who do you say that I am?
NOV 20	Pray Without Ceasing
DEC 18	Behold Thy Mother
JAN 8	"Come and See" Life as a Seminarian
FEB 5	Proclaim the Gospel to Every Living Creature
MAR 12	Whose Sins You Forgive Are Forgiven Them
MAY 7	I am the Bread of Life

YOUNG ADULT (16-39) DISCERNMENT GROUP
OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH OFFICE
135 N WHITE HORSE PIKE | LINDENWOLD | 2:30-4:00PM



"Speak Lord,
for your servant
is listening."
1 Samuel 3:9

NJ SAMUEL GROUP

Samuel Group is a spiritual formation program designed to help you go deeper in your prayer life and receive formation on discerning God's voice in your life.

Ages 18-39

1:30PM - 5:30PM

Oct. 9 / Nov. 13 / Dec. 11
Jan. 8 / Feb. 12 / Mar. 12 / Apr. 23

Our Lady of the Lakes Church

19 Malaga Rd
Collings Lakes, NJ 08094

Obligations

- Interview with a member of the leadership team over the phone.
- Full participation and attendance at **all** meetings.
- Meet monthly with a Spiritual Director (we can help you find one).
- Commitment to daily prayer.

Registration is open from Aug. 1 - Oct. 1

To learn more and register, go to:
www.franciscansisterscfr.com/st-michael OR
www.camdendiocese.org/samuelgroup

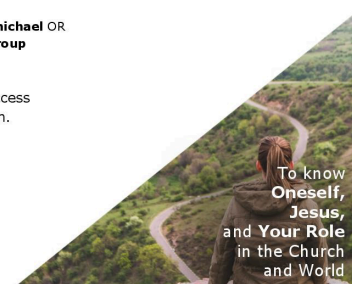


Scan here for direct access
to the registration form.

Contact

Sr. Ann Kateri
609-343-1545

Sponsored by the
Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal



To know
Ourselves,
Jesus,
and Your Role
in the Church
and World



Understanding the Mass

Part 3

Preparing the Altar & Gifts

In Between Time

The movement between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist requires a moment of transition. At a dinner party, there is ultimately a moment when the host invites those gathered to move from the living room to the dining table. At Mass, this transition must happen as well—though the transition doesn't involve us changing our seats.

Setting the Table of the Lord, the Altar

When a church is consecrated or a new altar is installed in a church, the altar must be consecrated. The beautiful rite of consecrating an altar requires that the bishop anoint the altar with Sacred Chrism, the Christ oil. As such the altar bears the presence of Christ, the “anointed one.”

For this reason, only those things needed for the celebration of the Mass should ever be placed upon the altar. Those items are:

The Book of the Gospel—at the beginning of Mass, the Book of the Gospel is placed on the altar to signify the connection between the Word and the Eucharist.

The Altar Cloth—the Roman Missal requires that one white altar cloth cover at least the top of the altar (the mensa). If a second cloth is used, it may be white or a festive or seasonal color. Prior Missals required three cloths with the one in between being a cerecloth (a linen cloth imbedded with wax) so that a spill of the Precious Blood could be easily cleaned.

The Corporal—a corporal is a square linen cloth onto which is placed the prepared ciborium (container for the hosts) and chalice (cup for the wine/Precious Blood). Corporals are usually marked with a cross and are ironed in such a way that when folded, any particles of the Blessed Sacrament are

contained within.

The Purificator—a purificatory is another linen cloth, rectangular in shape that is used to wipe the chalice. It is likewise marked with a cross and ironed in a particular manner so as to fit across the top of a chalice. Along with the corporal, a purificator, which may have absorbed the Precious Blood, are purified by being soaked in the sacrarium (a special sink in the sacristy that drains directly into the earth instead of the sewer system). After having been soaked, they may be machine washed and then ironed by hand.

The Pall—a pall is square of dense paper or plastic that is covered with linen and often decorated. It is used to cover the chalice during the celebration of Mass so as to prevent insects or debris from falling into the chalice.

The Chalice Veil and Burse—the paten (plate for the large host used by the priest) and chalice are assembled in a particular manner. The purificator is placed over the chalice; the paten is placed on top of the purificator. The pall is then placed over the paten. A veil, usually made of fabric that matches the priest's vestments or the altar cloth, is placed over chalice and paten. On top is placed a burse—a square “pocket” covered with linen and usually decorated into which is placed the corporal.

Candles—out of reverence for the altar which is Christ, candles are placed on or near the altar. At least two candles are required. More may be used in accord with the solemnity of celebration. When the bishop visits a parish church, a seventh candle is added. The tradition of adding a seventh candle is of unknown origin but likely relates to “fullness” as expressed in the days of the week, the Sacraments and even to the Jewish seven-branched menorah.

The Roman Missal and Stand—the prayers for the entire Liturgy are found in the Roman Missal. It therefore must be placed on the altar for the celebration of Mass. In accord with the presiders' preference, a stand may be used so that he can see the texts more clearly.

The Collection and Presentation of the Gifts

Following the Prayer of the Faithful, the assembly is seated and an *Offertory Song* or an instrumental piece is played. An offertory collection is taken among the faithful—these monetary offerings are gifts from our work and so represent us. They are

used for the support of the Church, its mission and the care of the poor. Once completed the monetary offering along with the bread and wine, also works of human hands that represent us, are brought to the sanctuary in procession. Like other processions in the Liturgy, this again is a moment for the assembly to be united as their offerings and individual intentions are brought to the Lord.

This is a significant moment in the Liturgy because, as noted above, the gifts brought to the altar symbolize us humans. The bread and wine, made by human hands which nourish us in our daily lives, are presented and transformed into Body and Blood of Christ meaning that we too are transformed. And then they are given to us as Holy Communion to effect that transformation—that we, indeed, may become what we receive.

For this reason, aside from the monetary collection, only bread and wine are presented in the presider. Water or flowers are not made by human hands, they are already divine gifts, so they do not represent us. Empty vessels are not be transformed in the Liturgy and so should not be included in the presentation of the gifts.

Preparation of the Chalice

The ciboria and hosts are placed adjacent to the corporal while the chalice is prepared. The priest or deacon adds a drop of water to the chalice while praying: *by the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbles himself to share in our humanity.* Water, a divine gift, here represents Christ who, by the mystery of the Incarnation, joined in our humanity, represented by the wine—a work of human hands.

This ritual dates to a time when water needed to be added to the wine which was stored in concentrated form so as to make it drinkable. As with many practical things in the Liturgy, the action was given religious meaning.

Prayers of the Priests Over the Gifts

After the deacon, or the priest himself, has prepared the chalice, the presider quietly prays over the ciborium or paten: *Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.* To which, if there is no music, the people respond *Blessed be God for ever.* A similar prayer is prayed over the chalice: *Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness*

we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. Again, the people respond: *Blessed be God for ever.*

The priest then bows and silently prays: *With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day, be pleasing to you, Lord God.* The priest then turns and washes his hands while saying: *Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*

Again the action of the priest washing his hands is rooted in the time when actual gifts were presented (the bread, wine, animals, fruits, vegetables, etc...). His hands, being dirty, needed washing. When such things were no longer presented, the hand washing took on spiritual significance taken from Psalm 51 which recounts David's unworthiness before God.

The Prayer Over the Gifts

As the priest calls upon the assembly to pray: *pray my brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.* The people respond: *May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the glory and praise of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.*

The assembly, now standing, are ready to hear the prayer prayed over the gifts which unites the actions, prayers and gestures into a single prayer that offers the bread and wine.

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