

## Sunday Gospel Reflections

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A  
October 30, 2011

Read Sunday's gospel, Matthew 23: 1-12.

### Gospel Summary

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### Reflection for Parents

Few people can humble us as quickly as our children. They might embarrass us by their public behavior, or they might make reference to our age or choice in clothing style. What will our response tell them about us? When we try to maintain our position of authority over them, we are likely to heighten the confrontation. We know from experience that we gain little ground. Often humor is the best antidote. It may require some wit on our part to respond lightly to their criticism or public behavior, but usually another time will present itself to share with them how we were really feeling at the moment. Their respect for us will develop as they continue to see us model appropriate responses without using our weapons of power and authority.

### Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Some support and recovery groups suggest that we try to do an act of kindness each day for someone and not let anyone know we did the act. This is a way of acting humbly when we serve another anonymously. Try to think as a family of someone who might benefit from an action on your part. Plan a way of doing it so that no one knows you were responsible. Pay attention to opportunities in the future and perform "random acts of kindness" as often as possible.

### Discussion Starters

1. Someone whose leadership style I really admire is... because...
2. I am most likely to show my power and authority when...
3. I know people who try to make themselves important. When they do this I...

## St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church

### MISSION STATEMENT

We, St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church, the Body of Christ, seek to grow in faith, love, and service of God and one another.

### REFLECTION

In today's gospel Jesus tells his listeners to do what the religious leaders say, but not what they do. Jesus accepts the teaching authority of the religious leaders, but at the same time he points out that their words do not match their actions. Many of the scribes and Pharisees were overly concerned with power and status. Jesus tells his followers to forget about status and concentrate on serving others.

**FEAST OF ALL SOULS MASS** is Wednesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. to remember our departed loved ones. **Please bring a candle.**

### BAZAAR NEWS

We want to thank Lynda, Anya and Theresa for spare heading our upcoming Bazaar which will take place on Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012. They want to make our next Bazaar just as exciting as those in the past.

**Next Bazaar meeting** is Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All Stall Holders and interested persons are invited to attend.

**KOINONIA RETREAT** - Friday November 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Emmanuel Centre. Interested persons may obtain an application after Mass or contact the parish office.

**MARIAN PILGRIMAGE** to Guadalupe & Mexico City with Fr. Simeon Roberts will take place from July 28 - August 2, 2012. The cost is \$2,342. A deposit of - \$400.00 is due November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Interested persons should contact the Parish Office or Ms. Greta Smith at 328-8745.

Number of persons in attendance at Mass last Sunday; **250**

### Hurricane Season

As a basic minimum, we should maintain in our homes enough **non-perishable foodstuffs** to supply our household for at least a week. Starting now, we should have on hand enough **drinking water** to last a week. Those who need **prescription medicine** should ensure that they keep at least one week's supply on hand. We should have **flashlights** and a **transistor radio** and a supply of fresh batteries ready. We should also keep a **manual can opener** ready, as well. Now is the time to begin to ensure that all of our **hurricane shutters** and the **tools** necessary for putting them in place are ready and available.

### "A Weekend to Remember...An experience you'll never forget..."

The Archdiocesan Office of Family Life is sponsoring a Marriage Renewal Weekend to be held Friday, November 4 through Sunday, November 6, 2011 at Emmanuel Centre, Fox Hill. All married couples desiring to enhance and deepen their relationship are invited to register. Cost: \$150.00 per couple (meals and accommodations included). Deadline for application is Friday October 28, 2011. Please contact the Office of Family Life at 322-8919 or 328-4310 for more information.

**VACANCY FOR HANDYMAN-GARDENER - EMMANUEL CENTRE** - Applications can be collected from the Chancery Office between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Deadline for application is November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

**Happy 93<sup>rd</sup> Birthday Grace Jenourel!** May God continue to richly bless you. Enjoy your day.

### Pray this week for our Sick & Shuttles

Omenia Adderley, Grace Jenourel, Suzette Knowles, Maria Richardson, Charles Sweating, Inez Miller, Paulette Green, Renee' Carroll, Archilles King, Wenzel Lightbourne, George Capron, Roselda Sawyer, Keishler Johnson, Barbara Rolle, Eugie Raymond, Philip Sturupp, Stephen Burrows, Eddie Burrows, Alfreda Michel and Helen Arahna.

**Sunday Chuckle** - A six-year-old boy called his mother from his friend Charlie's house and confessed he had broken a lamp when he threw a football in their living room. "But, Mom," he said, brightening, "you don't have to worry about buying another one. Charlie's mother said it was irreplaceable."

October 30, 2011

# Dear Padre

## What are the Torah, the Talmud, and the Qur'an?

Dear Luis,

The *Torah* and the *Talmud* are key texts of Judaism, while the *Qur'an* is the key text of Islam.

Catholics are familiar with the Jewish Torah because it's made up of the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

When Christian Scriptures refer to "the law," they're speaking of the Torah. The Torah, the *Neuv'im* (the Prophets), and the *Ketuvim* (the Writings) constitute the *Tanakh*—the Hebrew Bible—which Christians

promoted, and discussed by its rabbis. While the written Talmud was generally composed between 200 and 500, it draws on more ancient oral traditions.

Muslims believe the Qur'an is the inspired word of God, a divine message brought to the prophet Muhammad by the angel Gabriel in the seventh century. The Qur'an presumes knowledge of both Christian and Jewish Scriptures, but it differs in such key matters as whether Jesus is the Son of God. Christians regard the Torah as the inspired word of God, but not the Talmud or the Qur'an.

LOVE

### Monday



October 31

*Weekday*  
Rom 11:29-36  
Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday



November 1

*All Saints*  
Rv 7:2-4, 9-14  
1 Jn 3:1-3  
Mt 5:1-12a

### Wednesday



November 2

*All Souls*  
Wis 3:1-9  
Rom 5:5-11 or  
Jn 6:3-9  
Jn 6:37-40

Thursday



November 3

*Weekday*  
Rom 14:7-12  
Lk 15:1-10

### Friday



November 4

*Saint Charles Borromeo, bishop*  
Rom 15:14-21  
Lk 16:1-8

Saturday



November 5

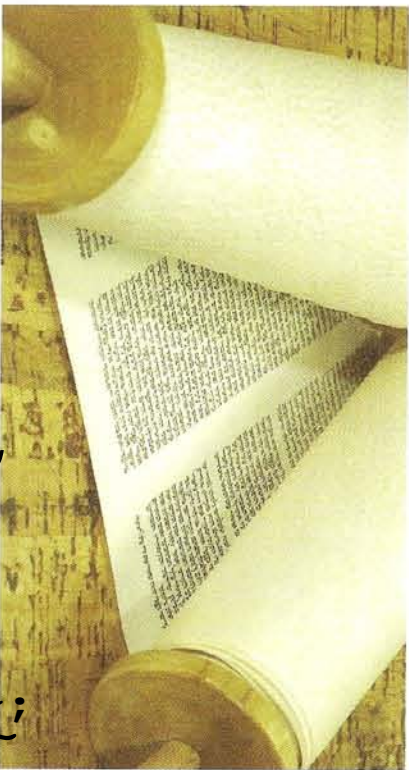
*Weekday*  
Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27  
Lk 16:9-15

Sunday



November 6

*Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
Wis 6:12-16  
1 Thes 4:13-18 or  
4:13-14  
Mt 25:1-13



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The Talmud is a later collection of Jewish texts that record and reflect on Jewish law as it became codified,

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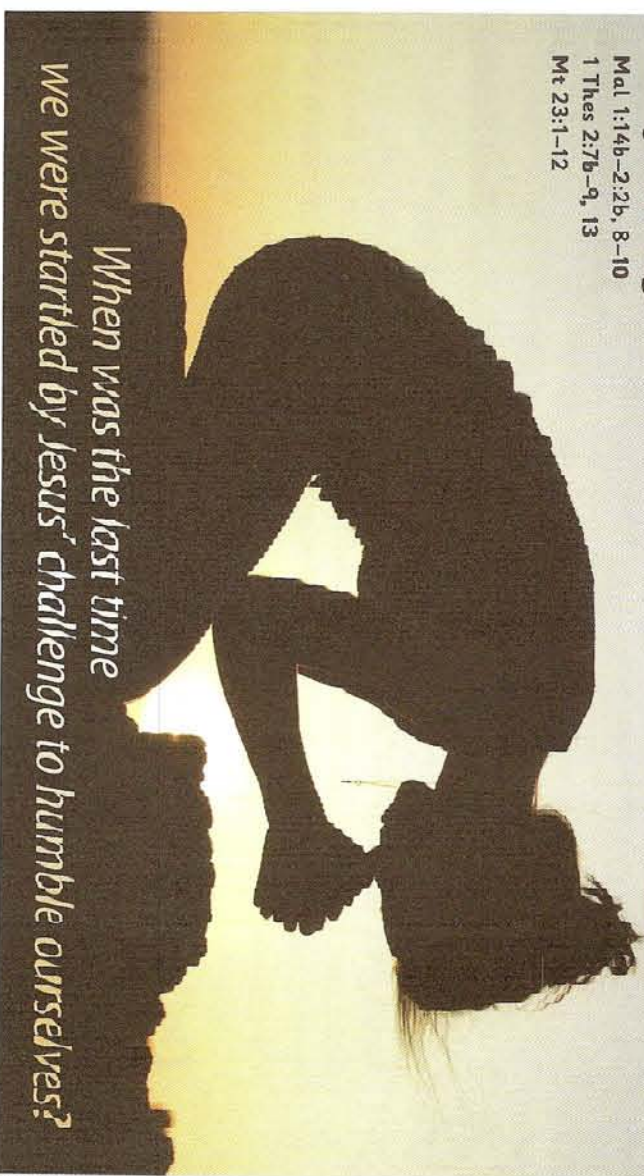
October 30, 2011

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Sunday

## Today's Readings

Mal 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10  
1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13  
Mt 23:1-12



*When was the last time we were startled by Jesus' challenge to humble ourselves?*

It takes a lot to shock us these days. Long gone are the television shows with married couples in twin beds. It's hard to find a non-rated movie without profanity. Halloween costumes are skimpier and more grotesque every year. What used to startle us is now commonplace.

The same, unfortunately, can often be said about Jesus' words in the Gospels. How many times have we heard him say, "The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted"? These words, in their first-century Mediterranean context, were incredibly shocking. Jesus' contemporaries believed that prosperity and honor were signs of God's favor. To hear that God actually wanted us to humble ourselves upended all they believed. No wonder Jesus ended up in trouble with those in power.



But are Jesus' words simply the "same ole, same ole" for us? When was the last time we were startled by Jesus' challenge to humble ourselves? No, we don't have phylacteries to widen or tassels to forgotten. Yet certainly we've sought unnecessary recognition when we felt we weren't being credited for our work. We've cut off others in traffic or pushed our way to the front of a line because we felt our time was more important than everyone else's. Instead of deeply listening to a friend, we've drawn the conversation back to our accomplishments and needs.

Perhaps it's time to let Jesus' words sink in more deeply—to let them shock us. Saint Paul reminds us today, "You rejoiced not a human word but... the word of God, which is now at work in you who believe." Let's invite Jesus to shake us up and allow his Word to work in our hearts.

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