

September 5, 2010: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



"If any one comes to me without leaving his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." — Lk 14:26-27

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, September 5 (Wis 9:13-18b/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33)

6:30 am- For our Parish Family

8:00 am- Ruben Garza

10:30 am- Raymond & Elizabeth Linhart Brosch & Helen Marie

Monday, September 6 (1 Cor 5:1-8/Lk 6:6-11) (Labor Day)

7:00 am- Charlie & Rosie Steffek & Eugene

10:00 am- Living & deceased members of Victor Grafe & Theo & Mary Grahmann Families (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, September 7 (1 Cor 6:1-11/Lk 6:12-19)

7:00 am- Living & deceased members of KJZT

Wednesday, September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Mi 5:1-4a/Mt 1:1-16, 18-23)

7:00 am- Leon Bujnoch

8:05 am- Dale Schulte

6:15 pm-(CCD Opening Mass) Joe N. Steffek

Thursday, September 9, St. Peter Claver, priest (1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Lk 6:27-38)

7:00 am- Edwin & Billy Chovanetz

10:00 am- Margaret Etzler (Stevens)

Friday, September 10 (1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Lk 6:39-42)

7:00 am- Hubert & Ethel Bludau

8:05 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler's 63rd Anniversary

Saturday, September 11 (1 Cor 10:14-22/Lk 6:43-49)

5:30 pm- Alfons A. & Cecilia Grahmann, Magdalen Muras

Sunday, September 12 (Ex 32:7-11, 13-14/1 Tm 1:12-17/Lk 15:1-32)

8:00 am- Louis R. Kallus

10:30 am- For our Parish Family

Bulletin Sponsor: In memory of Raymond & Elizabeth Linhart Brosch & Helen Marie by Bob & Lou Kubena.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: In honor of Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler's 63rd Anniversary.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,631.50; Loose-\$807; Children-\$35.

Anniversaries:

Wilbert & Carol Etzler	30 years	Sept. 6
James & Monica Vanek	25 years	Sept. 7
Urban & Theresa Hemmi	70 years	Sept. 8
Henry & Elrose Muenster	54 years	Sept. 8
Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler	63 years	Sept. 9

Fund Drive for house at 318 S. Texana: Goal \$40,000

Previous Donations	\$11,050
Eugene & Gertrude Janak	200
Anonymous	1,000
Total Donations Received To Date	\$12,250

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

-Sacred Heart Fall Picnic, KC Hall. Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner 10:30am–1:00pm. Adults \$7.50, children \$4. Drive thru adult plates to go 10:30am–1:00pm. Auction 1:00 pm. Bingo, cake walk, country store, kiddy rides & games. Washer Pitch Tournament 5:00 pm. Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, popcorn, funnel cakes, snow cones, lemonade & soda water all afternoon. Music on Main Pavilion by Kovanda's Czech Band 11:00am–1:00pm. Free dance on the Polka Pavilion Biergarten 1:00–9:00pm by The Red Ravens & Dujka Brothers. *Lots of food, fun & entertainment for all ages!! Join the fun!!*

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 (LABOR DAY)

-The Rectory will be closed for Labor Day.

-No Rosary & evening prayer today.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.

-KC's General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., KC Hall.

-Women's ACTS meeting, Shiner Family Center, 7 pm.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

-CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00 – 7:10 p.m.

-Scripture Study, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

-English Class, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Family Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

-Holy Cross Festival, Yorktown. BBQ Beef & Sausage Dinner 11am. Live auction, bingo, cake walk, country store, games, music, raffle.

-Firefall, 6:00 p.m. in church. Parishioners are invited to join the youth in Eucharistic Adoration.

-Basketball, 7:30 p.m., SHCS Gym (high school students & young adults).

AMONG OUR SICK: Hubert Grahmann, Alvin Rosenauer, Odessa & Doug Blumberg, Josie Ohnheiser, Mason Leibham, Riley Mika, Mary Bonorden, Annette Krupala, Amanda Conniff, Margaret Timm, Helen M. Appelt, Michael Kutac, Paige Haas, Anita Kallus, Jeff Zavesky, Renae Ross, Alma Jurena, Kate Kopecky, Michael L. Drozd, Bill Biehunko, Frank Fishar, Pam Dornak, Clayton Patek, Suzanne Romano, Alice Kocian, Mary Agnes Grahmann, Anita Bohuslav, Betty Toman, MacKenzie Fogle, Henri Mae Patek, Doyleen Drozd, Bryce Saldi, Travis Klmitchek, Judith Koerth, Louise Tesch, Thelma Mikulenska, Sandra Henneke, Mary Ann Koenig, Helen Mitchon, Marcella Henke, Tillie Schott, Georgia Schaefer, Joseph Ilardo, Dolores Ludwig, Denise Lewis, Evelyn Kutac, Emil Grahmann, Lillie Demny, Henry Morris, Bruce Fritz, Paula Nemecek, Ernest Schulte, Ray Palmer, Candice Chandler, Dorothy Dworsky, Antonia Jahn, Josh Mann, Faith Del Castillo, Theresa Steffek, Edna Key, Oreltha McCord, Judy Johnson, Donna Avant, Kirk Remmers, Danielle Grady, Royce Chudej, Sandra Mozisek, Dalton Bubela, Daniel A. Wick, Soila Sanchez, William Hermes, Kenneth Hermes, Fr. John Peters, Rose Thumann, Marian Morris, Betty Orsak, Elmo Grant, Kris Turner, Michael Gerdes, Raymond Dornak, Lucille Jalufka, Dorothy Svetlik, Marie Hermes, nursing home residents & homebound.

From the Desk of Father John

We welcome all who are joining us for our Parish Picnic this weekend. It is great having everyone here.

This year we congratulate Sister Emiliana Grafe who celebrates her 50th anniversary as a sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. We thank Sister for her vocation and for all that she has done and is doing for Sacred Heart.

This year, we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sacred Heart Rectory, which serves as the priests' residence and offices, and the 50th anniversary of the Bishop Forest School Annex, which houses the Sacred Heart Catholic School Junior High students.



The Youth ConneXion



****Tango with Mango the Parrot at the Parish Picnic!***

We need all Jr. High & High School youth to come help sell "Parrot Plop" squares.

***Sept. 12:** Youth meet in church at 5:00 pm. Firefall at 6:00 pm followed by youth gathering at the Youth House.

Music Practice: Monday's at 6:00 p.m. at the Youth House. *Come join us!!!*

The Sacred Heart Picnic Auction Committee is gearing up for the Fall 2010 Picnic on September 5. Enhancements for this Fall's auction include a 4 x 5-1/2 ft. projection screen to display the item being sold as well as the addition of bidder cards. The addition of buyer numbers displayed on bidder cards will minimize errors in invoicing and enhance the buyer's experience by not having to yell out their name if not known by the auctioneer and allow their name to be displayed on the projection screen for increased recognition. Bidder cards will be issued the day of the picnic, in advance or immediately after a first purchase. Any questions about the auction or the new bidder cards can be directed to Wendy Janak or Charles Leopold at 798-4311. Please come out and support the auction!

Adult Education Classes begin Tuesday, September 14:

Fr. Tommy will be teaching a series of classes on Tuesday evenings aimed at refreshing all Catholics on the fundamentals of our Catholic faith. Classes will be conducted in the Family Center from 7:00-8:30 p.m. each Tuesday evening beginning September 14. Topics will be announced soon. Please consider sacrificing a couple hours of your week to deepen your understanding and knowledge of our rich Catholic faith!

RCIA begins in September: For those adults and teenagers who are not Catholic and are interested in joining the Catholic Church and for those adults who need to receive First Communion and/or Confirmation, please contact Fr. Tommy to register to receive catechetical instruction.

~~~ Fall Picnic News ~~~

Please bring to the KC Hall on Sunday morning:

Auction: Please bring items to the auction trailer on the Main Pavilion.

Bingo: Please bring bingo prizes to the stage in the hall.

Cake Walk: Please bring at least 2 cakes.

Country Store: Items are needed – crafts & handmade items, fresh & canned vegetables, jellies, baked goods, noodles, etc.

Pickles, Cakes & Kolaches are needed for the dinner. Please bring these items to the kitchen.

Raffle Books: Don't forget to turn them in to the raffle table on the Main Pavilion at the picnic.

Sacred Heart Parish Fall Picnic – September 5

Auction: Anne & Alan Rowbotham- 20pc French Iris China Set; Ridgeway Family- Fruit & Wine Basket, 2 metal Jack Daniel bar signs (15x18), Coffee Maker & Coffee Basket, Celebration of Fall Set (Fall Wreath & Gift Basket); Irene Szwarc-collectible Barbies; Pat Mercer Photography-Studio portrait sitting & 16x20 portrait; Christopher Kunz- 4' metal windmill; Knights of Columbus-12 round bales; Robert Hermes- oak desk & 4 drawer filing cabinet; John & Mary Butschek-hospital bed; the late Charlie & Rosa Steffek- antique ice pick (circa 1950's); Fr. Tommy- a cooking session in your home (Menu – Fried Rice, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Pepper Steak, Taiwanese breaded pork chops, Catfish in Black-Bean Sauce, Stir-fried Vegetables & Egg-drop Soup); Fred & Debra Huser Family- wolmanized glider swing; Margaret Novak- 50 yr. old punchbowl with cups, exercise bicycle; Bobby & Amanda Rollert- tool box for truck; Olinda Lindsey- 2 goats & chickens.

Cattle: Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann- 1 yr old crossbred Angus heifer; J-Bar Angus (Mark & Karen Janak Family)- 15 mon. old registered black Angus bull; Wink & Ida Bludau- heifer calf; Charles & Doloris Leopold- 18 mon. Brangus heifer; Bill & Sweet Hrcir- crossbred heifer; Robert & Leona Steffek- 10 mon. Charbray heifer; Dennis & Gerardette Haas- bred Brangus heifer.

Cash Donations: Evelyn Schaefer in memory of Weldon Schaefer-\$100; In memory of Charlene Murphy-\$20; Martin & Carol Renner- \$80; Rudy Petru-\$100; Daniel Kuhn- \$100; Bennie & Beverly Machac- \$100; Marjorie Krupala- \$300; Georgie Henke- \$100; Johnny & Esther Kelley- \$100; Elsie Steffek- \$50; Henry Joe & Delores Jasek- \$100; Roland & Georgia Schaefer-\$40; Welden & Virginia Lell- \$100; Gene Renger-\$200; Judy Renger-\$300; Bill & Virginia Curley-\$200.

Religious Education (CCD) ~~ Office 798-3124 Angela McConnell, Coordinator

September 8: First day of CCD. Mass at 6:15 p.m. Teacher participation in the Mass. Parents are encouraged to attend.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Albert Novak* of our parish family. *May he and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

August Baptisms: Aubrey Marie, daughter of Wilton & Shannon Pesek; Tristan Anthony, son of Colt & Dawn Brown; Joseph Zachary & Braylon Kash, sons of Joshua & Kasey Phelps; Averie Elizabeth, daughter of Chris & Kimberly Rainosek; Christine Olivia, daughter of Matthew & Kathryn Felcman.

Welcome to the Parish: Aaron & Robyn Machac, children Morgan, Maryn & Mabry; Chris & Kimberly Rainosek, & Averie; Jennifer & Marty Cox, & Will; John & Barbara Hemmi; and, Kevin & Nicole Dworsky, & Rylan.

“Come & See” visits for single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50) on Sept. 18-19 at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria. If you are interested, please check them out at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

Stress in your marriage? *There is less than a week left to sign up for Retrouvaille* – a program for married couples who feel bored, frustrated or angry in their marriage. Some experience coldness and simply shut down. Others experience conflict and arguments in their relationship. Most don't know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels including disillusionment and deep misery. For confidential information or to register for the September 10-12 weekend, call 979-543-3493 or email lbconner@sbcglobal.net or visit www.retrouvaille.org.

Help needed – Volunteers are needed to help with Monday morning Mass at Hallettsville Nursing & Rehabilitation Center on Monday mornings at 10:00 a.m. People are needed to help set up the dining room for Mass and to help various residents get to and from the Mass in the dining room. Rosary begins at 9:30 a.m. for those that can get there. If you are interested in helping, please call the Rectory.

The Dave Ramsey Course will begin on Monday, September 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Center. If you are interested, please contact the Rectory or Amy Shimek at the Day Care as soon as possible. Babysitting will be available if needed.

SACRED HEART CHURCH CCD PROGRAM

In memory of Joe N. Steffek:

Kevin & Gayle Kubenka 15.00

In memory of Olga Haas:

Leonard & Mary Sklar 10.00

Alton & Bernice Michalcik 10.00

Vernell Bozka 30.00

JEROME HAAS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Olga Haas, Joe N. Steffek, &

Anton Steffek: Georgia Haas 30.00

In memory of Josephine Matejek:

Jimmie & Sylvia Steffek 20.00

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Labor Day weekend doesn't appear as a celebration in the cycle of the church year. But Monday's holiday does affect a lot of what many people do this weekend. For some, three days off means the opportunity for a short trip out of town. Others may schedule a vacation for the week before to take advantage of the extra day off. Grocery stores have sales, highlighting products that can be consumed at picnics or prepared on outdoor grills. A holiday honoring labor becomes the effective end of summer for most folk.

Labor shows up in some interesting ways in the Scriptures for this weekend. The only time in the three-year Lectionary cycle that we read from Paul's Letter to Philemon comes this week. Paul is sending back Philemon's slave, Onesimus, who had run away. In the interim, Onesimus has become a Christian and, from Paul's view, a brother in the Lord to Philemon. So what is Philemon to do with this worker that he had owned? How was he to act?

The Gospel includes a description of the work of building a tower. Jesus compares the calculation of the work involved to that of taking up the cross and being a disciple. When Philemon became a Christian he may not have understood that his life might change radically - that he was expected to deal in a new way with one of his slaves who became a Christian. At Paul's insistence, Philemon's adherence to the faith was requiring that he act differently from the society in which he lived. We are confronted with the same situation as Philemon. In the workplace, in the market, in our leisure, and while on vacation, we are called to adhere to the faith just as we do in church on Sunday. That is the real work we have, and it is not always an easy job. We don't have to carry Jesus' cross, but we do have to carry our own.

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SACRED HEART EARLY CHILDHOOD & DAYCARE

In memory of Anton Steffek:

James & Mary Honish 10.00

Mr. & Mrs. Chris Korinek & family 50.00

Trey & Jennifer Kraatz 10.00

Dennis & Darlene Shimek 20.00

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Svetlik 10.00

In memory of Joe N. Steffek:

Jeanette Greer Cobb 15.00

Melvin & Joyce Janak 20.00

Jerome Kanak Family 25.00

Vickie Klmitchek 10.00

David & Glenda Tobola 10.00

Charles & Mary Chapman 25.00

Anton & Mary Honish 10.00

DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Joe N. Steffek, Anton Steffek & Joan Kennan:

Roland Henneke 40.00

In memory of Olga Haas:

Tommy & Elsie Grahmann 10.00

Roy & Loretta Hardcastle 15.00

Roland Henneke 10.00

FINANCIAL REPORT – JULY, 2010**Church Income:**

Sunday Collections	\$ 24,272.00
Other Donations	2,770.00
Family Center Rental	1,270.00
Interest	10,780.07
Religious Articles	852.50
Picnic Transfer	<u>25,000.00</u>
Total Church Income	<u>\$ 64,944.57</u>

Church Expense:

Salaries	\$ 6,948.70
Utilities	1,841.64
Church Expense	979.09
Rectory Expense	705.01
Office Expense	953.35
Religious Articles	757.15
Medical Insurance & Pension	3,586.00
Family Center Expense	737.58
Vehicle Insurance	452.90
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>752.30</u>
Total Church Expense	<u>\$ 17,713.72</u>

School Income:

Tuition	\$ 350.00
Catholic Education Envelopes	3,205.00
Memorials	3,392.00
Shop Donations	40.00
Marathon	3,033.01
Alumni Gifting	2,367.44
Library	35.00
Donations	7,740.26
Gym Fund	1,945.93
Interest	2,238.22
Academic	16.00
Miscellaneous	<u>1,135.00</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$ 25,497.86</u>

School Expense:

Salaries	\$ 59,669.41
Contracted Services	459.92
Office & Teaching Expense	1,815.59
Postage	53.59
Staff Development	1,195.59
HSA Dues	1,032.00
Public Relations	396.09
Utilities	3,536.72
Plant Repairs & Maintenance	711.15
Custodial Supplies	222.27
Bus & Vehicle Expense	279.99
Payroll Taxes	4,529.35
Medical Insurance	13,293.00
Retirement	3,200.00
Convent Expense	414.50
Acquisition of Equipment	3,323.88
Technology Supplies	248.93
Marathon Expense	1,337.00
Miscellaneous	<u>56.00</u>
Total School Expense	<u>\$ 95,774.98</u>

Parish Income \$ 90,442.43**Parish Expense** -113,488.70**Parish Deficit** \$ (23,046.27)**SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND****In memory of Olga Haas:**

Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union	25.00
Vickie Klmitchek	5.00
Allen & Arlene Becan & family	20.00
Doye Bethke Family	10.00
Arnold & Gene Bohuslav	20.00
Marie Grafe	10.00
Alvin Paul & Barbara Grahmann	10.00
David & Leigh Ann Haas	250.00
Jerry & Margaret Kallus	15.00
Hollis & Barbara Magruder	25.00
Doris Opela	10.00
Don & Barbara Rainosek	15.00
Anthony & Rachel Siegel	10.00
Allen & Anita Steffek	10.00
Marty & Karen Steffek	10.00
Daniel & Carolyn Strauss	20.00
John & LaVerne Trojcek	10.00
Christian Mothers Society	25.00
Frank & Jo Nell Janecek	15.00

In honor of Bea Heinzl's 80th Birthday:

Paulie & Anita Pesek	20.00
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SACRED HEART QUILTING CIRCLE**In memory of Olga Haas:**

Gilbert & Bea Butschek	10.00
Emmerlin Dworsky	10.00
Lawrence & Delores Grahmann	10.00
Kubena Funeral Home	20.00
Daniel & Dorothy Rother	10.00
Edna Bludau	10.00

In honor of Bea Heinzl's 80th Birthday:

Margaret Bludau	10.00
Charles & Dorothy Jansky	10.00
Ella Mae Bludau	10.00

CAROLYN DWORSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUND**In memory of Joe N. Steffek:**

Joe & Tammy Bludau	10.00
Ben & Nancy Dworsky	15.00
Leona Ziegler	10.00

In memory of Olga Haas:

Ben & Nancy Dworsky	10.00
Dennis & Lisa Dworsky	20.00
John & Doris Fenner	20.00
Johnny & Anna Havel	15.00
Chris Hermes	10.00
Emil & Joyce Hermes	10.00
Laurence & Carol Bludau	15.00

SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUND**In memory of Joe N. Steffek:**

Margaret Bludau	10.00
Bill & Margaret Bludau	15.00

In memory of Olga Haas:

Trey & Jennifer Kraatz	10.00
Robert & Leona Steffek	20.00
Robert & Barbara Grahmann	20.00
Charles & Dorothy Jansky	10.00
Arthur Etzler, Jr.	25.00
Claude & Monica Barnes	15.00
Ruth & John Barton	20.00
Isabel Belcik	10.00
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Belcik	20.00

SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND**In memory of Olga Haas:** Evelyn Haas 5.00

Growing in FAITH™

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September 2010

One Minute Meditations

Time to pray

Life can be so busy that it becomes impossible to find time to pray; we may have to make time to pray.

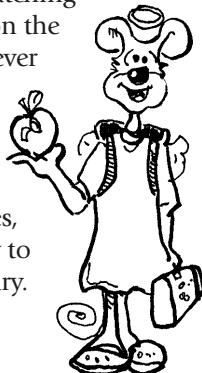
If we make time for God, he will help find the time we need for everything else.

Face forward

Continually reliving the past prevents us from looking ahead with hope. Follow St. Paul's example: *"Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus"* (Philippians 3:13-14).

Our Lady of Sorrows

On September 15th we commemorate Our Lady of Sorrows. The title refers to Simeon's prediction that Mary would experience sorrows as if *"... you yourself a sword will pierce"* (Luke 2:35). Her greatest sorrow may have been watching her son die on the Cross. If we ever want someone who understands our difficulties, we have only to pray to Mary.



Are you trying for perfection?

Society tells us that the only way to be truly happy is to have the perfect spouse, the perfect home, the perfect job, and the perfect body. Otherwise, happiness isn't possible. Consider this:

God's way leads to perfection. Adam and Eve were in

Paradise until society convinced them that by eating a piece of fruit, they could become perfect and be even happier. Had they listened to God instead, their lives would have stayed perfect.

Only God loves perfectly. Sometimes we fear that showing our failings to loved ones will lessen their love. The more perfect we become, the more they'll love us. Human love is unpredictable, but we can never lose or

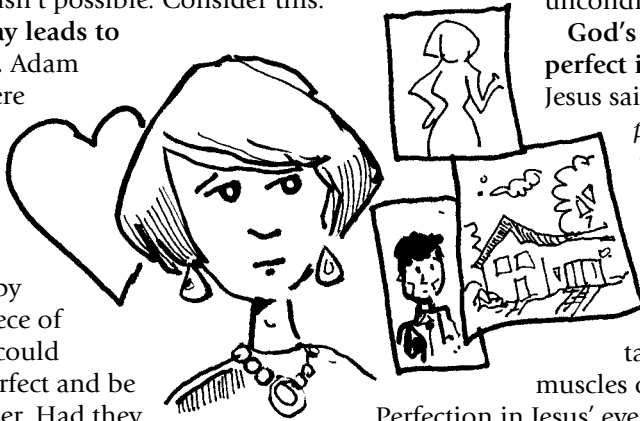
lessen God's love. He loves us as we are right now. In fact, Jesus created the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) to remind us of God's

unconditional love.

God's idea of perfect is possible.

Jesus said, *"... be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48), but he wasn't talking about muscles or homes.

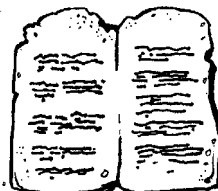
Perfection in Jesus' eyes means loving God with all our hearts, praying for our enemies, and taking care of the poor. To Jesus, love and service is the true measure of perfection and he wants us to let go of anything that gets in the way. That's the only "perfect" that is possible.



Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics follow the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments were originally given by God to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai after they left Egypt. The Commandments are moral laws God established to help his people live holy lives. They formed the basis of Jewish life and law, so Jesus



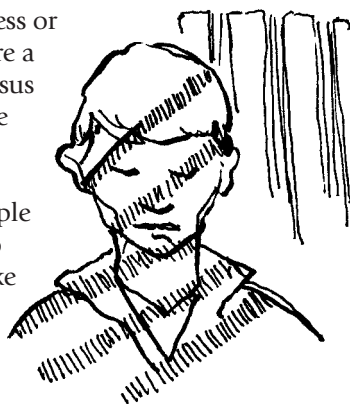
followed them, too.

Although God gave them to the Israelites, the Commandments are now the standards of holiness for Christians, too. Jesus summarized the spirit of the Commandments in Matthew 22:36-40 and encouraged us to follow them, too.

Visit the sick or imprisoned

People who are homebound due to an illness or disability and those who are imprisoned share a sense of isolation from their communities. Jesus knew of the suffering such isolation can cause and asked that we visit those who are sick or imprisoned.

Visit the sick. "I bring Communion to people who can't come to Church," said Rich. "I also bring a parish bulletin so they can still feel like they're part of the community. For some, I may be their only visitor that day." Look around your neighborhood or ask your



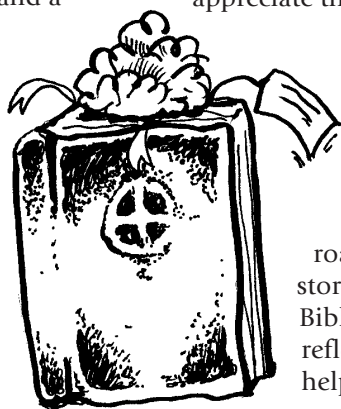
parish office for someone who is home-bound who might appreciate your attention.

Visit the imprisoned. "When my uncle spent time in prison, we visited him often and saw how much he appreciated staying connected," said Margie. Simple acts can make a big difference to someone behind bars. For example, donate Bibles or other Catholic reading materials. Or, collect used books and magazines from friends and neighbors and give them to prisoners. Drop off prayer cards or encouraging notes.

from Scripture

Luke 16:19-31, Don't ignore God's gift.

This is the story of a rich man who enjoyed his life on earth, and a beggar who suffered right outside his door. After death, their positions reversed and the rich man suffered torment. The rich man was not condemned because he was wealthy. His sin was ignoring his God-given responsibility to his neighbor. He knew what Scripture and the prophets told him of God's expectations for us, but he did not live his faith.



What a pity that we don't always appreciate the gift God has given us in the Scriptures. The key to happiness in this life and the next is contained in its pages. Taking God's word for granted can lead us down the same road as the rich man in the story. Instead, reading the Bible every day and reflecting on its messages help us learn what he has to say and how he wants us to live our lives. That will lead us to our heavenly home.

Q & A What's the proper way to show reverence before I receive Communion?

In days past, we approached the altar, knelt at the altar rail and received the host on our tongues. That was prescribed as a posture of reverence to show respect and adoration for the Body and Blood of our Lord.



Today, the bishops in the United States have decided that we should approach the altar and stand to receive Communion. When we approach, we are to bow our heads as a gesture of reverence before we receive the consecrated host from the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister.

Today we can receive the host either on the tongue or in the hand. To receive in the hand, we place one hand, palm up, on top of the other to form a "throne." We can also receive Holy Communion in the form of precious Blood. When Holy Communion is offered under both kinds we repeat the bow of our heads before receiving each one.

Genuflection is appropriate at other times. For example, we should genuflect before the tabernacle containing the reserved sacrament.

Feasts & Celebrations

Sept. 8 -- The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Tradition says Mary was born after her parents, Anna and Joachim, had been married more than twenty years without children. Mary's birth brought her parents joy. We are joyful, too, because Mary brings salvation to all of us through Jesus' birth.

Sept. 16 -- St. Cornelius (253). Despite a Roman decree outlawing a new pope, St. Cornelius was secretly elected and bravely led the Church during a difficult time. He modeled forgiveness, embracing people who renounced their faith under the

persecutions but sincerely repented afterward.

Sept. 21 -- St. Matthew. Also known as Levi, he was a notorious tax collector. St. Matthew left everything when Jesus called him to spread the Gospel. He wrote the Gospel According to Matthew.

Sept. 23 -- St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1968). Eight years after he became a Capuchin Friar, the five wounds of Our Lord's Passion (stigmata) appeared on his body. Despite intense personal and physical suffering, he remained dedicated to prayer.



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