

Dear Friends,

One of the many things that can be said of Jesus is that he was brutally blunt with his disciples. He did not offer them any false promises. He told them exactly what to expect for being his disciples. They were to expect persecution. That is what we hear him telling his disciples towards the tail end of his earthly ministry, as we read in our Gospel passage today.

The disciples would be persecuted not because they were bad people or because they deserve it. They would be persecuted simply because the world that they would be operating in would be made up of bad people. Those people would be challenged, even threatened by the message and way of life of the followers of Christ. The message and way of life of the disciples would show up the badness of their own ways and expose it to public view. That would make them very uncomfortable; it would disturb them to the end. As a result, they would resort to violence against the disciples.

In our modern world, there are subtle, “modern” or “civilized” ways of persecuting the followers of Christ. I mean Christians who dare to stand for their Christian values like honesty, probity, justice or value for human life. The new methods are more psychological than physical; they are directed at the mind rather than the body. Their most potent weapon is fear: fear of losing a job, a contract, fear of losing one’s circle of friends or fear of one’s life or that of family members. All of these are the reality of today’s persecution for standing by your Christian faith and values.

The new ways of persecuting Christians may be different, but they are no less punishing than the ones the early Christians had to endure. Today’s Christians need to be reminded that they have been forewarned by Jesus. It should therefore not be a surprise to them that they are the objects of persecution in a world where a lot of bad people hold sway, men and women of darkness. In fact, Christians should be surprised if they did not suffer persecution, because then the warning of Jesus would turn out to be just a false alarm, a hoax, crying wolf where there is none. That is most certainly not in the character of Jesus.

Today’s disciples can take heart in the consoling words of Jesus at the end of today’s Gospel passage: “... not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives.” It is an assurance of real life, life eternal, for those who remain faithful to Jesus.

Have a blessed weekend.

Fr. Jude Uche, MSP

### 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The liturgical year draws to a close with reminders that being a disciple of Jesus is not easy. Faithfulness to Christ will bring opposition and ridicule. We may stand up against abortion, or torture or the death penalty. We may speak out for immigrants, refugees and the poor. These positions might cause others to reject us. We are privileged to be disciples – brothers and sisters of Jesus, but like his road, ours will involve the cross.

### 33er Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

El año litúrgico se comienza a cerrar recordándonos que ser un discípulo de Jesús no es fácil. La fidelidad a Cristo nos traerá oposición y ridículo. Podemos levantarnos contra el aborto, o la tortura, o la pena de muerte. Puede que hablemos por los inmigrantes, refugiados y pobres. Estas posiciones pueden causar que otros nos rechacen. Somos privilegiados de ser discípulos – hermanos y hermanas de Jesús, pero al igual que su camino, el nuestro también implicará la cruz.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 13**  
 12:30-1 pm Comite Hispano Meeting  
 1-4 pm Confirmation Class  
 2 pm Turkey Bingo

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 14**  
 6:30 pm SSWS Meeting—OLG

**TUESDAY NOVEMBER 15**  
 8 am Fellowship of Catholic Men  
 6 pm TNMC

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16**  
 9:30 SSWS Meeting  
 5:30-8 pm Faith Formation Classes  
 6:45 pm Spanish Women's Group

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17**  
 3 pm Ministry Meeting  
 7 pm Comite Hispano Meeting

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18**  
 7 pm Grupo de Oración

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19**  
 10 am Morales Baptism

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20**  
 2nd Collection Catholic Campaign for Human Development  
 10 am Reconciliation Class  
 1-4 pm Confirmation Class  
 6 pm Thanksgiving Service.



**TURKEY BINGO**  
 FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
**Sunday, November 13th**  
 at 2 PM  
 Doors Open at 1:30  
 Food by SSMen's  
**WIN A TURKEY OR CHIKEN DOOR PRIZES**  
 Sponsored by St. Stephen Women's Society

**Monetary Stewardship**

Collection Last Week:

**Regular: \$4,179.00**  
**Online: \$ 653.92**  
**Total \$ 4832.92**

**Building Fund**  
**\$ 4,511.00**

*... 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:  
**\$810,000.00**

Pledges to be Redeemed:  
**\$526,020.00**

Paid Diocese Months of October 31  
**\$41,998.00**

Loan Balance to Date:  
**\$591,532.00**

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

**Mass Intentions**

Sat.	Nov 12	5:30 pm	Clarence Emtrop +
Sun.	Nov 13	9:00 am	Janice Piatek +
		11:00 am	For the Parishioners
Mon.	Nov 14		No Mass
Tues.	Nov 15	6:00 pm	Stewart Smith +
Wed.	Nov 16	8:30 am	Janice Piatek +
Thurs	Nov 17	8:30 am	Virgil Miller +
Fri	Nov 18	12:00 pm	Wayne Miller +
Sat	Nov 19	5:30 pm	Jerry Soto Jr. +
Sun	Nov 20	9:00 am	Mary Ann Macey +
		11:00 am	Jazmin Ortiz (Birthday) Adan Garcia (Birthday)

**Ministry Schedule for November 19-20, 2016**

Mass	Lector	Altar Servers	Ushers / Greeters	Ministers of Eucharist
5:30 PM	A Alcozer T Alcozer	M Markham E Markham	B Watts J Wilson B Johnson	Deacon Ernie R Schatte N Handorf
9:00 AM	M Cross A Dworaczyk	M G Garcia C Brown I Dworaczyk	T Buckley C Milliser M Milliser	M Riley R Michalewicz T Grace K Cross G Pritchett
11:00 AM	R Arias S Villarreal	K Ramirez V Medrano C Ortiz I Ivette A Chavez M Cortez	C Cortez Bertha R J Rocha	M Lariz O Estevez M Perez N Martinez M Ramos

**Grupo de Mujeres Hispanas**

Seguira reuniéndose todos los Miércoles a las 6:30 de la tarde. Para mas información hablen con la señora Elsa Olalde.

**THE GIVING TREE**

*Let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God....The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brother and sister also. John 4:7, 21*

Love is at the heart of every good thing we do for one another.

This is evidenced by the generosity we show one another.

Our parishioners have a long history of giving to people in need at Christmastime and throughout the year. Preparations for the Giving Tree Programs have begun. In recent years we have assisted over 75 children from our parish and the Salado community. This year we find more families struggling to provide for the basic needs of their families.

Gift tags selected from our Giving Tree benefit children from our parish and the community through the Salado Relief Program. Express your thankfulness and generous spirit by participating in the opportunity to share the gifts given to us by God. **Gift tags will be put out the weekend of November 19-20.** If you choose to select an ornament tag from our Giving Tree, please return the unwrapped gift with gift tag attached by **Sunday, December 4, 2016.** Gifts may be dropped off in the back of church or at Parish Office. Thank you for your generosity.

SAVE THE DATE • 2016

**2016**

**Parish Mission**

**December 4-5, 2016**  
 Spanish Mission with Fr. Uche Andeh

**December 6-7, 2016**  
 English Mission with Fr. James Misko



**Faith Formation**

Primary preK-4th grade  
 Fellowship Dinner ALL  
 Intermediate 5th & 6th Grade  
 Junior High 7th & 8th Grade  
 High School 9,10,11 & 12th Grade

5:30-6:30 pm  
 6:30-6:45 pm  
 6:45-7:45 pm  
 6:45-7:45 pm  
 6:30-8:00 pm