

## Readings for the week of November 5, 2023

### Sunday:

Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/  
1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12

### Monday:

Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/  
Lk 14:12-14

### Tuesday:

Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/  
Lk 14:15-24

### Wednesday:

Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/  
Lk 14:25-33

### Thursday:

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/  
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

### Friday:

Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/  
Lk 16:1-8

### Saturday:

Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5,  
10-11/Lk 16:9-15

### Next Sunday:

Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (2b)/  
1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Last Easter season a new convert to Catholicism at my parish asked me with a grave tone in her voice: “Why do we call priests ‘father’ if Jesus says, **‘Call no man on earth your father, for you have one Father, who is in heaven?’**” Thinking myself clever, I asked, “Do you think it’s okay to call someone your ‘teacher’ or ‘mister’ or ‘dad’?” She said, “Yes, I do.” I responded, “Well, Jesus seems to forbid that, too. So, it’s obviously hyperbole that he’s using.” She thought for a moment and declared, “Then I will stop using those words, too!” And she walked away. Not the outcome I was seeking.

We shouldn’t be too hasty in dismissing this complaint voiced by many non-Catholics. The expression “father” for ordained priests is not honorary for the individual man. The priest’s fatherhood doesn’t begin or end in him at all. Rather, the title “father” indicates that he is a sacramental sign of God’s Fatherhood revealed in Jesus. I can tell you, as a very unworthy bearer of that title, we should give and receive that title with some trepidation (because of God’s awesomeness) and with a little sense of humor (because of the lowliness of the men with the title).

The longer I’m a priest, the more I’m comfortable with people not using the title “father” and just calling me “John.” After all, only God is Father in the truest sense. At the same time, Jesus has brought the Father close to us, very close. We honor this closeness in some men with the title “father.” Who are the priests in your life whom Christ has sent to you? How wonderful that Christ has surrounded us with humble signs of his Father’s love. It’s good to celebrate that love with gratitude for the priests in our lives. — *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### A Heavy Burden, Hard to Carry

“Mommy, you haven’t been making any sacrifices.”

My daughter was peering through the little opening in the plastic cover of the “sacrifice jar” we made for Lent this year. The repurposed oatmeal container, jazzed up with glitter glue and pictures of St. Therese of Lisieux, was more than half-filled with little slips of paper bearing descriptions of the various sacrifices family members had made for one another.

But she was right: every piece of paper bore the childlike scrawl of herself and her brother. I had not added anything to the sacrifice jar.

“If I wrote down every sacrifice I made for you in just a single day, the jar would explode,” I retorted, and even though my daughter giggled, I instantly regretted the comment, sighing as I realized I did it again. I let a snide, self-pitying thought form on my lips and make its way into the world because for a brief moment I thought someone didn’t appreciate my (imagine me sniffing injuredly here) *hard work*.

We sneer at the scribes and the Pharisees as Jesus describes them in the Gospel, lengthening their phylacteries and coveting the places of honor. But then I remember: nobody starts out *meaning* to be a jerk.

We want to do good things. We try to be holy. But it’s hard, that burden weighs heavy on our back.

So, we murmur about it here and there. We stop to catch our breath. We glimpse other people looking at our burden with approval and admiration, and we breathe a little harder, groan a little deeper. And somewhere along the way the burden becomes an idol and our labor a performance. We dare not ask for help bearing it, for we prize too greatly the sweat of our own brow.

*“The greatest among you must be your servant.”*  
— Matthew 23:11

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don’t all sacraments affect the soul?

### Answer:

All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God’s life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God’s Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an ‘alter Christus,’ another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

You have turned aside from the way,  
and have caused many to falter by your instruction.  
(Mal 2:8)

### Psalm:

In you, Lord, I have found my peace. (Ps 131)

### Second Reading:

With such affection for you, we were determined to  
share with you  
not only the gospel of God, but our very selves as  
well,  
so dearly beloved had you become to us. (1Thes 2:8)

### Gospel:

"Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they  
tell you,  
but do not follow their example.  
For they preach but they do not practice." (Mt 23:3)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Christ turns the way of the world upside down:  
the great become the small and the honored  
ones become humble. Be small, and you will feel  
his greatness. Be humble, and you will know the  
honor of Heaven.

## Observances for the week of November 5, 2023

- Sunday:** 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Daylight Saving Time Ends; National Vocation Awareness Week
- Tuesday:** Election Day
- Thursday:** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- Friday:** St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday:** St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day
- Next Sunday:** 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

Venerable Mother Henriette DeLille was a woman of faith, perseverance, and service who dedicated her life to the people of New Orleans. Her courage, compassion, and dedication to the oppressed was a shining example of what it means to live a life of service and love.

## Prayer

O good and gracious God, You called Henriette Delille to give herself in service and in love to the slaves and the sick, to the orphan and the aged, to the forgotten and the despised.

Grant that inspired by her life, we might be renewed in heart and in mind. If it be Your will may she one day be raised to the honor of sainthood. By her prayers, may we live in harmony and peace, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

*(Prayer Source: <https://www.henriette-delille.com/beatification-prayer>)*

Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples, saying, “The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses. Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice.” - Mt 23:1-3

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The prophet Malachi informs the priests of Israel that God is aware that their instruction has caused many to stumble in their faith. Have you ever had to help someone who has lost their faith?

### Second Reading

Paul expresses his gratitude to the Thessalonians for their openness to hear and believe the word of God taught by them. Who in your life might be open to hearing the word of God from you?

### Gospel Reading

Jesus challenged the crowds and his disciples to be as servants to each other, acting always in humility. How might you be a servant to someone at work or at home?



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MISSIONARY

“EVERYTHING IS GAINED THROUGH HUMILITY.”

- ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

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IN YOU, LORD,  
I HAVE FOUND

*Peace.*

PSALM 131



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“As for you, do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant.” - Mt 23:8-11

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