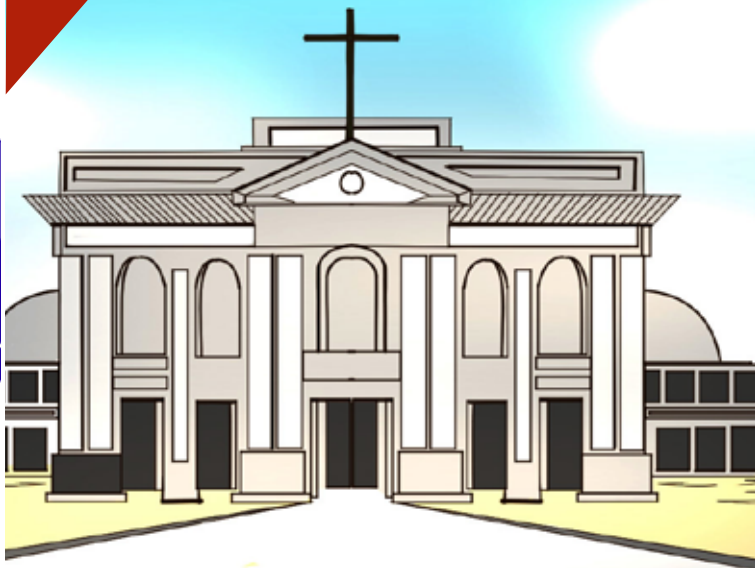


Weekly LWCA

32nd Week in O. T.

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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: The illustration on our cover refers to the feast of the Lateran Basilica (November 9)

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Editorial

November 2022



Rev. Fr. François Nzanzu, a.a. Nairobi-Kenya

The Church in Heaven and on Earth United

Every year on November 1st, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints. In this solemn celebration, the whole church, both in heaven and on the earth, is united. All of us are called to share in the holiness of God and to live holy lives on earth.

In the same month, the Church celebrates two other major Solemnities: the Solemnity of All Souls and Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the end of the liturgical year whereby the cycle of the Church's liturgical celebrations culminates in the beginning of the new liturgical year. The Solemnity of Christ the King is celebrated on the final Sunday of Ordinary Time. It is also the final Sunday of the liturgical year, the last Sunday before the First Sunday of Advent. This year, the Solemnity of Christ the King will be celebrated on November 20th. Sunday, November 27th will be the first Sunday of Advent and the beginning of the Liturgical Year A.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For children who suffer: We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Other papal intentions and videos can be found on: <http://apostleshipofprayer.org/>

The Sacrament Of Penance

The sacrament of penance is also called sacrament of reconciliation. It was instituted by Jesus Christ. After his resurrection, he appeared to his disciples and gave them the power to remit sins as written in John 20, 23: «If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven».

The sacrament of penance is one of the two sacraments of healing. Sin is a spiritual illness. Sin breaks two fundamental relationships: the relationship between God and the sinner; the relationship between the Church and the sinner. After confession, many people experience inner peace because they can definitely feel the relationship between them and God and they can participate fully in the Eucharist. Therefore, the sacrament of penance heals the penitent bringing them from darkness to Light.

The minister of the sacrament of reconciliation is the priest or the bishop. A deacon or any other minister

Focus on the Sacraments

cannot hear confessions because they are not ordained to the priesthood. It is important to say that the penitent does not confess his sins to the priest, but to God represented by the priest. He is an instrument that God uses to convey his mercy to humankind. God is full of mercy and compassion for his children. He is ready to forgive them whenever they ask for forgiveness.

At the end of the sacrament of confession, the minister (*priest or bishop*) proposes a penance to the penitent. Penance is not punishment meant to humiliate the penitent. It is rather a prayer that the penitent recites to thank the Lord for his mercy and to ask for his grace. It can also be a work of mercy that the penitent is asked to perform during a certain period of time. The minister must be welcoming. His role is not to embarrass but to give hope by showing God's love to the penitent.

The sacrament of Penance is not to be confused with spiritual direction. A spiritual director helps a person or a couple or a family to grow in their human, Christian or religious life. But the sacrament of Penance has to do with the confession of sins. Nevertheless, spiritual direction can lead to confession and confession may lead

to spiritual direction. The sacrament requires human presence. One cannot confess their sins on phone or through social media.

According to the canon Law (can. 989), after having reached the age of discretion, each member of the faithful is obliged to confess faithfully their grave sins at least once a year. The matter of the sacrament of penance is contrition, confession, desire to amend life, and making of reparation by doing what the minister gives as penance. The form is made up of the following words pronounced by the minister: "...N, I absolve you of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit".

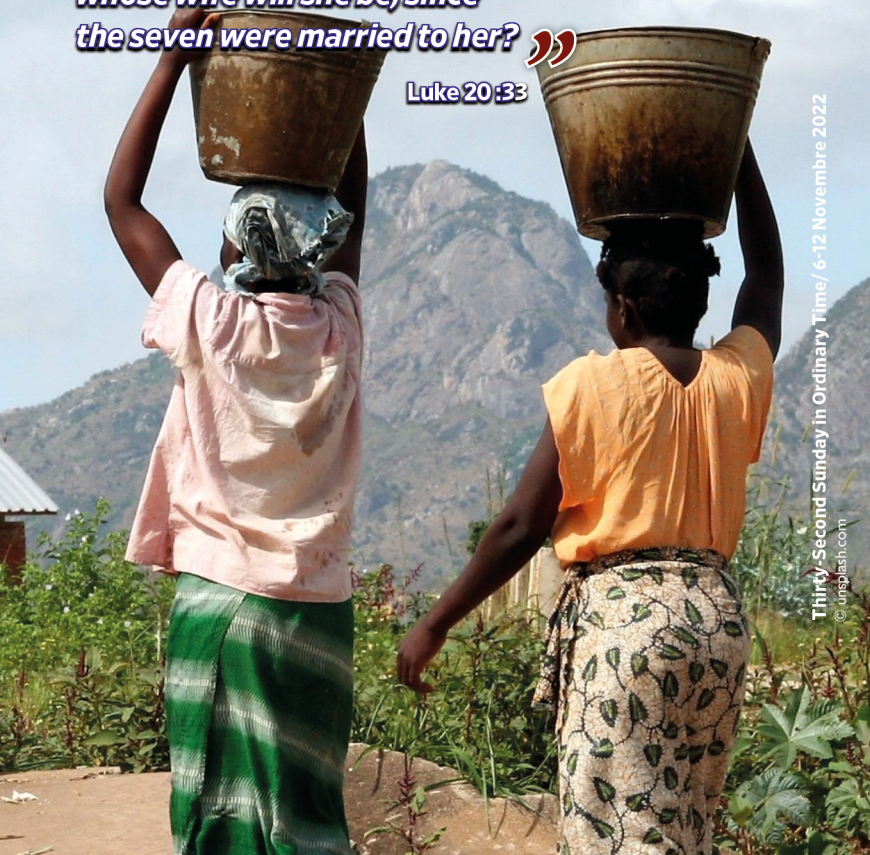
In a general way, the sacrament of penance takes place in the confessional, a kind of box where the priest hears the confessions of the penitent. It can be administered elsewhere provided the place is fitting.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Rome-Italy

Image & Verse of the Week

**“Now then, at the resurrection
whose wife will she be, since
the seven were married to her?”**

Luke 20:33





Sunday November 6

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Maccabees 7:1-2.9-14 / Psalm (16) 17:1.5-6.8.15 /
2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5 / Luke 20:27-38



“Those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection.... neithercannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels.” Luke 20:36



Sunday November 6

Life After Death

Faith, hope, and love are the theological virtues that help us to love God above all, believe in Him, and look forward to what He has in store for us at the end of our present life. The seven brothers in the first reading believed, hoped, and loved God, thus, were able to face the challenge to die for Christ. They courageously faced persecution and were not afraid of death because they hoped and were convinced of the joys that await them in God's kingdom. Some people are called to red martyrdom – to die by shedding their blood for Christ. We all may not be called to give up our lives this way, but we are all called to white martyrdom – to die to self and live for Christ. That is what it means to be a Christian. Jesus enjoins us to carry our cross and follow him and to remember that anyone who saves his/her life will lose and whoever loses his/her life for His sake will save it. We die through many sufferings and difficulties we encounter in life but in all situations, we must remain steadfast trusting in the God who will never abandon us but will surely reward our efforts.



The Gospel also presents us with seven brothers who married the same woman, one after another's death, leaving no children. The woman finally died. The question was: "Whose wife would she be at the resurrection? Jesus patiently responds to the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, that the woman would be wife to none of the seven brothers. This implies that in heaven, there will be no marriage and relationships but there will be love. Love, which conquers all things. Jesus emphasized that life after death is different from our present life. At death, life is changed not ended, therefore, in the resurrected state, we would become new creations sharing in God's divine life - new intimacies and joys will replace those of our present life. May Christ give us the grace to live our lives in a way that we may enjoy the life after in happiness.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Sunday November 6

Entrance Antiphon (*Psalm (87) 88:3*)

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Grant this through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*2 Maccabees 7:1-2.9-14*)

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

In those days: It happened that seven brothers and their mother were arrested and were being compelled by the king, under torture with whips and cords, to partake of unlawful swine's flesh. One of them, acting as their spokesman, said, "What do you intend to ask and learn from us? For we are ready to die rather than transgress the laws of our fathers." And when [the second] was at his last breath, he said, "You accursed wretch, you dismiss us from this present life, but the King of the universe will raise us up to an everlasting renewal of life, because we have died for his laws." After him, the third was the victim of their sport. When it was demanded, he quickly put out his tongue and courageously



stretched forth his hands, and said nobly, “I got these from Heaven, and because of his laws I disdain them, and from him, I hope to get them back again”. As a result, the king himself and those with him were astonished at the young man’s spirit, for he regarded his sufferings as nothing. When he too had died, they maltreated and tortured the fourth in the same way. And when he was near death, he said, “One cannot but choose to die at the hands of men and to cherish the hope that God gives of being raised again by him. But for you, there will be no resurrection to life!”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm ⁽¹⁶⁾ 17:1.5-6.8 and 15) —

I shall be sat - is - fied, Lord,
when I a - wake and be - hold your like-ness.

R. When I awake, O Lord, I shall be filled with the vision of your presence.



Sunday November 6

O Lord, hear a cause that is just,
pay heed to my cry.

Turn your ear to my prayer:
no deceit is on my lips. *R.*

I kept my steps firmly in your paths.

My feet have never faltered.

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God.

Turn your ear to me; hear my words. *R.*

Guard me as the apple of your eye.

Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face;

when I awake, I shall be filled with the vision

of your presence. *R.*

Second Reading (2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5) —————

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the
Thessalonians**

Brethren: May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your heart and establish them in every good work and word. Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may



speed on and triumph, as it did among you, and that we may be delivered from wicked and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord about you, that you are doing and will do the things which we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation (*Revelation 1:5a.6b*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the first-born of the dead; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (*Luke 20:27-38*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: There came to Jesus some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, having a wife but no children, the man must take the wife and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first took a wife, and died without children; and the second and the third took her, and likewise all seven left no children



Sunday November 6

and died. Afterward, the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had her as wife.” And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Or shorter: (*Luke 20:27-28a.34-38*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: There came to Jesus some Sadducees, those who say that there is no resurrection, and they asked him a question. And Jesus said to them, “The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are



given in marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection. But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living; for all live to him.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, hear us!**

For good and compassionate leaders in Africa and in other parts of the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.

For good witnesses of the word of God in Africa and all over the world; for fruitful apostolates and pastoral works, let us pray to the Lord our God. ℟.



Sunday November 6

For the end of terrorism and for those threatened and killed for their faith, let us cry out to the Lord our God. *R.*

For peace, mercy, security and the end of coronavirus pandemic in the world, let us pray to the Lord our God. *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Psalm (22) 23:1-2*)

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Or

(Cf. Lk 24:35)

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of bread.



Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday November 7

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (87) 88 :3) **Let my prayer come into your presence.**

Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, and that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Titus 1:1-9)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to father the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth which accords with godliness, in hope of eternal life with God, who never lies, promised ages ago and at the proper time manifested in his word through the preaching with which I have been entrusted by command of God our Saviour ; to Titus, my true child in a common faith : Grace

and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour. This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you, if any man is blameless, the husband of one wife, and his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery and not being insubordinate. For a bishop, as God's steward, must be blameless, he must not be arrogant, quick temper or a drunkard, or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of goodness, master of himself, upright, holy, and self-controlled ; he must hold firm to the sure word as taught, so that

he may be able both to give instruction in sound doctrine and to confute those who contradict it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm——
(Psalm (23) 24)

R. These are the people who seek your face.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness, the world, and all who dwell in it. It is he who set it on the seas; on the rivers, he made it firm. R.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord? Who shall stand in his holy place? "The clean of hands and pure of heart, whose

soul is not set on vain things. R.

Blessings from the Lord, shall he receive, and right reward from the God who saves him. Such are the people who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.” R.

Acclamation

(Philippians 2:15d.16a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. You will shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____

(Luke 17:1-6)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time : Jesus said to his disciples, “Temptations

to sin are sure to come ; but woe to him by whom they come ! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung round his neck and he were cast into the sea, than he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Take heed to yourselves ! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him ; and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times ; and says, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him”, The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith !” and the Lord said, “if you had faith as a grain of mustard seed ; you could say to this sycamore tree, ‘Be rooted up and be’ planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray,
O Lord, upon the sacrificial
gifts offered here, that,
celebrating in mystery the
Passion of your Son, we
may honour it with loving
devotion. Trough Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Psalm 23: 1-2) **The Lord
is my Shepherd ; there**

**is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the
pastures where he gives
me repose, near restful
waters he leads me.**

Or (Luke 24:35)

**The disciples recognised
the Lord Jesus in breaking
of the bread.**

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred
gift, O Lord, we give you
thanks and beseech your
mercy, that, by the pouring

forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Caution, Forgiveness and Faith

Commentary

Titus 1:1-9. Luke 17:1-6

Today's Gospel highlights three important points: first, to be cautious not to be obstacles for others in their journey towards God. Thus, we should not be sources of scandal or lead others to sin. Second, Jesus emphasized the essence of forgiveness. He enjoined us to forgive as many times as we are offended. Therefore, there is no limit to forgiveness. Third, faith is ennobled as the gift that will enable us to obtain everything we request from God while depending on Him.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Tuesday November 8

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Psalm (87) 88:3) **Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.**

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, and that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Titus 2:1-8.11-14)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Titus

Beloved: Teach what befits sound doctrine. Bid the older men be temperate, serious, sensible, sound in faith, in love, and steadfastness. Bid the older women likewise to be reverent in behaviour, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, chaste, domestic, kind and submissive to their husbands, that the word of

God may not be discredited. Likewise, urge the younger men to control themselves. Show yourself in all respects a model of good deeds, and in your teaching show integrity, gravity and sound speech that cannot be censured, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say of us. For the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (36) 37:3-4.18
and 23.27 and 29)***

**R. From the Lord comes the
salvation of the just.**

Trust in the Lord and do good, then you will dwell in the land and safely pasture. Find your delight in the Lord, who grants your heart's desire. R.

The Lord takes note of the days of the blameless; their heritage will last forever. By the Lord are the steps made firm of one in whose path He delights. R.

Then turn away from the evil and do good, and you may abide forever. The just

shall inherit the land; there they shall abide forever. R.

Acclamation (*John 14:23*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. If a man loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord; and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(*Luke 17:7-10*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said, "Will any one of you, who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep, say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down at table'? Will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, and put on your apron and serve me, till I eat

and drink; afterward you shall eat and drink? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that is commanded you, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Psalm 23: 1-2*) **The Lord is my Shepherd ; there**

is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Or (Luke 24:35)

The disciples recognised the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Give God the Glory

Commentary

Titus 2:1-8, 11-14

Luke 17:7-10

Jesus in the Gospel cautions us not to pride our efforts in whatever we do, rather consider ourselves as servants in God's vineyard who have done what the Master expects of us. Another aspect is that we should not consider our efforts and hard work as only what brings us success but remember that God is the one who crowns our efforts and endeavours with success. Therefore, we should depend solely on God who strengthens us and give Him all the glory for whatever success and achievements He grants us.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Wednesday November 9

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Feast

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Rev 21:2) I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Collect

O God, who from living and chosen stones prepare an eternal dwelling for your majesty, increase in your Church the spirit of grace you have bestowed, so that by new growth your faithful people may build

up the heavenly Jerusalem. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading ————— *(Ezekiel 47:1-2.8-9.12)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

In those days: The angel brought me back to the door of the temple; and behold, water was issuing from below the threshold of the temple towards the east (for the temple faced east);

and the water was flowing down from below the right side of the threshold of the temple, south of the altar. Then he brought me out by way of the north gate and led me around on the outside to the outer gate, that faces towards the east; and the water was coming out on the right side. And he said to me, "This water flows towards the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah; and when it enters the stagnant waters of the sea, the water will become fresh. And wherever the river goes, every living creature which swarms will live, and there will be very many fish; for this water goes there, that the waters of the sea may become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes. "And

on the banks, on both sides of the river, there will grow all kinds of trees for food. Their leaves will not wither nor their fruit fail, but they will bear fresh fruit every month, because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food and their leaves for healing."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (45) 46:2-3.5-6.8-9)***

R. The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the dwelling of the Most High.

God is for us a refuge and strength, an ever-present help in time of distress: so we shall not fear though the

earth should rock, though the mountains quake to the heart of the sea. *R.*

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the dwelling of the Most High. God is within, it cannot be shaken; God will help it at the dawning of the day. *R.*

The Lord of hosts is with us: the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come and behold the works of the Lord, the awesome deeds he has done on the earth. *R.*

Second Reading ———
(1 Corinthians 3:9c-11.16-17)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: You are God's building. According to the

commission of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Acclamation

(2 Chronicles 7:16)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the Lord, that

my name may be there for ever. **Alleluia.**

Gospel _____
(John 2:13-22)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple, he found those who were selling oxen, sheep, and pigeons, and the money-changers at their business. And making a whip of cords, he drove them all, with the sheep and oxen, out of the temple; and he poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables. And he told those who sold the pigeons “Take these things

away; you shall not make my Father’s house a house of trade.” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign have you to show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days, I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he spoke of the temple of his body. When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, we pray, O Lord, the offering made here, and grant that by it those who seek your favour may receive in this place the power of the Sacraments and the answer to their prayers.

Through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(1 Pt 2:5) **Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priest-hood.**

Prayer after Communion

O God, who chose to foreshadow for us the heavenly

Jerusalem through the sign of your Church on earth, grant, we pray, that, by our partaking of this Sacrament, we may be made the temple of your grace and may enter the dwelling place of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We are God's Temple

Commentary

**Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9,12 //
John 2: 13-22**

Today we celebrate the dedication of the Lateran Basilica. It is the Cathedral Church of the Diocese of Rome and serves as the seat of the Bishop of Rome. It is the oldest public church in the city of Rome and the oldest basilica in the Western world. The church is the temple of God and a place of worship. Jesus in the Gospel frowned at the desecration of the temple, which he linked to another temple, that of His body. He further reminds us that our bodies are the temple of God and should always be kept holy and without sin.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Thursday November 10

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Leo the Great, pope and doctor of the Church

Entrance Antiphon

(Sirach 45:30) **The Lord established for him a covenant of peace, and made him the prince, that he might have the dignity of the priesthood forever.**

Collect

O God, who never allow the gates of hell to prevail against your Church, firmly founded on the apostolic rock, grant her, we pray, that through the intercession of Pope Saint Leo, she may stand firm

in your truth, and know the protection of lasting peace. Through Christ Our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(Philemon 7-20)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to Philemon

Beloved: I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Accordingly, though I am bold enough

in Christ to command you to do what is required, yet for love's sake I prefer to appeal to you – I, Paul, an ambassador and now a prisoner also for Christ Jesus — I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become in my imprisonment. (Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me.) I am sending him back to you, sending my very heart. I would have been glad to keep him with me, in order that he might serve me on your behalf during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your goodness might not be by compulsion but of your

own free will. Perhaps this is why he was parted from you for a while, that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, as a beloved brother, especially to me how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. So, if you consider me your partner, receive him as you would receive me. If he has wronged you at all, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, write this with my own hand, I will repay it – to say nothing of your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, I want some benefit from you in the Lord. Refresh my heart in Christ.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (145) 146:6c-7.8-9bc-10)

R. Blessed is he who is helped by Jacob's God.

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity forever, who does justice to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord who protects the stranger. **R.**

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow, but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign

forever, the God of Sion from age to age. **R.**

Acclamation (*John 15:5*)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the vine; you are the branches says the Lord. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —
(Luke 17:20-25)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, Jesus answered them, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Behold, here it is!' or 'There!' for behold, the kingdom of God is in

your midst.” And he said to the disciples, “The days are coming when you will desire to see one of the days of the Son of man, and you will not see it. And they will say to you, ‘Behold, there!’ or ‘Behold, here!’ Do not go, do not follow them. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of man be in his day. But first, he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Through the offerings made here, we pray, O

Lord, graciously shed light on your Church, so that your flock may everywhere prosper and that, under your governance, the shepherds may become pleasing to your name. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Matthew 16:16.18) **Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus replied: You are Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my Church.**

Prayer after Communion

Be pleased, O Lord, we pray, to govern the Church you have nourished by this

holy meal, so that, firmly directed, she may enjoy ever greater freedom and

preserve the integrity of religion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Love and Live the Kingdom

Commentary

Luke 17: 20-25

As a child in the faith, I conceived the kingdom of God as a place, specifically heaven. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that the kingdom of God is the reign of God in our lives. He puts it thus, "the kingdom of God is in your midst." Therefore, we foster the kingdom of God when we live good lives and do what God commands of us. The summary of His command is love. Love forgives, cares, shares, appreciates, understands, sacrifices, and serves. As we do all these, the kingdom of God is in our midst.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Friday November 11

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Martin of Tours, bishop

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. 1 Samuel 2 :35) **I shall raise for myself a faithful priest who will act in accord with my heart and my mind, says the Lord.**

Collect

O God, who are glorified in the Bishop Saint Martin, both by his life and death, make new, we pray, the wonders of your grace in our hearts, that neither death nor life may separate us from your love. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(2 John 4-9)

A reading from the second Letter of Saint John

I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children following the truth, just as we have been commanded by the Father. And now I beg you, lady, not as though I were writing you a new commandment, but the one we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we follow his



commandments; this is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you follow love. For many deceivers have gone out into the world, men who will not acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ in the flesh; such a one is the deceiver and the antichrist. Look to yourselves, that you may not lose what you have worked for, but may win a full reward. Anyone who goes ahead and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God; he who abides in the doctrine has both the Father and the Son.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (118) 119:1.2.10.11
.17.18)

R. Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord.

Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord! R.

Blessed are those who keep his decrees! With all their hearts they seek him. R.

I have sought you with all my hearts; let me not stray from your commands. R.

I treasure your word in my heart, lest I sin against you. R.

Deal bountifully with your servant, that I may live and keep your word. R.

Open my eyes, that I may see the wonders of your law. R.

Acclamation

(Luke 21:28)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Look up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Luke 17:26-37)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, “As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise, as it was in the days of Lot— they ate, they drank, they bought,

they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and brimstone rained from heaven and destroyed them all— so will it be on the day when the Son of man is revealed. On that day, let him who is on the housetop, with his goods in the house, not come down to take them away; and likewise let him who is in the field not turn back. Remember Lot’s wife. Whoever seeks to gain his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life will preserve it. I tell you, in that night there will be two men in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding together; one will be taken and the other left.” And they said

to him, “Where, Lord?” He said to them, “Where the body is, there the eagles will be gathered together.”

The Gospel of Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Sanctify these offerings, we pray, Lord God, which we joyfully present in honour of Saint Martin, so that through them our life may always be directed

whether in tribulation or in prosperity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Matthew 25 :40) **Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

Grant to us who have been restored by this Sacrament

of unity, O Lord, perfect harmony in all things with your will, that, just as Saint Martin submitted himself

entirely to you, so we, too, may glory in being truly yours. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Winning by Losing

Commentary

Luke 17:26-37

In today's Gospel, Jesus makes a contradictory point, "anyone who tries to preserve his life will lose it, and anyone who loses it will keep it safe." Jesus opens our minds to consider two things – the value of our earthly existence versus that of our eternal existence and salvation. In life, we face persecution and suffering of different kinds. We are enjoined to courageously bear these difficulties, even if they cost us our life, in order to gain eternal life with Christ. Thus, we win by losing.

Rev. Sr. Mary Clare, Abuja-Nigeria



Saturday November 12

32nd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Josaphat, bishop and martyr

Entrance Antiphon

Because of the Lord's covenant and the ancestral laws, the Saints of God persevered in loving brotherhood, for there was always one spirit in them, and one faith.

Collect

Stir up in your Church, we pray, O Lord, the Spirit that filled Saint Josaphat as he laid down his life for the sheep, so that through his intercession we, too, may be strengthened by

the same Spirit and not be afraid to lay down our lives for others. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading ————— **(3 John 5-8)**

A reading from the third Letter of Saint John

Beloved (Gaius), it is a loyal thing you do when you render any service to the brethren, especially to strangers, who have testified to your love before the Church. You will do well to

send them on their journey as befits God's service. For they have set out for his sake and have accepted nothing from the heathen. So we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers in the truth. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (111) 112:1b-2.3-4.5-6)

R. Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

Or: Alleluia

Blessed the man who fears the Lord, who takes great delight in his commandments. His descendants shall be powerful on earth; the

generation of the upright will be blest. **R.**

Riches and wealth are in his house; his justice stands firm forever. A light rises in the darkness for the upright; he is generous, merciful, and just. **R.**

It goes well for the man who deals generously and lends, who conducts his affairs with justice. He will never be moved; forever shall the just be remembered. **R.**

Acclamation
(2 Thessalonians 2:14)

Alleluia. Alleluia. God has called us through the Gospel, to obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia.



Gospel ————— **(Luke 18:1-8)**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable, to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor regarded man; and there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying ‘Vindicate me against my adversary.’ “For a while he refused; but afterward he said to himself, ‘Though I neither fear God nor regard man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will vindicate her, or she will wear me out by her continual coming.’” And the Lord said, “Hear what the unrighteous judge

says. And will not God vindicate his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will vindicate them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of man comes, will he find faith on earth?”
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

Most merciful God, pour out your blessing upon these offerings and confirm us in the faith that Saint Josaphat professed by the shedding of his blood. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Matthew 10:39) **Whoever loses his life for my sake, will find it in eternity, says the Lord.**

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly table, O Lord, bestow on us a spirit of fortitude and peace, so that, following Saint Josaphat's

example, we may willingly spend our lives working for the honour and unity of the Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Commentary

Persistence in Prayer

Luke 18:1-8

The judge in the Gospel pericope is presented as having neither fear of God nor respect for man, but had to grant the request of the widow because of her persistence. If this judge could grant the widow's request in order to spare himself of being worried to death, how much more would God, our loving Father grant our requests when we ask. We are presented with the necessity to pray without ceasing. Persistence in prayer is the key to God's loving and merciful heart.

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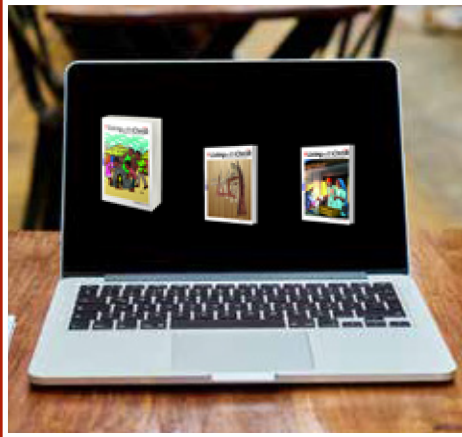
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