



## 30<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

- Mk 10:51-52

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OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH

Sunday, October 24, 2021

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN**

My dear friends,

## Shout with joy!

Our first reading for this Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jeremiah 31:7-9, is taken from the “reluctant prophet”, who, because his message was often received with scorn and derision, complained about the treatment he received as a messenger for the Lord. Indeed, the role of a prophet is often a difficult one because he usually tells the people what they simply do not wish to hear, that they have sinned and have turned away from the path God had created for them. At one point, Jeremiah decides that he cannot speak in God’s name anymore, and so he goes silent for a time. But then, he experiences the word of God burning within him, and he has no other choice but to speak again in God’s name.

How refreshing, then, is the message we find in today’s passage! Jeremiah is positive and hopeful, promising God’s redeeming blessings after a long period of suffering. Jeremiah announces a re-establishment of Israel as God’s chosen people, enjoying God’s favor. “Thus says the Lord: Shout with joy for Jacob, exult at the head of the nations; proclaim your praise and say: The Lord has delivered his people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I will bring them back from the land of the north; I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst, the mothers and those with child; they shall return as an immense throng. They departed in tears, but I will console them and guide them; I will lead them to brooks of water, on a level road, so that none shall stumble. For I am a father to Israel. Ephraim is my first-born.”

The Responsorial Psalm, taken from Psalm 126, continues the joyful tone expressed in Jeremiah. It begins with reference to a return from exile: “When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion, we were like men dreaming. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with rejoicing. Then they said among the nations, ‘The Lord has done great things for them.’ The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad indeed....Although they go forth weeping, carrying the seed to be sown, they shall come back rejoicing, carrying their sheaves.”

Our gospel reading, Mark 10:46-52, picks up one aspect of the re-gathering of the people announced by Jeremiah, “I will gather them from the ends of the world, with the blind and the lame in their midst.” Mark presents the account of the healing of a blind person by Jesus, thereby giving a clue to Jesus’ identity as the Messiah, the one who is to carry out God’s final restoration of the people. “As Jesus was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a sizeable crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging. On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.’ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, ‘Son of David, have pity on me.’ Jesus stopped and said, ‘Call him.’ So they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you.’ He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, ‘What do you want me to do for you?’ The blind man replied to him, ‘Master, I want to see.’” Jesus then cures the blind man, who then follows him.

I wanted to call attention, first, to the change in attitude of the crowd. When the blind beggar first cries out, the crowd is embarrassed and uncomfortable with him, seeking to silence him. But once Jesus gives some dignity to the man by asking that he be called over, all of a sudden the crowd becomes his best friend, offering friendly advice. Second, I wish to point out that the question Jesus asks the blind man in this passage, “What do you want me to do for you?” is exactly the same question he asked James and John in last week’s gospel. In that case, Jesus denies the request, which was basically the selfish request for positions of power. But here, the humble request of the blind man, “Master, I want to see,” is granted. Finally, note that the miracle serves the larger purpose of gathering people, for the healed man “followed him on the way.”

I believe that we are at a point in our personal as well as our world history, with our experience of the pandemic and a divided society, that we need some joy in our life—a joy announced in today’s readings. We need to be reminded that we find our joy in God’s healing and God’s uniting us as one people, one human family. I believe we will find joy when we align our will with God’s by reaching out to those who suffer and by including, not excluding, people who are disadvantaged or simply different.

**A WORD OF THANKS FROM THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS** from Joseph Vias, Grand Knight, Council 737: “I would like to thank you all for the donations during our 2021 Tootsie Roll Drive. Between the two parishes we collected just under \$500.00. Due to one of our Knights donating the Tootsie Rolls this year, all of the proceeds will be added to what is being collected by other councils throughout Massachusetts to help fund organizations that assist those who struggle with intellectual disabilities....May God send blessings on you all.”



**Saturday, October 23**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Joseph Demers*  
by Nancy Aubrey

**Sunday, October 24**

8:00A *Deceased members of the Washer & Bissell family*  
by Bob & Yvette Bissell

10:00A *Bob Martineau & Ed Sojka*  
by their family

**Saturday, October 30**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Alfred & Helen Courtemanche & Jeannette Sulda*  
by their family

**Sunday, October 31**

8:00A *Pat Caloon*  
by John Caloon

10:00A *Paul Socquet, Sr.*  
by his family

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, October 25**

8:00A *William Chmura*  
by Jim & Mary Gene Devlin & family

**Tuesday, October 26**

8:00A *Stanley Perlowski*  
by Michelle Turner

**Wednesday, October 27**

8:00P *Antoni & Genowefa Piurkowski*  
by Michelle Turner

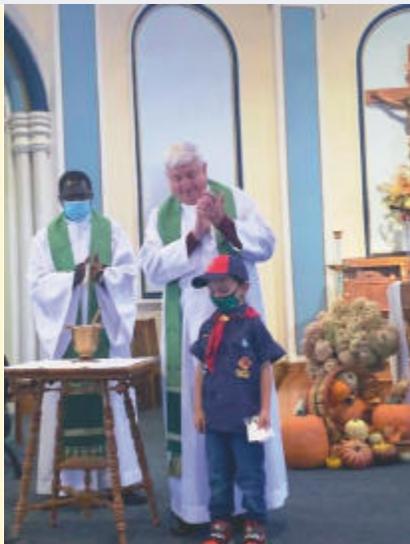
**Thursday, October 28**

8:00A *DeeDee Bergeron*  
by Paul Prunier

**Friday, October 29**

Holy Communion Service

**Our Lady's Window**  
*Helen Blanchard 5th anniversary*  
by Herb & Phyllis Voudren



Boy Scout Anthony Teng receives the "Christ our Light" Medal and a blessing at Mass.



Please Support Montague Catholic  
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Our parish donations of non-perishable food and goods are given to stock the food pantry at MCSM and help the many families in need in our community.



**HOW TO BECOME A CATHOLIC**

The RCIA process is for anyone interested in learning about Catholicism, becoming a Catholic or receiving the sacraments of baptism, First Communion and Confirmation. We will meet Sunday, **October 31** at 9:00A in the rectory. There is no pressure or commitment. Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.

**THE WOMEN'S GROUP** will meet Tuesday, **November 2** from 6:00P-8:00P in preparation for the Dove of Peace Bazaar to be held on Saturday, **November 6**.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** Classes will meet on Halloween, **October 31**. The kids may wear costumes if they want, and we will be giving out treats!

**THANK YOU** Mary Jane Garbiel is grateful for the many cards and prayers she has received as she continues to recover at home since her fall in August.



Join in praying the rosary each Saturday beginning at 3:15P. All are welcome!

**PARISH COLLECTIONS**

Weekend of **October 17**

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