

Readings for the week of November 10, 2024

Sunday:

1 Kgs 17:10-16/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/
Heb 9:24-28/Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

Monday:

Ti 1:1-9/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday:

Ti 2:1-8, 11-14/Ps 37:3-4, 18 and 23, 27 and
29/Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday:

Ti 3:1-7/Ps 23:1b-3a, 3bc-4, 5, 6/Lk 17:11-
19

Thursday:

PhIm 7-20/Ps 146:7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Lk
17:20-25

Friday:

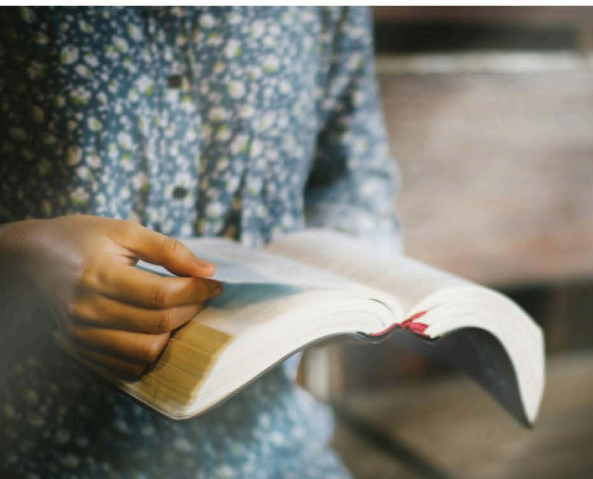
2 Jn 4-9/Ps 119:1, 2, 10, 11, 17, 18/
Lk 17:26-37

Saturday:

3 Jn 5-8/Ps 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 18:1-8

Next Sunday:

Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Heb 10:11-
14, 18/Mk 13:24-32



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Once at an evening Mass as a poor college student, the collection basket was fast approaching, and I only had a ten-dollar bill. I was planning on using that to buy my favorite Chipotle burrito that night for dinner. Should I keep the money? Who would know if I did? If I gave it away, what would I eat? Would I be okay? I kissed my future burrito goodbye, dropped the money in the basket, and winced. But strangely, the rest of the Mass I felt more engaged than usual. I had skin in the game. I left the Mass excited to see how God would take care of me. And he did, in amazing ways.

When the poor widow places two copper coins in the temple treasury, Jesus doesn't pity her. He praises her. He blesses her. He brags about her. He celebrates her as the temple's largest benefactor. Her giving is an act of radical, concrete trust in God. It is as if she is entering a new level of giving that excites Jesus, because she contributes not out of her abundance, but she gives **"everything she had."**

What a challenge this is to each one of us! How easy it is to ignore this! But imagine the eruption of the energy of faith, hope, and love that would be unlocked if our financial sacrifices to the Church actually tapped into daily bread and not only our disposable income. I challenge us to try this in some way this coming week and see what happens in our hearts. Even if it costs us a burrito.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Giving From Abundance

If you're like me, and you're far, far below the "having buildings named after you" tax bracket, you might just think that today's Gospel has nothing to do with you.

You might kick back and relax, thinking of all the poor, rich suckers sitting in the pews, shifting uncomfortably as Jesus praises the meager gift of the widow and disdains those who only give from abundance, those whose charity results in admiration and praise and all manner of temporal reward.

"In this economy, every gift I give is from my poverty," you might think to yourself with a chuckle.

But you — and let me be clear, I'm talking mostly to myself here — would be wrong. Because we all have an abundance of something, even if it isn't money.

What I've come to realize about myself is that I find plenty of ways to give only from my abundance. For instance, if I answer any request with the words, "Sure, I can, but..." chances are high that I'm about to work out a way to give, but only in a way that doesn't really impact me.

I'm willing to help. I just don't want to feel it.

But here's the thing about Jesus: he cares what's in our hearts as well as what's in our hands. A good deed, an act of charity? That's great! But what's the story behind it? Because a world full of moral actions and selfish hearts doesn't do anyone any good.

When we give from our poverty — our poverty of money, our poverty of time, our poverty of patience — we are giving the gift of the widow.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would such holy people think they had such serious sin?

Answer:

Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and better performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness, their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned in to the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls. We must guard against becoming desensitized to sin in our lives and unaware of the harm it causes us. A goal of any spiritual practice is to become more aware of our sinfulness so that we seek God's forgiving and healing love.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Elijah said to her, "Do not be afraid.
Go and do as you propose.
But first make me a little cake and bring it to me." (1 Kgs 17:13)

Psalm:

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)
Or: Alleluia.

Second Reading:

But now once for all he has appeared at the end of the ages
to take away sin by his sacrifice. (Heb 9:26)

Gospel:

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more
than all the other contributors to the treasury." (Mk 12:43)

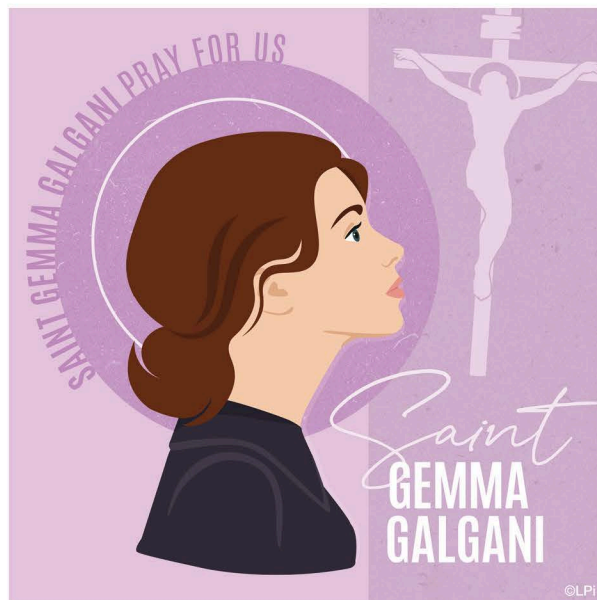
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Jesus praises the widow's bravery in offering all she has. He is calling us to be brave, challenging us to give even — especially — when it hurts. Then, our gifts become more than just good deeds. They become acts of radical trust in God.

Observances for the week of November 10, 2024

- Sunday:** 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day
Tuesday: St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Wednesday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
Friday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin
Next Sunday: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Gemma Galgani (1878-1903) was an Italian layperson who lived an intense prayer life. She experienced ecstasies, was reported to levitate, and received the grace of the holy stigmata. She is called the "Daughter of the Passion" because of her deep union with Christ's Passion.

Prayer of Generosity

Oh God, whose generosity cannot be outgiven, mold my heart to mimic Yours.
Teach me what it means to be giving, knowing that whatever I have is a gift, from Your abundance. Blessed be Your name.
Amen.

Many rich people put in large sums. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood." - Mk 12:41c, 43-44

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

We hear how the Lord spared the widow and her son from starvation and death in the days of the prophet Elijah. How do you think society can best help those on the margins who are really struggling?

Second Reading:

Hebrews teaches us that Jesus' death took away the sins of many and that at his Second Coming, Jesus will bring eternal salvation to all believers. When do you imagine Jesus will return?

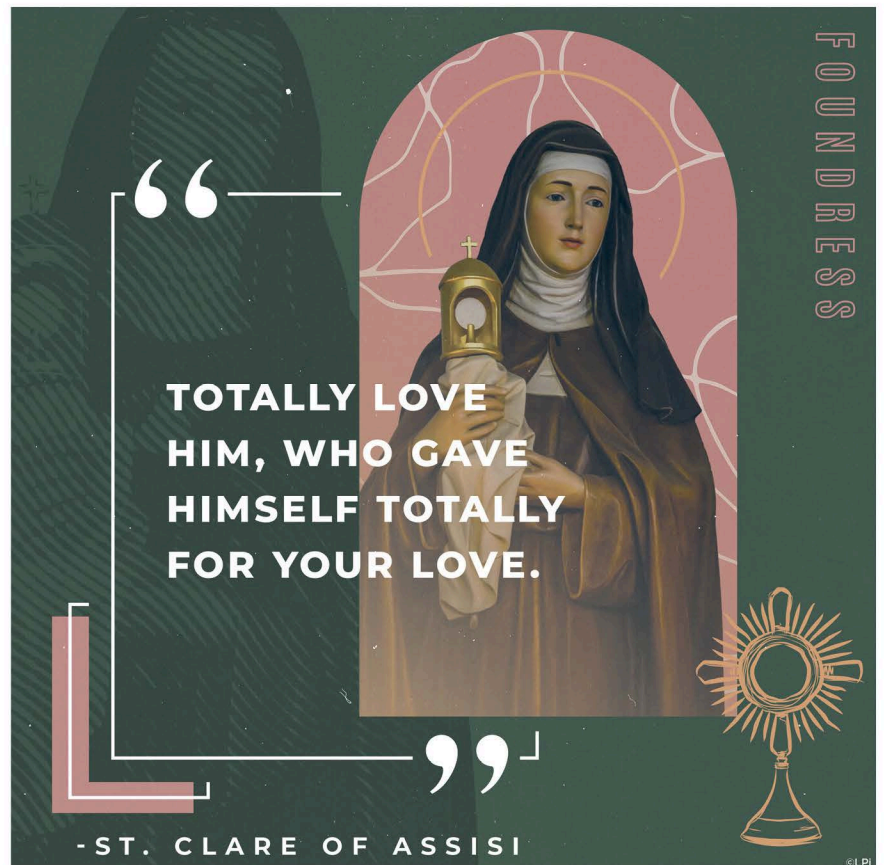
Gospel:

Jesus praises the widow who gives to the poor despite her own poverty. Do you have family or friends who likewise selflessly give to others?



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PRAISE THE LORD!

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A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, "Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury."
- Mk 12:42-43

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