

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 17, 2019

WORK

Jo Massey tells the following story with a smile, "The new busboy was just 16, and because it was his first job, we were all impressed with how well he had done on his first day. Which is why we were surprised the next day when he didn't show up for his shift. Then an hour late, he came running in, red-faced and breathless. "I'm sorry, I'm sorry," he said. "I forgot I had a job!" (Albany, Oregon OUR D. COM 10/19)

Sometimes we might wish that we could forget that we have a job. As Christian stewards, however, we recognize that our gifts, talents and even the time that God gives us to live is given for our life's work which is our mission – Opus Christi – to do Christ's work. Christ's work is to be love in action for others. This includes whatever human labor is entrusted to us. St. Paul is so outraged by those who seek only leisure and their rights instead of their responsibilities that he writes to the Thessalonians, "we worked in toil and drudgery, night and day...to present ourselves as a model for you... In fact, we instructed you that if anyone was unwilling to work, neither should that one eat!"

Our labor gives us purpose and the dignity of being co-creators with God. Our culture seems to suggest, at times, that we work in order to support our recreational and leisure activities. Our work on earth, however, has an eternal significance because God accounts for our every word and deed eternally. As Jesus said, "even a cup of water given in my name will be remembered forever." (MATT 10:42) God works through us and yet, as we heard in today's reading of the Gospel, work and life is not easy. We are challenged by our own weakness and at times from outside oppression. Yet, our focus remains clear. Our duty is to choose the next right or loving thing to do, praying for the strength to endure because we are empowered to, "do all things through Christ who gives us strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Geologist, paleontologist and theologian Teilhard de Chardin combined his work in science with his spiritual interpretation of our world and the cosmos. During his lifetime his theological works were silenced by Church authorities. His work was unappreciated. 50 years later Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis quoted him in their Papal Encyclicals. Like Teilhard de Chardin, we might under appreciate the value of our work at the time and even be misunderstood because of our work by the people around us. Yet, the true value and dignity and worth of our work is for God to evaluate alone. For example, in the International Jesuit Directory the work listed next to the retired Jesuits reads, "Praying for the community." Work is more than moving matter through time and space, work is any effort given in the name of Jesus Christ.

God is always working. In the story of creation, we read that God rested on the seventh day. This does not mean that God ever stops working on our behalf, rather it teaches us to balance work and rest. God's work is often misunderstood by us. We know that God is always working in us for our greatest good. This is difficult to see because God's work is often slow. Teilhard de Chardin wrote the following to a young student about trusting in the slow work of God which transforms us slowly into the image and likeness of Christ.

"Above all, trust in the slow work of God.

We are, quite naturally,
inpatient in everything to reach the end without delay...
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown,
something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
that it is made by passing through some stages of instability...
And that it may take a very long time.

And so, I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually;
let them grow, let them shape themselves,
without undue haste.
Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own goodwill)
will make you tomorrow.
Only God can say what this new Spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of your believing
that his hand is leading you,
and of your accepting the anxiety
of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Teilhard de Chardin

Reflection Questions

1. How are you accomplishing Christ's work? In the past? In the present?
2. What type of work might Christ be calling you to?
3. How do you see the slow work of God active in your life?
4. Who might you be love in action for through your work?
5. God rested on the seventh day. How are you balancing your life and work and rest? Discuss this with God in prayer and make a healthy choice for yourself and for the world.

Our work on earth has an eternal significance. God treasures our efforts and holds them in his heart forever.

The following is a reflective prayer by Donal Harrington and Julie Cavanaugh about work:

We thank you, Lord, for our enthusiasm to get things done and to achieve results. We thank you for the energy of our commitment.

But we ask you, Lord, to imbue our dedicated hearts with the spirit of patience and endurance that corresponds to the gradual way in which your reign is realized among us.

May this patient spirit save us from restlessness, agitation and frustration in our work and yielding us instead the peace of heart that frees us to see the fruits of your Spirit in our midst. We ask this through Jesus our Lord, who in the Power of the Spirit, lives and reigns at Your Right Hand for ever and ever. Amen.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY AT THANKSGIVING



Our parish has a long history of giving service through ministry especially in the area of feeding those in need at Thanksgiving. We will not be collecting food but rather taking free-will donations that will be converted into food gift certificate cards.

HOW THE THANKSGIVING FOOD DONATION WORKS

A free will donation envelope is available in the vestibule in the back of the church. The **Thanksgiving Food Donation envelope** can be returned next weekend, **November 23/24** and put in the collection basket. You may write your parish giving envelope number on the Thanksgiving Food Donation Envelope in order to have your gift added to your yearly contribution statement. Your contribution will be converted into food certificate gift cards. An added benefit is that for every \$100 donated, five dollars is given to us in return by the food store for our charitable works and therefore a gift of \$100 becomes an actual gift of \$105.

2019 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL "FOR I WAS HUNGRY..."

With the help of funding from the Bishop's Annual Appeal, Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests' retirement residence, has been a home over the years for a number of our priests. These priests reside there while also serving parishes by celebrating Mass. The Appeal also helps in providing financial support for the extraordinary healthcare needs of our priests. Your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal is a concrete way to recognize the wonderful pastoral work of those priests who have dedicated many years of faithful service to our Church. Please make a gift to the Annual Appeal today as a way of showing thanks. For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2019appeal.org.

ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE PREPARATORY

Grades 4 and 5 have been studying texture in art class. They have also studied contemporary artist Adele Renault and her huge murals of pigeons. The students recreated her pigeon paintings using oil pastels and some have emailed her about her work. Ms. Renault asked Miss Viggiano, the art teacher, to send her pictures of the finished artwork. Her website is adelerenault.com.

Grades 4 and 5 also finished up their study on place value by completing place value posters and presenting the information to their classmates.

Grade 5 has been hard at work writing their own legends in class.

The school colored and drew cards to honor our brave veterans for Veteran's Day. The cards were shared with the veterans that reside at the Veterans Hospital in Paramus, NJ. Thank you, Veterans. We salute you!



St. Philip HSA CRAFT FAIR will be held on **November 23** from 9 am to 4 pm. Please stop in to do some Christmas Shopping and buy some homemade baked goods made by the SPS Families. Hope to see you a there!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Class schedule: Sunday, November 17 – Grades 2, 7-10
Sunday, November 24 – Grades 1-6

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

LEGION OF MARY

Weekly meetings at 9:45 am on **Mondays** in the Molloy Center. For information call Veni Evangelista at 973-393-5120

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study meetings take place every **Monday** at 11 am in the Molloy Center Youth Room.

We begin the study of St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. It explains God's saving power of Jesus in our lives and the peace and love which our faith brings us.



WIDOW/WIDOWERS

Monday, November 18th at 6:00 pm in Cerullo Hall in the Molloy Center. This meeting was re-scheduled from November 11th. Come for prayer, socialization and meeting new friends.

COLUMBIETTE BLANKET MINISTRY

Next meeting will be **Thursday, November 21, 2019** at 9:45 am in the Molloy Center. For information or donations, call Cathie Murtha. (973-471-1265)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Upcoming November meeting will be held in *Marian Hall* on **Wednesday, November 20**. All meetings are held on the 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month.

SPOUSAL BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT & MINISTRY

Next meeting **Tuesday, November 26th** at 7:00 pm in the Russo Room. Please contact Erica Kunzig at 201-452-7972.



The Prime Timers Christmas party will be held on **Thursday, December 5** at the Valley Regency in Clifton. The cost is \$40. Payment is due by **November 22nd**. Payment can be brought to the Parish Office. Non-members are also welcome.

ROSARY SOCIETY

The next meeting of the Rosary Society is **Monday, December 2, 2019 in Marian Hall**. The meeting will begin with Mass and the Rosary at 6:30 pm.

The Rosary Society Christmas party is being held on **Sunday, December 8, 2019** at La Riviera in Clifton starting at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$45. Please call Cyndy at (973) 713-2765 by December 1, 2019 to reserve your place!

GOOD NEWS FOR PARENTS

Sessions for parents to hear about how we can help you in your life and in your role as a parent. Julia Gabriele, Family and Executive Coach, along with members of the Pastoral Staff to facilitate. **Sunday, November 17** at 9:00 am in the Russo Room immediately following the 8:00 am Mass.

Topic: **"Planning to enjoy the Christmas Season"**.

All are welcome!

Advent Prayer Opportunities

Christmas Pageant	December 8	9 am
Lessons and Carols	December 8	3 pm
Meditation Hour	December 12	7 pm
Christmas Concert	December 15	3 pm

SAVE THE DATE

SPECIAL EVENT CHRISTMAS CONCERT & RECEPTION

Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 3:00 pm

Featuring internationally acclaimed solo artist

Anthony Nunziata

Anthony will be singing Christmas classics along with some old standards and music from Broadway.

Please join us for some holiday fun!

PRAY FOR

THE NEWLY BAPTIZED:

Joseph Rocco Goscienski, child of Joseph and Jenna
George Rusty Sarno, child of Carmine and Kathy
Brian Patrick Ellerman, child of Brian and Jennifer

THE RECENTLY MARRIED:

Matthew Richard Denega and Katarzyna Anna Slezak

THE SICK: Rose Lucignani, Antony Fernandes, Victoria Spadofora, Michael Alban, Sr., Gary J. Arvary, Judy Post, Kyle Rodrigues, John Kassai, Fred VanDuyne, Patricia Giuditta, Roberto Domingo, Theresa Evans, Katie Gerber, Louis Paparella, Nerae Alfano, Mario DeSena, Maya Hilario, Jack Insinga, Kelly LoPresti

THE DECEASED: Kenneth Tahan, Myrtle McMahon

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BULLETIN DEADLINE

Please submit your bulletin information for the weekend of **December 1** no later than **Wednesday, November 20th**! Thank you.

PARISH GIVING

Sunday Collection: November 11, 2018	\$19,889.00
Sunday Collection: November 10, 2019	
Envelopes	\$13,166.00
Cash	\$ 1,201.00
Online giving donation	\$ 6,025.00
TOTAL	\$20,342.00
Second Collection: Project Faith	\$ 2,775.00

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MAL 3:19-20A; THES 3:7-12; LK 21:5-19

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

- 8:00** All the People of the Parish
10:00 Angelo Altieri
Tim Sullivan
Filomena (Phyllis) Malanga
Tom Trommelen
12:00 Bernard Pompeo – 18th Anniversary
Thomas Chidiac

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

- 7:00** Mary Roszkowski
9:00 A.M. Petaccio

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

- 7:00** Patricia Fitzgerald-Nash
9:00 Russ Corona

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

- 7:00** John Healy
9:00 Giovanna & Antonio Caradonna

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019

- 7:00** Elizabeth Borek
9:00 Donald & Frances MacGregor

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2019

- 7:00** Edna Reynolds
9:00 Tom Trommelen

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2019

- 9:00** Michael Edward Fleming
5:30 Patrick J. DiMartino
Jessie McCormack
Brian Barber

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2019

- 8:00** Domenick Pagano
Tom Trommelen
10:00 Joanne M. Koval – 5th Anniversary
Ralph Saam – 18th Anniversary
James & Genevieve Strangeway
Donato DiBenedetto
12:00 All the People of the Parish

The Sanctuary Candle: In Memory of
Deceased members of
The Jolly & Imperial Family

RIESTS' SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER 23 & 24, 2019

5:30 PM	Fr. Kevin	8:00 AM	Fr. Matt
10:00 AM	Fr. Joe	12:00 N	Fr. Joe