

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

MASS READINGS

MONDAY: 2 COR 2:1-5, PS 119, LK 4:16-30
TUESDAY: I COR 2:10B-16, PS 145, LK 4:31-37
WEDNESDAY: I COR 3:1-9, PS 33, LK 4:38-44
THURSDAY: I COR 3:18-23, PS 24, LK 5:1-11
FRIDAY: 1 COR 4:1-5, PS 37, LK 5:33-39
SATURDAY: MI 5:1-4A, or ROM 8:28-30, PS 13,
MT 1:1-16,18-23

**NEXT SUNDAY: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME – RDGS: IS 35:4-7A, PS
146, JAS 2:1-5, MK 7:31-37**



**THESE PEOPLE HONOR
ME WITH THEIR LIPS,
BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE
FAR FROM ME.
MATTHEW 15:8**

We would shudder at the possibility of hearing these words from our Lord and yet we just might from time to time. He reminded us that where our treasure is there is our heart and if our treasure is something other than the Lord then, it stands to reason, that our heart is elsewhere as well. Throughout our lives it becomes necessary therefore, to locate our hearts and to make sure they are where they should be. I'm reminded of the public service announcement that came on TV at a certain hour asking parents if they know where their children are. My father, with his dry humor, always had a quick response but, he also knew! We require such a query and our response, however framed, will be very important indeed. Do you know where your heart is? There are numerous places for our hearts to go and a mature believer is capable of recognizing how those little "treasures" come together and in God's good plan they have a way of pointing directly to him. Our task is, through prayer, fasting and works of mercy, to discern how those little treasures all flow back to the one great Treasure who is our loving Father. Sometimes we lack the insight and the energy to trace the origin of our treasure and we either value them in and of themselves or we consider them something we truly deserve and fail to give it any thought that they are in fact blessings from God and our response should be fitting honor, glory and praise to Him. We have all learned to count our blessings and, at least once a year, to bring to mind a list of things for which we are thankful, usually while staring down a large stuffed fowl! But until we become accustomed to locating our hearts directly in the Lord we will be sadly lacking in that one quality valued most by our Lord and that is humility. At the heart of all this is a humble and contrite heart. The Psalmist reminds us of the great treasure in having such a heart and Jesus echoes those sentiments. For our part once our hearts are located in God they become humble by the fact that as St. Catherine reminds us, "there is a God and I'm not He!" To have our hearts grounded in God is to recognize this as a most fundamental truth. We might respond by saying, of course I know I am not God, but if we truly examine our lives then we have to admit that somebody other than the One True God is running our lives if we have dedicated so little time to sitting quietly with him in prayer, listening to his guidance, taking comfort in his words and delighting in his promises. It should come as no surprise then that we find that many vie for the position of "God" and we are often more than willing to cede this to the highest bidder. Thinking that our treasure lay not in God, but in whatever we can get out of our lives, by giving them away to false gods and false promises. In the end we find that we have only cheapened the one treasure that we do have in ourselves, the one valued by the One who knows us better than we know ourselves and He loves us infinitely more than we can hope or imagine. Why then should he not have our hearts?

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY: RICHARD STOUT
TUESDAY: FR. THOMAS WIDNER, S.J.
WEDNESDAY: JANET MOHLMAN
THURSDAY: DEC. OF ANDERSON FAMILY
FRIDAY: POOR SOULS
VIGIL: BETH GREVING
7:30: JANET MOHLMAN
10:00: FOR THE PARISH
NOON: PATTI RIEHLE

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Those serving in our Armed Forces, especially those soldiers who have connections to our parish. Bernard & Randell Lester. Robert W. Bennett. J. Fred Harless. (Vaughn, Joe, Dorothy & Loretta Zink, Francis & Agnes Senesac, Jim & Lois McIntyre). Sheri Switzer. (Gerban, Lucille, Stephen & Theresa Brouwer, Charles & Catherine Spitznagle). Bob Bohan. (Lewis Beeler, Clem & Wilbur Boehle, Tim Fitzgerald, Lauretta Heady). (Richard Frier, Richard & Kathryn Tyrrell). Mary Jo Danaher.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018



God IS MY TREASURE
God is My Treasure
He Opened Up My Heart
God is My Heart
He Gave His Love To Me
God is My Wisdom
He Showed His Way To Me
God is My Hope
He Wished His Dream To Me
God is My Dream
He Gave His Wish To Me
God is My Faith
He Put His Faith in Me
God is My Prayer
He Prayed That I Would Hear
God is My Companion
He Takes His Steps with Me
God is My Life
I Found Him with The Treasures
Joy Pain Hurt And Tear
Love And Care Was Always There
Sorrow If I Ever Lose Him
Happiness When I Found Him
God is My Treasure
He Opened Up His Heart
and Gave it All To ME
God Do I Deserve All That I See?
I Thank You Lord
For Your Faith and Love in Me
Please Jesus and My Lord
Make Me Worthy
That I May Not Be Blinded
By All That I See.

Edgar Allan Prieto

Who Are the “Pure in Heart”?

BY WAYNE JACKSON

“What did Jesus Christ mean when he said, ‘Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God?’ Does this mean if a person is sincere before the Lord, and tries to keep his mind pure, he will be saved?”

As we begin a response to this question, bear in mind this vital truth. No single passage may be isolated from the larger context of the Scriptures, and have a meaning forced upon it that is at variance with other clear portions of the Word of God.

In one of his “beatitudes” in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said:

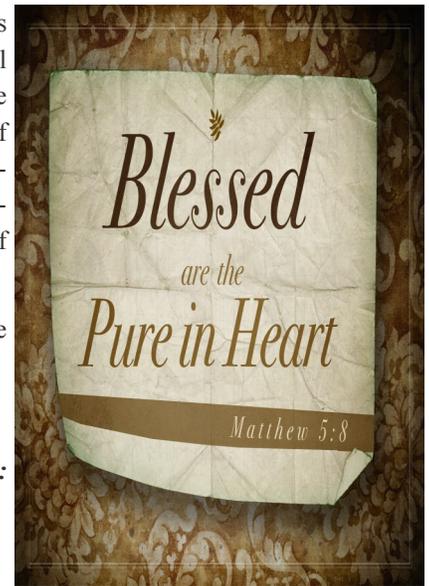
“Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God” (Mt. 5:8).

The Pure

The Greek word for “pure” is *katharos* (used 27 times in the New Testament). Fundamentally, it signifies that which is clean, or free from contaminating substance (cf. Danker *et al.*, **Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament**, 489).

The term is used literally, for instance, of the “clean” cloth in which Jesus’ body was wrapped after his death (Mt. 27:59). In the gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the word is employed in a ceremonial sense of the purification from leprosy. It also can apply to the release of certain unfortunate individuals from “unclean spirits,” i.e., demons, the persons then, by implication, become “clean.”

On the other hand, the *katharos* may be engaged in a higher sense. William Barclay contended that with a *spiritual* import, “pure” may describe the heart that is free of unadulterated “motives” (**Commentary on Matthew**, I.101). It perhaps represents that ideal state of mind of the person who longs to serve God and others for the sheer unselfish joy of honoring the Creator, and thus free of base motives. What a lofty disposition that would be.



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

“Seekng” God

Then there also is that aspect of the promise which declares that those who are pure in heart shall “see” God. Since it is rather clear that upon the final day of history, at the time of Judgment, all human beings of all time will “see” God (cf. Eccl. 11:9; Rom. 14:10-12), it is only reasonable to conclude that the term “see” is used in Matthew 5:8 in a special way.

“See” is the Greek *horao* (found 449 times in New Testament). The word may be used literally (cf. Mk. 12:15) or figuratively. When figuratively employed, it denotes “to perceive, recognize, experience, etc.” What, then, is the significance in Mt. 5:8?

D.R. Dungan suggested that the term refers to recognizing God in all the wonders of his creation (**Hermeneutics**, 18). The foolish see only matter (compare “senseless heart” Rom. 1:21b), but the pure in heart see God in the things he has made.

On the other hand “see” can also mean to *experience* something. He who refuses to “obey” the Son will not “see life” (Jn. 3:36), i.e., receive, enjoy, experience it.

When one submits to the conditions of the “new birth” process, he “sees” or “enters” the kingdom of God, i.e., he *receives* the blessings of citizenship in the kingdom of heaven.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God!” (Jn. 3:3-5).

The student should compare the “see” of verse 3, with the “enter” of verse 5. They explain one another.

There is no way this verse should be interpreted so as to negate other clear passages which require obedience to specific commands in order to become a Christian and ultimately enter heaven (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38, etc.).

Used with permission: see: <https://www.christiancourier.com/copyright>

'Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God'

by [Pope John Paul II](#)

1. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me" (Ps 51:10-11).

Today, Ash Wednesday, this is how the Psalmist, King David, prays: a great and powerful king in Israel, but at the same time frail and sinful. At the beginning of these 40 days of preparation for Easter, the Church puts his words on the lips of all who take part in the austere liturgy of Ash Wednesday.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, ... take not your holy Spirit from me". We hear this plea echoing in our hearts, while in a few moments we will approach the Lord's altar to receive ashes on our forehead in accordance with a very ancient tradition. This act is filled with spiritual allusions and is an important sign of conversion and inner renewal. Considered in itself, it is a simple liturgical rite, but very profound because of its penitential meaning: with it the Church reminds man, believer and sinner, of his weakness in the face of evil and especially of his total dependence on God's infinite majesty.

The liturgy calls for the celebrant to say these words as he places ashes on the foreheads of the faithful: "Remember, man, you are dust and to dust you will return"; or, "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel".

2. "Remember, ... to dust you will return".

Earthly life is marked from its beginning by the prospect of death. Our bodies are mortal, that is, subject to the inevitable prospect of death. We live with this end before us: every passing day brings us inexorably closer to it. And death has something destructive about it. With death it seems that everything will end for us. And here, precisely in the face of this disheartening prospect, man, who is aware of his sin, raises a cry of hope to heaven: O God, "create in me a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me".

Today too, the believer who feels threatened by evil and death calls on God in this way, knowing that he has reserved for him a destiny of eternal life. He knows that he is not only a body condemned to death because of sin, but that he also has an immortal soul. Therefore he turns to God the Father, who has the power to create out of nothing; to God the Only-begotten Son, who became man for our salvation, died for us and now, risen, lives in glory; to God the immortal Spirit, who calls us to life and restores life.

"Create in me a clean heart and put a new and right spirit within me". The whole Church makes the Psalmist's prayer her own. These are prophetic words that penetrate our spirit on this special day, the first day of the Lenten journey that will bring us to the celebration of Easter during the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

3. "Repent and believe in the Gospel". This invitation, which we find at the beginning of Jesus' preaching, introduces us into the Lenten season, a time to be dedicated in a special way to conversion and renewal, to prayer, to fasting and to works of charity. In recalling the experience of the chosen people, we too set out as it were to retrace the journey that Israel made across the desert to the Promised Land. We too will reach our goal; after these weeks of penance, we will experience the joy of Easter. Our eyes, purified by prayer and penance, will be able to behold with greater clarity the face of the living God, to whom man makes his own pilgrimage on the paths of earthly life.

"Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy Spirit from me" - this man, created not for death but for life, prays in exactly this way. Although he is aware of his weaknesses, he walks sustained by the certainty of his divine destiny.

May almighty God hear the prayers of the Church which, in today's Ash Wednesday liturgy, lifts up her heart to heaven with greater trust. May the merciful Lord grant us all to open our hearts to the gift of his grace, so that we can all take part with new maturity in the paschal mystery of Christ, our only Redeemer.



The Holy Father's Homily of March 8, 2000 as he celebrated the Ash Wednesday Liturgy in St. Sabina's Basilica.

Presence of God – Give me, O Lord, an open, sincere heart, loving the truth, seeking and desiring it at any cost.

MEDITATION

"Lord, who shall dwell in Thy tabernacle, or who shall rest in Thy holy hill?" asks the Psalmist. And he gives the answer: "He that walketh without blemish, and worketh justice" (Ps 15:1,2).

God is truth, and no one can be admitted to His intimacy who does not strive as much as he can, to live in truth and to be sincere in all his actions. First of all, we must seek to possess truth in the depths of our heart, that we may know ourselves as we really are in the eyes of God, stripped of all disguise and artificiality. To do this we must accept, not only the truths which please us, but also those which are painful and wound our pride to the quick, revealing our faults and evil tendencies. A person who is sincere never closes his eyes to these truths, but values them, even if they are humiliating, knowing that humiliation which reveals the truth is worth more than illusion which flatters pride and keeps us in error. Sometimes God permits difficult circumstances which are especially hard and trying for the practice of virtue, that we may see the truth and know ourselves as we really are. Under the onset of contradiction, we experience movements, hitherto unknown, surging up within us: movements of anger, rebellion, selfishness, from which perhaps we had had the illusion that we were free. In such cases, instead of turning our gaze away, it is necessary to have the courage to recognize these faults and confess them, humbly and frankly. St. John of the Cross speaks of certain pious souls who, in confession, "palliate [their sins] and make them appear less evil, and thus ... excuse themselves rather than accuse themselves" (cf. *Dark Night of the Soul*, I, 2, 4). A soul that loves the truth is very far from acting in this way; even if it has only venial sins and imperfections of which to accuse itself in confession, it exposes them all very sincerely, without magnifying or minimizing them, never blaming circumstances, but only itself for all that is faulty. Sincerity in confessing our faults is the first step toward freeing ourselves from them.

ST. MARY MAGDELENE

The Sinner Turned Saint, Example of a Sincere Contrition, an Unwavering, Faithful and Fearless Love Manifested in Concrete Deeds.

On July 22, we will be celebrating the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene, the repentant sinner turned saint, the woman out of whom seven demons were cast (cf. Lk 8:2). A very beautiful woman, with long lovely hair, she met Jesus at Simon's home and went to weep at his feet, feeling sorrow for her evil life, breaking an alabaster flask of ointment to anoint His feet and wiping them dry with her long beautiful hair.

Jesus was touched with such sincere repentance arising from a great love but the Pharisee present in Simon's house was scandalized and said to himself:

"if this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner (Lk 7:39)."

But Jesus, reading the mind of those present, directed Himself to Simon saying:

"Do you see this woman? I entered your house, you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." He said to her, "your sins are forgiven." Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, "who is this, who even forgives sins?" And he said to the woman, "your faith has saved you; go in peace (Lk 7:44-50)."

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, LIKE ANY HUMAN BEING, YEARNS AND EXPECTS FROM EACH ONE OF US SMALL DETAILS OF AFFECTION, as we have

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

just read in the above Gospel passage. Mary Magdalene, no matter how great her sins were, had a tender and sensible heart which knew how to manifest its great love in small deeds.

1. But above all, HER SINCERE REPENTANCE WON OUR LORD'S HEART AND FROM THEN ON SHE RECTIFIED HER WAYS, FOLLOWED AND SERVED JESUS IN AN UNCONDITIONAL MANNER, UNAFRAID FOR HERSELF, THINKING ONLY OF HOW TO SERVE THE LORD. Her love, determination and sensibility was beyond Our Lord's death such that she was well-concerned on how to anoint with spices Jesus' body in the tomb, even if she knew that there was no one who could help her and the other women remove the huge stone which sealed the entrance to Jesus' tomb.

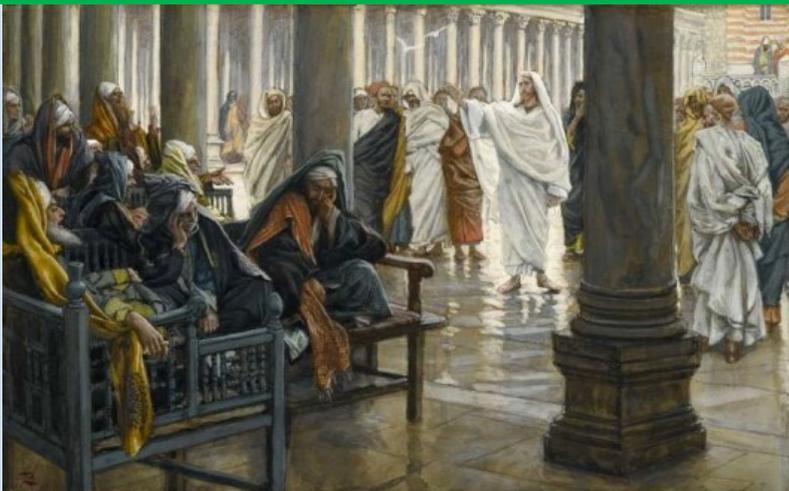
Her love for Jesus became even more patent when not finding His Sacred Body, Mary began to weep (Cf. Jn 20: 1-2; 11-18) and seeing someone whom she had mistaken to be the gardener said: *"Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away (Jn 20:15)."*

MARY MAGDALENE, THE GREAT SINNER WHO RECTIFIED HER WAYS, STAYED FAITHFUL AND PERSEVERED ALONG THE PATH OF FOLLOWING JESUS AND FALLING IN LOVE WITH GOD WITH AN UNWAVERING LOVE, CONCRETE AND GENEROUS IN DEEDS, AND UNDAUNTED WITH THE DIFFICULTIES. For this, she received the reward to be the "first" to whom Jesus appeared after resurrecting from the dead [the word "first" in quotes for I believe that Jesus went to His Mother first, before appearing to Mary Magdalene] and received the mission to announce the great joy of Jesus' Resurrection to the apostles.

Dear friends: **YOU AND I...WE TOO ARE SINNERS...CALLED BY GOD TO BECOME HOLY, TO BECOME SAINTS, IN SPITE OF OUR ERRORS, OUR PAST, RIGHT THERE WHERE GOD HAS PLACED US... SO?** Let us move on then, dear brethren, let us fill ourselves with hope in our daily journey towards holiness, out of love for God, following the beautiful example of **ST. MARY MAGDALENE, AN EXAMPLE OF SINCERE CONTRITION, UNWAVERING, FEARLESS AND FAITHFUL LOVE MANIFESTED IN CONCRETE DEEDS!**

-Fr. Rolly Arjonillo, priest of Opus Dei. CATHOLICS STRIVING FOR HOLINESS. We are also in Facebook: www.facebook.com/CatholicsstrivingforHoliness Hope you like our page and invite your friends as well to do so in order to help more people.

If you have friends who do not have a Facebook account but you think would benefit from our posts, they can receive our posts by email once they follow us and subscribe in www.catholicsstrivingforholiness.com



"I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:20

Who wants to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? Certainly all of us do! That should be our primary goal in life. And, along with that goal, we should seek to bring as many people with us as possible.

Too often we fail to see this as an ultimate goal in life. We fail to keep our eyes on Heaven as the primary reason we are here on Earth. It's very easy to get caught up in the day-to-day satisfactions of what we may call the "mini goals" of life. These are goals such as entertainment, money, success, and the like. And we can often make these mini goals our only goals at times.

So how about you? What is your goal? What is it you strive for and seek throughout your day? If you honestly examine your actions throughout each day you may be surprised that you are actually seeking unimportant and passing mini goals more than you realize.

Jesus gives us one bit of clear direction in this passage above on how to attain that ultimate goal of life – the Kingdom of Heaven. The path He points to is righteousness.

What is righteousness? It's simply being real. Being authentic. Not fake. And most especially, it's being real in our love of God. The Pharisees struggled with pretending they were holy and good followers of the will of God. But they were not very good at it. They may have been good at the acting job, and they may have convinced themselves and others, but they could not fool Jesus. Jesus could see through the fake veneer and perceive that which was underneath. He could see that their "righteousness" was only a show for themselves and others.

Reflect, today, upon your own righteousness – your honesty and sincerity in striving for holiness. If you want to daily keep Heaven as your ultimate goal, then you must also strive to make each daily mini goal an honest attempt at holiness. We must daily seek Christ with all sincerity and truth in all the small things of life. We must then let that sincerity shine through, showing what truly lies beneath. To be righteous, in the truest sense, means we sincerely seek God throughout our day and make that sincerity the constant goal of our life.

Lord, make me righteous. Please help me to be sincere in all that I do and all that I seek in life. Help me to love You and to love You each and every moment of the day. Jesus, I trust in You.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

Announcements and Upcoming Events

SRE REGISTRATION NEXT WEEK, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH AT 8:45 IN MEMORIAL HALL. FOR ALL RETURNING AND NEW FAMILIES.

Bishop Robert Barron's
THE MASS

- Sept 23 ...View: A Privileged Encounter
Sept 30... Discuss: A Privileged Encounter & View: Called Out of the World
Oct 7...Discuss: Called Out of the Word & View: God Speaks Our Story
Oct 14...Discuss: God Speaks Our Story & View: Responding to God
Oct 21...Breakfast (no meeting)
Oct 28... Discuss: Responding to God & View: Preparing for Sacrifice
Nov 4...Discuss: Preparing for Sacrifice & View: The Real Presence Creates Communion
Nov 11...Discuss: The Real Presence Creates Communion

Gather and register Sept 23 in the Adult Conference Room – Bennett Hall @ 8:45 a.m.



Millie's Thrift Shop Entrusted with the treasures of our friends to help others

Millie's want to thank so many individuals and families of the Catholic community who have been *'thinking first of Millie's'* when they have clothing and household items that need to be recycled. By your donations, the quality of our inventory has increased greatly. After items are sorted or a season is over, we have leftover items to share. Recently, a kind farmer took an entire truckload to a Catholic church in the Appalachians. To handle the increase in activity, we always need **more volunteers to help in the store**. Please consider helping us for 4 to 6 hours a week by calling Barbara Ahler, 765-428-1929 or stop in the store at 626 N Earl Avenue, Monday – Friday, 10:00 to 4:00. We accept used Catholic school **uniforms** year-round to pass onto other families.

Earnings from our sales are donated to the Lafayette Catholic School System to support the Teachers Fund. Thank you. (NOTE THE BIN BY THE SOUP KITCHEN WINDOW....DROP OFF FOR CLOTHING)

Love^{the} Lord^{your} God
with all your heart & with all your
soul & with all your strength
& with all your mind; & Love
your neighbor as yourself. LUKE 10:27

In today's Gospel from Mark, Jesus instructs us in the best way we can honor Him, teaching us the meaning of true worship. Jesus reveals that the way we truly worship Him is by giving Him our hearts. We also learn in this Gospel passage what our Lord does not want — the pious lip service that the scribes and Pharisees offer.

But how can we determine if we really are giving our hearts over to the Lord and not just paying Him lip service? We must examine our lives to see if they reflect a life lived out for Him. Stewardship gives us a concrete means to examine our lives in three fundamental areas — the use of our time, our talents, and our material gifts.

A stewardship way of life invites and challenges us to make specific commitments in each of these areas on a regular basis, giving us a practical means to commit to the Lord. How well we are keeping these commitments can give us a kind of measuring stick to see if we are growing closer to Him, or perhaps need to put a little more effort into a particular area of our lives.

When we all strive to give God true worship — putting Him first with all our hearts — what beauty we will find in our homes, our parish, and our world.

SUNDAY OFFERING:

\$7564

“FIND OUT HOW MUCH GOD HAS GIVEN YOU, AND FROM IT TAKE WHAT YOU NEED; THE REMAINDER IS NEEDED BY OTHERS”

ST. AUGUSTINE