

Dear friends,

The common expression that says, “Gratitude is the greatest of all virtues, and ingratitude is the worst of all vices” clearly stands out as the lesson for us in the readings of this weekend. The point of today’s Gospel reading is that, only one out of the ten lepers who had received healing came back to give thanks to Jesus. And Jesus was concerned about it. He asked, “Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give thanks to God, except this foreigner.” Obviously, Jesus was not happy that the other nine who had received healing did not return to give thanks to God.

It is important that we give thanks to God for his favors and blessings; and, if we are honest with ourselves, there are many of them, in fact so many that we cannot count them even if we try. The first and the most obvious reason why we must thank God for his blessings is that God himself wants us to do so; he demands it of us. Again, as both the first reading and the Gospel passage of today’s liturgy clearly teach us that, God is pleased at our gratitude and displeased at our ingratitude.

Another reason is that thanksgiving to God is the right and proper thing to do, whenever we receive any blessing from Him. You could compare it to our human relationships. Whenever anyone shows an act of kindness or favor to us, we know that we must say “Thank You.” Parents teach even their little children, to reciprocate any kindness with appreciation. It cannot be different with God. We cannot just receive blessings from God and walk away without giving thanks, like the nine lepers.

In the prayers of the Holy Mass; the Common Preface IV, has this to say of thanksgiving: “...for, although you have no need of our praise, yet our prayer of thanksgiving is itself your gift, since our prayer of thanksgiving adds nothing to your greatness, but profits us for salvation, through Christ our Lord.” Think about it, saying thank you to God does not add or remove anything from God. However, we are the ones who gain the credit. It pays to give thanks to God; it pays to say “Thank You” to God. It is something we should be doing all the time because each day, every moment, God is giving us one blessing or another, he is doing us one favor or another; at least the gift of life. We should make it a habit of saying “Thank you”, like the grateful leper who alone returned to thank Jesus.

Next weekend, we will be having our annual Fall Festival. It is important we recognize that awesome moment as a time we gather as a community of faith in thanksgiving to God for his many blessings to us. It is a time we give back to God a part of the many blessings we have received from him. We may have been blessed as individual families or members of St. Stephen. However, the Fall Festival makes it possible for those who are not so privileged to find reason to be grateful and celebrate together the gift of one another in the community. May we never take for granted the blessing of God to us, and always be grateful.

Have a blessed weekend.

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP.

### 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Healing was a special ministry of Jesus. Through healing, the sick were not only restored to health, but they were restored to community life – the community was healed as well. Who are the lepers of our society who are cast out and rejected?

What healing do we need to welcome the immigrant; the poor; the prisoner coming out of jail? How are we called by our faith to challenge and heal our society by upholding the dignity of every person, especially those who are hated, marginalized or helpless?

### 28to Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

El sanar fue un ministerio especial del Jesús. A través de la sanación, a los enfermos no sólo se les restauró la salud, sino que también se les reintegró a la vida de la comunidad – y la comunidad fue sanada también. ¿Quiénes son los leprosos de nuestra sociedad que están alejados y rechazados? ¿Qué sanación necesitamos para dar la bienvenida al inmigrante; al pobre; al prisionero que está saliendo de la cárcel?

¿Cómo somos llamados por nuestra fe a cambiar y sanar a nuestra sociedad por medio de la defensa de la dignidad de cada persona, especialmente de aquellos que son odiados, marginalizados o indefensos?

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 9**

**MONDAY OCTOBER 10**

6:30 pm SSWS Meeting—*OLG Rm*  
7 pm Grupo de Oración

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 11**

8 am Men's Bible Study - *OLG Rm*  
6 pm TNMC - *Parish Hall*

**WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 12**

9 am Women's Bible Study  
5:30-8 pm Faith Formation Classes  
6:45 pm Spanish Women's Group

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 13**

3 pm Ministry Meeting  
5 pm Tamale Preparation—*Marian Rm*  
6 pm RCIA—*St. Stephen Rm*  
6:30 pm Fall Fest Meeting

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 14**

5-10 pm Grupo de Oración - *Parish Hall*

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 15**

All Day Fall Fest Set-up  
7 pm Spanish Mass

**Por la celebracion del Fall fest la misa en español sera el Sabado 15 de Octubre a las 7:00 PM**

**FALL FEST TAMALES**

The Hispanic Committee will be making their tamales for the Fall Festival on

**Saturday, Oct 1 & 8 at 5 pm**  
**Thursday Oct 6 & 13 at 5 pm**

If you would like to help or donate any items speak to Bella Martinez.

**Monetary Stewardship**

Collection Last Week:

**Regular: \$ 3374.00**  
**Online: \$ 822.39**  
**Total \$ 4196.39**

**Building Fund—October 1-2**  
**\$1960.00**

*... remembering the words of the Lord who said, It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35).*

**Building for Our Lord Campaign**

**Construyendo Para Nuestro Senior**

Total Pledge To Date:  
**\$1,421,876.00**

Amount Collected To Date:  
**\$781,084.05**

Pledges to be Redeemed:  
**\$644,174.95**

Paid Diocese Month of September  
**\$15,000.00**

Loan Balance to Date:  
**\$618,000.00**

Original Loan Total  
**\$800,000.00**

**NEW PARISHIONERS**

We Welcome

*Jenice McKee, and Gabriel & Susanna Villegaz*

with a deep sense of joy into our parish; we pray this community becomes your spiritual home for years to come. We are blessed to have you in our Parish.

**Mass Intentions**

Sat.	Oct 8	5:30 pm	Clarence Emtrop +
Sun.	Oct 9	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +
		11:00 am	Stewart Smith +
Mon.	Oct 10		NO MASS
Tues.	Oct 11	6:00 pm	Vigil Lucas
Wed.	Oct 12	8:30 am	Kathy Blaine ( <i>Health</i> )
Thurs	Oct 13	8:30 am	Poor souls
Fri	Oct 14	12:00 pm	Brent Romero +
Sat	Oct 15	5:30 pm	Arthur Metcalfe +
		7:00 pm	Kimberly Rosales ( <i>Happy Birthday</i> )
Sun	Oct 16	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +

**Ministry Schedule for October 15-16, 2016**

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	A Alcozar C Aycock	M Markham E Markham	D Broecker P Broecker M Doskocil	W Faulkner E Schatte T Schatte
7:00 PM	J Ortiz M Ramos	K Ramirez V Medrano C Ortiz Itzel Ivette A Chavez M Cortez	C Cortez Bertha R Jorge R	M Lariz O Estevez N Martinez M Ramos
9:00 AM	M Cross A Dwoackz	M G Garcia C Brown	G Pritchett D Lumpkin T Buckley	Deacon Ernie M Riley J Rodriguez C Brown K Cross

The St. Stephen Women's Society will meet on **Monday, October 10th, 6:30 p.m.** in the Guadeloupe Room. Beverly Collins with Cedarbrake will present a program on the "Divine Mercy". Short meeting to follow.

Protect Life! Make a difference in a pregnant women's life. Please contact Tere Grace and find out how YOUR GIFTS and TALENTS can save lives. [FIATSTSTEPHEN@GMAIL.com](mailto:FIATSTSTEPHEN@GMAIL.com)



St. Stephen Catholic Church

**FALL FESTIVAL**

**Sunday October 16, 2016**

**MUCH HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THIS HUGE EVENT AN EVEN BIGGER SUCCESS!**

- Volunteer to help on that day—sign up today!**
- Buy and sell raffle tickets**
- Donate 2 L soda bottles for the ring toss game**
- Donate bags of candy**
- Donate cans of soda & bottled water**
- Donate small game prizes**
- Become a Sponsor**
- Bring a cake for the cake walk**

**Donate live auction items**  
**Contact Caroline Markham @ 972-741-7521**



**"Download Our New Parish App!"**

Our new St Stephen Catholic Church app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more. Help foster a stronger parish life at St Stephen Catholic Church and better engage the New Evangelization.

Download our app today at [myparishapp.com](http://myparishapp.com) or search your phone's app store for "my parish."