

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

In the course of his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation."

Mark 12:38-40

October 31st Collection

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

November 7, 2021



Bulletin printed in-house at:
**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

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Fort Worth, TX 76104

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**ORDINARY TIME : NOVEMBER 7th
THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY**

The **Gospel** is from the Gospel of St. Mark 12:38-44. Our Lord's severe condemnation of those Scribes whose exaggerated opinion of their own importance made a mockery of the religion they professed to live, is a serious warning to all his followers not to look for the praise and esteem of their neighbors when doing their good works, but rather to hope for God's praise and esteem in the future world. In another context, he said to his followers: "Because of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven . . . when you give alms do not let your left hand know what your right is doing . . . and your Father who sees in secret will reward you . . . when you pray go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father . . . who sees in secret and will reward you" (Mt. 6: 1-6).

It is hardly necessary to say that our Lord is not referring to community prayers or services here. What he is condemning is the hypocrisy of the Scribes, who lengthened their garments and their prayers not in order to give glory to God but to earn the glory of their fellowmen for themselves. Pride was their predominant vice—the vice which caused the fall of angels and of man. It so governed their lives that even their best actions were vitiated by it. There is a strong inclination to pride in every one of us. The reason is that we have great gifts from God and great capabilities: but we are tempted to claim the credit for these gifts and capabilities for ourselves—whereas we owe them all to God's generosity.

The second incident in today's Gospel story highlights true humility and true charity. The poor widow, forgetful of herself and of her own needs gave her all,

her last penny, to help others who were in need. She made this sacrifice without publicity and without seeking the praise of her neighbors. It is this deep contrast between her outlook on life and on religion, and that of the Scribes in the first that connects the two incidents. While the Scribes sought to earn the respect and praise of their fellow-Jews—as well as all the financial gain they could come by—from the practice of the externals of their religion, this poor widow's religion was practiced in secret and it was to God alone that she looked for any reward that he might deign to give her.

As we saw in today's first reading we can be sure that she was not left without the reward she deserved. The widow of Zarephath was given a temporal reward. The same generous God did not let the similar act of supreme generosity on the part of the widow in Jerusalem go unnoticed. Christ's judgment on the Scribes implies this: They will receive the greater condemnation for their pride, and abuse of religion for their own temporal gain. On the other hand the widow's religion was an act of complete self-renunciation: "she has put in everything she had, her whole living."

We may never be called on to share our last morsel with a starving neighbor but if we are, we must remember that Christ gave his very life for us and has asked us to do likewise, if necessary. It may never be necessary for us to make this supreme act of self-renunciation. If, however, we are sincerely practicing our religion, we must be ever-ready to help a neighbor in need even if this cuts into our hard-earned reserves. The greater the sacrifice, the greater the reward.

--Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M

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Larry & Olga Mar-



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Space Available

Please contact Lydia at the Church Office (817) 335-1695

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.

Saturday — 8:00 a.m.

Saturday — 5:00 p.m.

Sunday — 10:00 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

Confessions:

Wednesday 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m.—noon

Saturday 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri

10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER**My sisters and brothers:****Sister Thea Bowman**

"We unite ourselves with Christ's redemptive work when we reconcile, when we make peace, when we share the good news that God is in our lives, when we reflect to our brothers and sisters God's healing, God's forgiveness, God's unconditional love." Sister Thea Bowman, F.S.P.A., shared these words a few weeks before dying of cancer in her home in Canton, Mississippi as part of a reflection on Holy Week, entitled, "Let Us Resolve to Make This Week A Holy One" in the Diocese of Jackson's newspaper, Mississippi Today. These would be the final public words of a religious woman who dedicated her life to spreading the joy of the Gospel and promoting cultural awareness and racial reconciliation.

Sister Thea Bowman's life was always one of Gospel joy, enduring faith, and persevering prayer even in the midst of racial prejudice, cultural insensitivity, and debilitating illness. Her personal holiness witnessed to the faith and endurance of her ancestors, the hope expressed in the Spirituals, compassion for the poor and marginalized, her devotion to the Eucharist, and the radical love embodied by St. Francis of Assisi. Asked how she made sense of suffering, she answered, "I don't make sense of suffering. I try to make sense of life...I try each day to see God's will..."

Her life epitomized the words of Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium*: Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others. Sister Thea's life is also a radiant example of Pope Francis' *Gaudete Et Exsultate*. The Holy Father writes, Holiness is boldness, an impulse to evangelize and to leave your mark in this world.

During her short lifetime (52 years), many people considered her a religious Sister undeniably close to God and who lovingly invited others to encounter the presence of God in their lives. She is acclaimed a "holy woman" in the hearts of those who knew and loved her and continue to seek her intercession for guidance and healing.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S..V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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Monday, November 8

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Tuesday, November 9

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, November 10

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.

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Thursday, November 11

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

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Friday, November 12

Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.

Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon

Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon

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Saturday, November 13

Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.

Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.

Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.

Mass: 5:00 p.m.

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Sunday, November 14

Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.

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Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Weekly Readings

11/8—WIS 1:1-7; LK 17:1-6

11/9—EZ 47:1-2, 8-9, 12;

1 COR 3:9c-11, 16-17; JN 2:13-22

11/10—WIS 6:1-11; LK 17:11-19

11/11—WIS 7:22b-8:1; LK 17:20-25

11/12—WIS 13:1-9; LK 17:26-37

11/13—WIS 18:14-16, 19:6-9;

LK 18:1-8

11/14—DN 12:1-3; HEB 10:11-14,

18; MK 13:24-32

Vocation View

Jesus upholds the example of the widow who puts two small coins into the Temple treasury as the greatest treasure given. We are to give not out of our surplus, but from our very selves.

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

PARISH CORNER**Veterans Day**

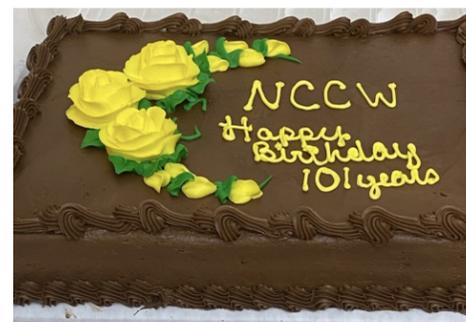
On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day in the eleventh month of the year 1918, an armistice was signed, ending the "war to end all wars." November 11 was set aside as Armistice Day in the United States to remember the sacrifices that men and women made during the war in order to ensure a lasting peace. In 1938 Congress voted Armistice Day as a legal holiday, but World War II began the following year. Armistice Day was still observed after the end of the Second World War. In 1953 townspeople in Emporia, Kansas called the holiday Veterans Day in gratitude to the veterans in their town. Soon after, Congress passed a bill renaming the national holiday to Veterans Day. Today, we remember those who have served for our country in the armed forces in our prayers.

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National Council of Catholic Women

Celebrating 101 year birthday of National Council of Catholic Women at the 31st Convention of the Fort Worth Diocesan Council of Catholic Women held at Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church. 68 registrants were in attendance, 5 women were given Benediction to Mankind Awards for their works in the Church and community.

Fr. Bart Jasilek, SVD, was speaker of the hour as well as Celebrant for the Mass. A wonderful delicious breakfast and luncheon was catered by Kathleen DeFors, caterer.



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Some people come in our life as a blessing. Some come in our life as a lesson. - Mother Teresa

ANNOUNCEMENTS**We Need Your Help to Fill Thanksgiving Baskets**

KPC Council 89 will sponsor their Annual Thanksgiving Basket Outreach. Your help is needed in providing items for needy families. Items needed are boxes of mac/cheese, canned yams or sweet potatoes and canned cranberry sauce. Please bring your items on the following Sundays: Nov 7, Nov 14 and Nov 21. KPC members will collect your items after Mass at the KPC Hall located across from the church.

Our Church Community is also collaborating with Fortress YDC, our neighbors next door, to provide Thanksgiving Baskets to families that they are servicing in the 76104 zip code. Items needed: Stuffing Mix, Pie Filling, Pie Crust and Butter. They are in need of 100 of these items dropped off at Fortress by November 15th.

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Everyone involved in any ministry at any Catholic Church or school is required to attend a Safe and Sacred/Environment class every 2 years. Please create a profile under Virtus.org, and then it will prompt you to sign up for a class. You can pick a location, time and date convenient to your schedule.

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St. Anne's Altar Society Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Please help support Our Mother of Mercy's St. Anne's Altar Society's Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale on Sunday, November 21st after the 10:00am Mass at the Parish Life Center.

Your \$10 donation will purchase a delicious spaghetti dinner including salad and garlic bread. Baked items are sold separately. Your support is greatly appreciated. For more information contact the parish office at 817.335.1695.

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CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**PRAYER IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE****THE LIFE OF PRAYER****THE PRAYER OF THE HOUR OF JESUS**

2750 By entering into the holy name of the Lord Jesus we can accept, from within, the prayer he teaches us: "Our Father!" His priestly prayer fulfills, from within, the great petitions of the Lord's Prayer: concern for the Father's name;⁴⁷ passionate zeal for his kingdom (Glory);⁴⁸ The accomplishment of the will of the Father, of his plan of salvation;⁴⁹ and deliverance from evil.⁵⁰

2751 Finally, in this prayer Jesus reveals and gives to us the "knowledge," inseparably one, of the Father and of the Son,⁵¹ which is the very mystery of the life of prayer.

IN BRIEF

2752 *Prayer presupposes an effort, a fight against ourselves and the wiles of the Tempter. the battle of prayer is inseparable from the necessary "spiritual battle" to act habitually according to the Spirit of Christ: we pray as we live, because we live as we pray.*

2753 *In the battle of prayer we must confront erroneous conceptions of prayer, various currents of thought, and our own experience of failure. We must respond with humility, trust, and perseverance to these temptations which cast doubt on the usefulness or even the possibility of prayer.*

2754 *The principal difficulties in the practice of prayer are distraction and dryness. the remedy lies in faith, conversion, and vigilance of heart.*

2755 *Two frequent temptations threaten prayer: lack of faith and acedia - a form of depression stemming from lax ascetical practice that leads to discouragement.*

2756 *Filial trust is put to the test when we feel that our prayer is not always heard. the Gospel invites us to ask ourselves about the conformity of our prayer to the desire of the Spirit.*

47 Cf. Jn 17:6, 11, 12, 26.

48 Cf. Jn 17:1, 5, 10, 22, 23-26.

49 Cf. Jn 17:2, 4, 6, 9, 11, 12, 24.

50 Cf. Jn 17:15.

51 Cf. Jn 17:3, 6-10, 25

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