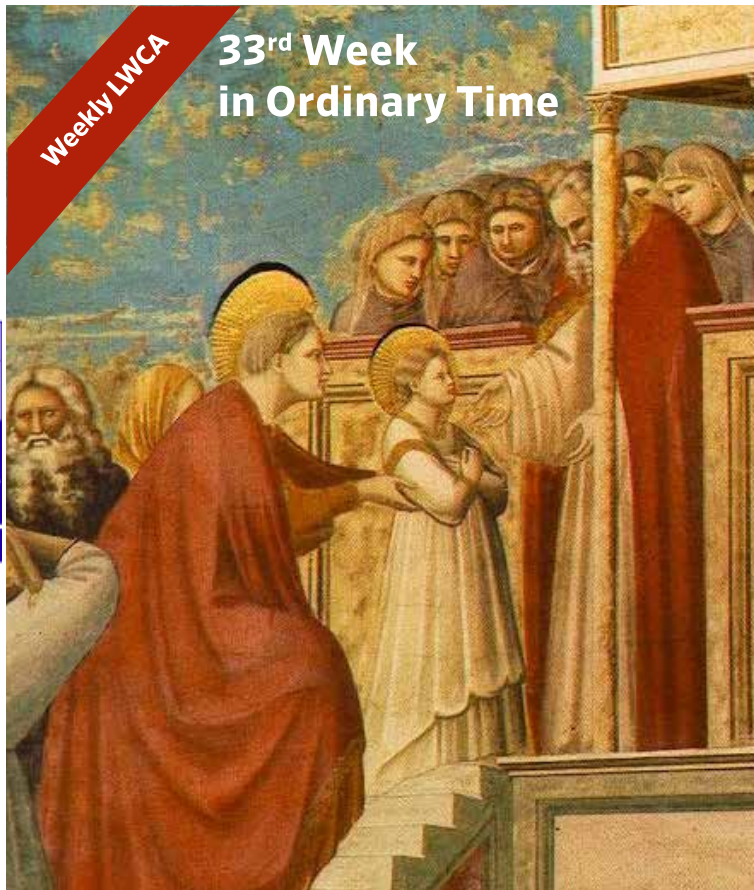


Weekly LWCA

**33rd Week
in Ordinary Time**

bayard africain



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Liturgical texts:

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On our cover: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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Editorial

November 2023



Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Salifu, Ghana

Pray for the End

Sometimes it is difficult to tell people to think of the end of their lives. Everyone tries to avoid the most inevitable human experience - death or the end. However, if we truly examine our lives, it becomes clear that the whole purpose of our existence is to prepare for our death and what lies beyond (Hebrews 9:27). Introduced to the night prayer of the divine office (using the psalms to pray), many Catholics express shock at the prayer that dismisses the community: “may the lord grant us a restful night and a peaceful death”. Why a peaceful death, they often inquire? The Church invites us to reflect on the end everyday; whether it is that of the day or that of life.

In fact, in the hail Mary and Anima Christi prayers, we pray for our end as well: “...pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death” and “...at the hour of my death, call me”. Many are not conscious of this, but we need to prepare for this reality than pretend it would fade because we don’t think about it.



The Pope's Prayer Intention

For the Pope We pray for the Holy Father. As he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

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

LITURGICAL SYMBOLS (I)

Christian liturgy makes use of many symbols that refer to a greater reality than themselves. In this article we are going to focus on some of them that are used in the Eucharistic celebration. It is important to know that these symbols find their origin in the Bible.

The cross: the cross symbolizes the salvation brought about by Jesus Christ. John 3, 14-15 reads: **“and the son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him”**. By dying on the cross, Jesus Christ sanctified it and changed its meaning. It is no longer an instrument of humiliation and death as it was in ancient times, but it has become the tree by which Christ saved the whole world. At the beginning as well as at the end of the Holy Eucharist, the priest and the assembly sign themselves with the sign of the cross, during the Eucharistic Prayer, the priest signs the bread the wine with the sign of the cross. The Holy Mass is the celebration of our salvation. In the sacrament of

Baptism, the candidates are signed with the sign of the cross by the priest, the parents and godparents.

Water: water plays different roles during the Eucharistic celebration. On Sundays, especially in Easter time, the sprinkling of water may take place during the Introductory Rite as a reminder of Baptism. In some Parishes, the people who bring the gifts at the Altar are sprinkled with Holy water so that the Good Lord may bless the work of their hands. During the offertory, the priest or the deacon pours wine and a little water into the chalice as he says quietly: ***By the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.*** The water symbolises the human nature of Jesus Christ and wine symbolises his divine nature. Moreover, during the Offertory, the priest washes his hands saying: ***Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.*** In this regard, water washes away all dirt.

The candles: the lights play a key role in the sacred liturgy. The light symbolises Jesus Christ. In John 8, 12, **Jesus declares that he is the light of the world and that whoever follows him will not walk in darkness.**

A Christian does not walk in darkness but must follow Jesus who is the Light per excellence. As they share in the divinity of Christ, the faithful must shine in the world. In the Eucharistic celebration, the candles are put on the Altar. When the priest or the deacon goes to the ambo to read the Gospel he is accompanied by the ministers who carry the candles. They symbolise Jesus Christ's presence in the proclamation of the Holy Scriptures. In the sacrament of Baptism, the candidates receive the light. This means that they no longer belong to darkness but they are now God's children and they must be guided by Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.

Rev. Fr. Jérôme K. M. Kombi,
Kinshasa, D.R. Congo

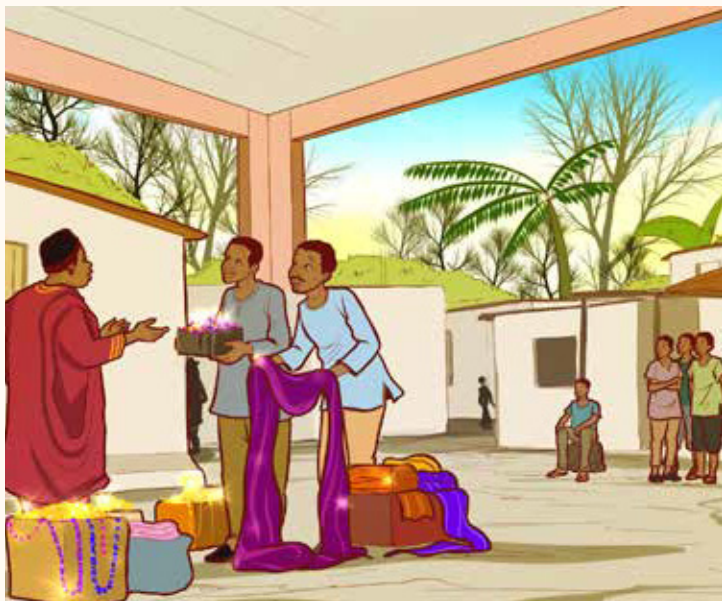


Sunday November 19

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31: 10-13. 19-20. 30-31 / Psalm 128: 1-2. 3. 4-5 / 1

Thessalonians 5: 1-6 / Mathew 25: 14-30



“For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.” (Matthew 25:29)



“Do not Turn your Face away from Anyone who Is Poor”

Through the parable of the talents, Jesus underscores the fact that we are mere stewards of God who are called to administer those gifts and resources He has entrusted to us. The gifts God has given to us are not to be kept to ourselves. Rather, they are to be used for serving the One from whom they came and for the edification of others. And at the end of our lives, He will ask each of us how we have gainfully managed those gifts. One of the ways to use our endowments profitably is by sharing them with the poor, a message the Universal Church wants us to focus on as we celebrate today the seventh World Day of the Poor (WDOP), which has as its theme: “Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7).

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, right from the beginning of his pontificate has been leading us along the path of service to the poor. For every WDOP, the Pope issues a pastoral message which can be found on the Vatican website. But he does not stop there. He goes on to back the message with



Sunday November 19

action. On every WDOP, Pope Francis invites the poor to Mass as his special guests and, after the Mass, he dines with them. For the Pope, the dignity of the poor, regardless of their condition, must be respected. Their poverty has not removed the fact that they are created in the image and likeness of God.

In his message for this year's WDOP, Pope Francis challenges us to emulate those who commit their resources to caring for the poor. According to the Holy Father, such persons "are not superheroes but "next door neighbours", ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes. They consider not only material but also spiritual needs; and they work for the integral promotion of individuals. How about you? In what charitable ways are you using the gifts and resources God has entrusted to you? Remember! "Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor"

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Entrance Antiphon (*Jer 29:11.12.14*)

The Lord said; I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading (*Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31*) —

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

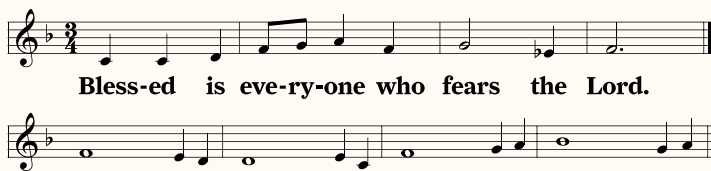
Who can find a good wife? She is far more precious than jewels. The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. She opens her hands to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

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



Sunday November 19

Responsorial Psalm —————
(Psalm (127) 128:1-2.3.4-5)



R. Blessed are all who fear the Lord.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord,
and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be blessed and prosper. R.

Your wife like a fruitful vine
in the heart of your house;
your children like shoots of the olive
around your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.



May the Lord bless you from Sion.
May you see Jerusalem prosper
all the days of your life! R.

Second Reading (1 Thessalonians 5:1-6) —————

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

As to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a woman with child, and there will be no escape. But you are not in darkness, brethren, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.

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

Acclamation (John 15:4a.5b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Abide in me, and I in you, says the Lord; he who abides in me bears much fruit. **Alleluia.**



Gospel (Matthew 25:14-30)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. “Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ “And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.’ “He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did



not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’“But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

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

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only.

℟. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the Church and its mission to the weary and the burdened, we pray to the Lord: ℟.

For world leaders committed to promoting the wellbeing of all citizens, we pray to the Lord: ℟.



Sunday November 19

For those who minister to the poor, the lonely and the vulnerable, we pray to the Lord: *R.*

For our community, dedicated to proclaiming the good news of a compassionate God, we pray to the Lord: *R.*

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon (*Ps (72) 73:28*)

To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Monday November 20

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

(Jer.29:11.12.14) The Lord said; I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(1 Maccabees 1:10-15. 41-43. 54-57.62-64)

A reading from the first Book of Maccabees

In those days: There came forth a sinful root, Antiochus Epiphanes, son of Antiochus the king; he had been a hostage in Rome. He began to reign in the one hundred and thirty-seventh year of the kingdom of the Greeks. In those days lawless men came forth from Israel, and misled many, saying, "Let us go and make a covenant with the Gentiles round about us, for since



we separated from them many evils have come upon us.” This proposal pleased them, and some of the people eagerly went to the king. He authorized them to observe the ordinances of the Gentiles. So they built a gymnasium in Jerusalem, according to Gentile custom, and removed the marks of circumcision, and abandoned the holy covenant. They joined with the Gentiles and sold themselves to do evil. Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and that each should give up his customs. All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned

the Sabbath. Now on the fifteenth day of Chislew, in the one hundred and forty-fifth year, they erected a desolating sacrilege upon the altar of burnt offering. They also built altars in the surrounding cities of Judah, and burned incense at the doors of the houses and in the streets. The books of the law which they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire. Where the book of the covenant was found in the possession of any one, or if any one adhered to the law, the decree of the king condemned him to death. But many in Israel stood firm and were resolved in their hearts not to eat unclean food. They chose to die rather than to be defiled by food or to profane the holy covenant; and they did



die. And very great wrath
came upon Israel.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm*——**
(Psalm (118) 119:53.
61.134 .150.155.158)

**R. Give me life, O Lord,
and I will keep your
commands.**

I am seized with
indignation at the wicked
who forsake your law. R.

Though the nets of the
wicked ensnare me, your
law I did not forget. R.

Redeem me from man's
oppression, and I will keep
your precepts. R.

Those who pursue me
with malice draw near; they
are far from your law. R.

Salvation is far from the
wicked, who are heedless of
your statutes. R.

I look at the faithless with
disgust; they have not kept
your word. R.

Acclamation

(John 8:12)

Alleluia. Alleluia. I am the
light of the world, says the
Lord; he who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia.

***Gospel*——**
(Luke 18:35-43)

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke**

It happened that, as Jesus
drew near to Jericho, a
blind man was sitting by
the roadside begging; and
hearing a multitude going
by, he inquired what this



meant. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” And he cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He said, “Lord, let me receive my sight.” And Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73:28) **To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.**

Or

(Mk 11:23-24)

Amen, I say to you, Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son

commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

“Son of David, Have Pity on me”**Commentary****Luke 18:35-43**

The person of faith is filled with an assurance that God is able to make possible that which appears impossible. The faith of the blind man in today's Gospel was firm. He was neither shy nor afraid to cry out to Jesus in the face of his predicaments. He was persistent and did not allow himself to be discouraged by the harsh treatment of the disciples. In the end, he got what he wanted. True faith never resigns.”

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Tuesday November 21

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Entrance Antiphon

Hail, Holy Mother, who gave birth to the King who rules heaven and earth forever.

Collect

As we venerate the glorious memory of the most holy Virgin Mary, grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession, that we, too, may merit to receive of the fullness of your grace. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading

(2 Maccabees 6:18-31)

A reading from the second Book of Maccabees

In those days: Eleazar, one of the scribes in high position, a man now advanced in age and of noble presence, was being forced to open his mouth to eat swine's flesh. But he, welcoming death with honour rather than life with pollution, went up to the rack of his own accord, spitting out the flesh, as men ought to



go who have the courage to refuse things that it is not right to taste, even for the natural love of life. Those who were in charge of that unlawful sacrifice took the man aside, because of their long acquaintance with him, and privately urged him to bring meat of his own providing, proper for him to use, and pretend that he was eating the flesh of the sacrificial meal which had been commanded by the king, so that by doing this he might be saved from death, and be treated kindly on account of his old friendship with them. But making a high resolve, worthy of his years and the dignity of his old age and the grey hairs which he had

reached with distinction and his excellent life even from childhood, and moreover according to the holy God-given law, he declared himself quickly, telling them to send him to Hades. "Such pretence is not worthy of our time of life," he said, "lest many of the young should suppose that Eleazar in his ninetieth year has gone over to an alien religion, and through my pretence, for the sake of living a brief moment longer, they should be led astray because of me, while I defile and disgrace my old age. For even if for the present I should avoid the punishment of men, yet whether I live or die I shall not escape the hands of the Almighty. Therefore,

by manfully giving up my life now, I will show myself worthy of my old age and leave to the young a noble example of how to die a good death willingly and nobly for the revered and holy laws." When he had said this, he went at once to the rack. And those who a little before had acted toward him with good will now changed to ill will, because the words he had uttered were in their opinion sheer madness. When he was about to die under the blows, he groaned aloud and said: "It is clear to the Lord in his holy knowledge that, though I might have been saved from death, I am enduring terrible sufferings in my body under this beating,

but in my soul I am glad to suffer these things because I fear him." So in this way he died, leaving in his death an example of nobility and a memorial of courage, not only to the young but to the great body of his nation.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 3:2-3.4-5.6-7)***

R. The Lord upholds me.

How many are my foes,
O Lord! How many are
rising up against me! How
many are saying about
me, "There is no help for
him in God." *R.*

But you, Lord, are a
shield about me, my glory,
who lift up my head. I cry



aloud to the Lord. From his holy mountain he answers me. *R.*

I lie down, I sleep and I wake, for the Lord upholds me. I will not fear even thousands of people who are ranged on every side against me. Arise, Lord; save me, my God. *R.*

Acclamation

(1 John 4:10b)

Alleluia. Alleluia. God loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. **Alleluia.**

Gospel

(Luke 19:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

At that time: Jesus entered Jericho and was passing

through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of

my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost.” The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O Lord, we ask, the prayers of your people with the sacrificial offerings, that, through

the intercession of Blessed Mary, the Mother of your Son, no petition may go unanswered, no request be made in vain. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(*Cf. Lk 11:27*) **Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the eternal Father.**

Prayer after Communion

As we receive this heavenly Sacrament, we beseech, O Lord, your mercy, that we, who rejoice in



commemorating the worthily the mystery of
Blessed Virgin Mary, may our redemption. Through
by imitating her, serve Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Parents Are the First Teachers of their Children

Commentary

Luke 19:1-10

Today's celebration commemorates the presentation of the infant Mary to God by her parents. By so doing, Joachim and Anne fulfilled a fundamental parental obligation: that of directing their children along the path of their Creator. In the words of Pope John Paul II, "...parents have been appointed by God himself as the first and principal educators of their children..." In spite of their busy schedule, parents must be devoted to forming their children toward growing in prayer and love of God.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Wednesday November 22

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Cecilia, virgin and Martyr

Entrance Antiphon

**Behold, now she follows
the Lamb who was
crucified for us, powerful
in virginity, modesty her
offering, a sacrifice on the
altar of chastity.**

Or:

**Blessed is the virgin who by
denying herself and taking
up her cross imitated the
Lord, the spouse of virgins
and prince of martyrs.**

Collect

O God, who gladden us
each year with the feast day
of your handmaid Saint
Cecilia, grant, we pray, that
what has been devoutly
handed down concerning
her may offer us examples
to imitate and proclaim
the wonders worked in his
servants by Christ your
Son. Who lives and reigns
with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for
ever and ever. **Amen.**



Reading —————
(2 Maccabees 7:1. 20-31)

**A reading from the second
Book of Maccabees**

In those days: It happened also 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. The mother was especially admirable and worthy of honourable memory. Though she saw her seven sons perish within a single day, she bore it with good courage because of her hope in the Lord. She encouraged each of them in the language of their fathers. Filled with a noble spirit, she fired her woman's reasoning with

a man's courage, and said to them, "I do not know how you came into being in my womb. It was not I who gave you life and breath, nor I who set in order the elements within each of you. Therefore the Creator of the world, who shaped the beginning of man and devised the origin of all things, will in his mercy give life and breath back to you again, since you now forget yourselves for the sake of his laws." Antiochus felt that he was being treated with contempt, and he was suspicious of her reproachful tone. The youngest brother being still alive, Antiochus not only appealed to him in words, but promised with oaths that he would make



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

your face; when I awake I shall be filled with the vision of your presence. *R.*

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

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

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

***Acclamation
(John 15:16)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. I chose you from the world that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should abide, says the Lord. **Alleluia.**

***Gospel —
(Luke 19:11-28)***

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke**

At that time: Jesus proceeded to tell a parable, because he was near to Jerusalem, and because they supposed that the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said therefore, “A nobleman

went into a far country to receive kingly power and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten pounds, and said to them, 'Trade with these till I come.' "But his citizens hated him and sent an embassy after him, saying, 'We do not want this man to reign over us.' "When he returned, having received the kingly power, he commanded these servants, to whom he had given the money, to be called to him, that he might know what they had gained by trading. The first came before him, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made ten pounds more.' "And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in a very little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' "And the

second came, saying, 'Lord, your pound has made five pounds.' "And he said to him, 'And you are to be over five cities.' "Then another came, saying, 'Lord, here is your pound, which I kept laid away in a napkin; for I was afraid of you, because you are a severe man; you take up what you did not lay down, and reap what you did not sow.' "He said to him, 'I will condemn you out of your own mouth, you wicked servant! You knew that I was a severe man, taking up what I did not lay down and reaping what I did not sow? Why then did you not put my money into the bank, and at my coming I should have collected it with interest?' "And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the pound from him, and



give it to him who has the ten pounds.’ “(And they said to him, ‘Lord, he has ten pounds!’) “I tell you, that to every one who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. But as for these enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, bring them here and slay them before me.” And when Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Rev 7:17) **The Lamb who is at the centre of the throne will lead them to the springs of the waters of life.**

Prayer after Communion

O God, who bestowed on Saint Cecilia a crown among the Saints for her twofold triumph of virginity and martyrdom, grant, we pray, through the

power of this Sacrament, that bravely overcoming every evil, we may attain the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Uncompromising
Fidelity to Christ****Commentary****Luke 19:11-28**

The life of St. Cecilia was marked by an unwavering faith in God, a faith that stood firm even in the face of fierce persecution. From the story of St. Cecilia, we learn to be courageous in standing on Jesus' side even when everyone else turns away. The way of Christ is the way of the Cross. According to Pope Benedict XVI says: "The world offers us comfort. But we are not made for comfort. We are made for greatness." And, for us Christians, this greatness lies in our uncompromising fidelity to Christ.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Thursday November 23

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: Saint Clement I, optional memorial

Or: Saint Columban, optional memorial

Entrance Antiphon

(Jer. 29:11.12.14) **The Lord said; I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

of all that is good. Through Christ our Lord... **Amen.**

Reading —————

(1 Maccabees 2:15-29)

A reading from the first Book of Maccabees

Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author

In those days; The king's officers who were enforcing the apostasy came to the city of Modein to make them offer sacrifice. Many from Israel came to them; and Mattathias and his sons were assembled. Then the king's

officers spoke to Mattathias as follows: “You are a leader, honoured and great in this city, and supported by sons and brothers. Now be the first to come and do what the king commands, as all the Gentiles and the men of Judah and those that are left in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons will be numbered among the friends of the king, and you and your sons will be honoured with silver and gold and many gifts.” But Mattathias answered and said in a loud voice: “Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to do his commandments, departing each one from the religion of his fathers, yet I and my sons and my brothers will live by the covenant of

our fathers. Far be it from us to desert the law and the ordinances. We will not obey the king’s words by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left.” When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice upon the altar in Modein, according to the king’s command. When Mattathias saw it, he burnt with zeal and his heart was stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him upon the altar. At the same time he killed the king’s officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. Thus he burnt with zeal for the law, as Phinehas did against Zimri the son of Salu. Then Mattathias cried out in the city with a loud voice,



saying: "Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!" And he and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the city. Then many who were seeking righteousness and justice went down to the wilderness to dwell there. The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm (49) 50:1-2. 5-6. 14-15)

R. **To one whose way is blameless, I will show the salvation of God.**

"The God of gods, the Lord, has spoken and summoned the earth, from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Sion, the

perfection of beauty, God is shining forth." ***R.***

"Gather my holy ones to me, who made covenant with me by sacrifice." The heavens proclaim his justice, for he, God, is the judge. ***R.***

"Give your praise as a sacrifice to God, and fulfil your vows to the Most High. Then call on me in the day of distress. I will deliver you and you shall honour me." ***R.***

Acclamation

(Ps. (94) 95:7d.8a)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Today, harden not your hearts, but listen to the voice of the Lord. **Alleluia.**

Gospel —

(Luke 19:41-44)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke



Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son

commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Now Is the Time to Come to Jesus

Commentary

Luke 19: 41-44

Jesus had spent time ministering in different cities and villages and now, his time on earth was drawing to a close. In spite of his relentless efforts, the people of Jerusalem failed to accept his message of salvation. This sad reality moved Jesus to tears, just as it does when, through our sinful lives, we turn our backs on him. We must appreciate every second of our lives as a special occasion that God makes available to us for our conversion.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Friday November 24

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Memorial

Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs,

Entrance Antiphon

(Ga. 6:14) **Far be it from us to boast, except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the word of the Cross is the power of God to us who have been saved.**

Collect

O God, source and origin of all fatherhood, who kept the Martyrs Saint Andrew Dung-Lac and his companions faithful to the Cross of your Son, even to the shedding of their blood, grant,

through their intercession, that, spreading your love among our brothers and sisters, we may be your children both in name and in truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Reading —————
(1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59)

A reading from the first Book of Maccabees

In those days: Judas and his brothers said, “Behold, our enemies are crushed;



let us go up to cleanse the sanctuary and dedicate it?' So all the army assembled and they went up to Mount Sion. Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals. All the people fell on their faces and worshipped and blessed Heaven, who had prospered them. So they celebrated the dedication of the altar for eight days, and offered burnt offerings

with gladness; they offered a sacrifice of deliverance and praise. They decorated the front of the temple with golden crowns and small shields; they restored the gates and the chambers for the priests, and furnished them with doors. There was very great gladness among the people, and the reproach of the Gentiles was removed. Then Judas and his brothers and all the assembly of Israel determined that every year at that season the days of the dedication of the altar should be observed with gladness and joy for eight days, beginning with the twenty-fifth day of the month of Chislev. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Responsorial Psalm —
(1 Chronicles 29:10.11
abc.11d-12a.12bcd)***

**R. We praise your glorious
name, O Lord.**

Blessed are you, O Lord,
the God of Israel our father,
for ever and ever. R.

Yours, O Lord, is the
greatness, and the power,
and the glory, and the
victory, and the majesty; for
all that is in the heavens and
in the earth is yours; yours is
the kingdom, O Lord. R.

You are exalted as head
above all. Both riches and
honour come from you. R.

You rule over all. In
your hand are power and
might; and in your hand it
is to make great and to give
strength to all. R.

***Acclamation
(John 10:27)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. My
sheep hear my voice, says
the Lord; and I know
them, and they follow me.
Alleluia.

***Gospel —
(Luke 19:45-48)***

**A reading from the holy
Gospel according to Luke**

At that time: Jesus entered
the temple and began to
drive out those who sold,
saying to them, "It is written,
'My house shall be a house
of prayer'; but you have
made it a den of robbers."
And he was teaching daily
in the temple. The chief
priests and the scribes and
the principal men of the
people sought to destroy
him; but they did not find

anything they could do, for all the people hung upon his words.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive, O holy Father, the offerings we bring as we venerate the passion of the holy Martyrs, so that amid the trials of this life, we may always be found faithful and may offer ourselves to you

as an acceptable sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Communion Antiphon

(Mt 5:10) **Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by the one Bread as we commemorate the holy Martyrs, we humbly

beseech you, O Lord, that, an eternal prize. Through
abiding as one in your love, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
we may merit by endurance

Reverence for Sacred Objects and Spaces Is an Act of Faith

Commentary

Luke19:45-48

The act of Jesus chasing out those who were selling in the Temple is a reminder to us that Church buildings are dedicated places of prayer and they must be treated with reverence. According to Pope John II, "Every act of reverence, every genuflection that you make before the Blessed Sacrament is important because it is an act of faith in Christ, and an act of love for Christ. And every sign of the cross and gesture of respect made each time you pass a church is also an act of faith."

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



Saturday November 25

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Ferial

Or: St Catherine of Alexandria, optional memorial.

Entrance Antiphon

(Jer. 29:11.12.14) **The Lord said; I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

Collect

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author

of all that is good. Through our Lord... **Amen.**

Reading

(1 Maccabees 6:1-13)

A reading from the first Book of Maccabees

In those days: King Antiochus was going through the upper provinces when he heard that Elymais in Persia was a city famed for its wealth in silver and gold. Its temple was very rich, containing golden shields, breastplates,

and weapons left there by Alexander, the son of Philip, the Macedonian king who first reigned over the Greeks. So he came and tried to take the city and plunder it, but he could not, because his plan became known to the men of the city and they withstood him in battle. So he fled and in great grief departed from there to return to Babylon. Then some one came to him in Persia and reported that the armies which had gone into the land of Judah had been routed; that Lysias had gone first with a strong force, but had turned and fled before the Jews; that the Jews had grown strong from the arms, supplies, and abundant spoils which they had taken from the armies they had cut down;

that they had torn down the abomination which he had erected upon the altar in Jerusalem; and that they had surrounded the sanctuary with high walls as before, and also Bethzur, his city. When the king heard this news, he was astounded and badly shaken. He took to his bed and became sick from grief, because things had not turned out for him as he had planned. He lay there for many days, because deep grief continually gripped him, and he concluded that he was dying. So he called all his friends and said to them, "Sleep departs from my eyes and I am downhearted with worry. I said to myself, 'To what distress I have come! And into what a great flood I

now am plunged! For I was kind and beloved in my power.' But now I remember the evils I did in Jerusalem. I seized all her vessels of silver and gold; and I sent to destroy the inhabitants of Judah without good reason. I know that it is because of this that these evils have come upon me; and behold, I am perishing of deep grief in a strange land."

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

***Responsorial Psalm —
(Psalm 9:2-3.4 and 6.16
and 19)***

***℟. I will rejoice in your
salvation, O Lord.***

I will praise you, Lord,
with all my heart; all your

wonders I will confess. I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High. *℟.*

See how my enemies turn back, how they stumble and perish before you. You have rebuked the nations, destroyed the wicked; you have wiped out their name for ever and ever. *℟.*

The nations have fallen in the pit which they made; their feet have been caught in the snare they laid. For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hopes of the poor ever perish. *℟.*

***Acclamation
(Timothy 1:10)***

Alleluia. Alleluia. Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished death and brought life and immortality

to light through the Gospel.
Alleluia.

Gospel —————
(Luke 20:27-40)

**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 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 any more, 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.”

And some of the scribes answered, “Teacher, you have spoken well.” For they no longer dared to ask him any question.

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

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting

happiness. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Communion Antiphon

(Ps (72) 73:28) **To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.**

Or

(Mk 11:23-24)

Amen, I say to you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son

commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**From the Earthly Marriage
to the Mystical One****Commentary****Luke 20:27-40**

The sacrament of marriage is a magnificent reality wherein a man and a woman enter into an intimate communion of mind and body. It is the most profound kind of friendship that exists among humans. Be that as it may, Jesus in today's Gospel makes it clear that the marital relationship is temporal. It is dissolved by death. Earthly marriage is not the ultimate union. Rather, it is a sign and means of attaining the mystical union, the everlasting 'marriage' between God and each of us.

Rev. Fr. Michael Banjo, Nigeria



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