Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Been there. Done that.

At Christmas time our parish distributes food baskets to families who struggle financially. We once took a basket to a family experiencing a temporary hardship. The young mother was touched by her community's generosity, but quickly said, "Oh, no, I don't need this as much as my sister. Her husband was just laid off and they're really struggling. Please take this basket to her." The following year, both sisters volunteered to prepare and distribute baskets.

Comment

We often know how someone feels who suffers loss or pain only because we have felt the same way ourselves. God reminds the Israelites in the reading from Exodus today that they were once outsiders. They know how it feels to be foreigners in a strange land, and therefore they should do nothing against the disadvantaged.

The Thessalonians had also suffered persecution, but through their conversion they became model Christians. Paul and Timothy were true to God and modeled fidelity. Through the strength of their example, many Thessalonians turned away from idolatry in order to serve the one, living God.

And what does God ask of those who would be of service? In answer to another trick question from the Pharisees, Jesus gives us God's greatest commandment: To love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and to love one another as we love ourselves … whether we've been where they are or not.

Reflection

Some people serve others as part of their occupation. Educators, those working in the medical field, counselors, priests and ministers, are only a few professions that are service-oriented. Many people in these fields and others volunteer their time and talent to build up the reign of God by helping directly in their church or in their community.

If we consider power and importance to be signs of strength, we miss the greatness of humility. Throughout the Gospels we hear stories of Jesus turning everything upside down with his ideas of the last being first and the humble being blessed. It is that message that he expresses in Matthew's Gospel today. In order to be great in God's eyes, we need to love God and one another with as much love as we have for ourselves.

On a good day, it's easy to love ourselves. But what about the days when we're not so lovable? How do we care for ourselves when we come up short of our expectations and disappointment clouds our vision? These are the times when we need to know God's love for us first and then return that love through prayer, quiet reflection, and outward-directed action. We need to nourish our soul and practice self-care so that we can love ourselves and pass that love on to others. Jesus showed us how to do this. He took time to be alone, to pray and reflect. He then used his recharged strength to reach out to others so that they might love themselves and others. In our humble service, we lift up our neighbors and give them the confidence they need to become humble servants as well.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday:	Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday:	Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
Thursday:	Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
Friday:	Phil 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday:	Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2-3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday:	Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

October 31 – Finance November 7 - Grupo Misionero

Living God's Word - It is difficult to love, especially when we have been hurt by others. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring you the "fire of God's love." Call on the Spirit to deepen your awareness of God's love for you, shown by giving us life and the gifts of faith, hope, and love.

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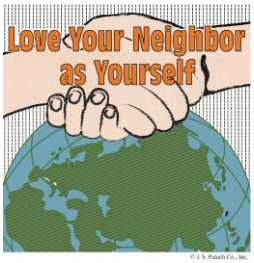
FALL BACK – Daylight Savings Time ends ***next*** Sunday, November 1st. Remember to move your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed ***next*** Saturday, October 31st.

FUNDRAISER – Next Sunday, November 1st, in the parish hall, Menudo *or* Asado; each includes Tortilla - *corn or flour* - & drink -- $15.00; beginning after the 8AM Mass ***'til sold out!*** All funds raised will be used for the December 12 celebration of "Our Lady of Guadalupe."

Saturday, October 24th -
5:00PM-IHM – +Maria Morales Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales, Carlos C, Maria and Carlos Guerrero, Sr.;



Seferino Ramirez, Sr., Ray Longoria, Sr.; Dora Rendon; +Celia Castillo

Sunday, October 25th –
8:00AM – IHM Por la Gente de Nolan County
11:00AM – In thanksgiving for Falana Family; +Jaime Montealvo; +Esther Rodriguez

***Wednesday, October 28th 6:00PM - IHM**
Communion Service

Saturday, October 31st -
5:00PM-IHM – +Sarah Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera, Ysidro y Elvira Navarrette; +Alma y Frances Solano; Our seminarian Raymond Martinez II and the rest of our Diocesan seminarians

Sunday, November 1st –
8:00AM – IHM Por nuestros seminaristas Cameron Moore & Martin Luna; +Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso, Sara & Benjamin Gonzales; +Domingo Flores y Hipolica Quiñonez
11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

COLLECTION DATA October 17/18, 2026

ENVELOPES/CHECKS……$3550.00
LOOSE PLATE……1210.63
BUILDING FUND……...1074.05
TOTAL COLLECTION…….$5834.68

"Thank you for your generosity.

Celebrate the Baby by Helping Babies!

The parish will be collecting baby items during the month of October to donate to the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center.

►**BABY DONATIONS to include**:
Diapers – Sizes 4-6, Wipes,
New or gently used Baby Clothes, preferably 12 months and up,
Baby Lotions, and Baby Shampoo.
You can bring your donations to any of the Masses.

¡Celebra al Bebé ayudando a los bebés!

La parroquia estará recolectando artículos para bebés durante el mes de octubre para donarlos al Centro de Crisis de Embarazo de Mujeres.

►**DONACIONES PARA BEBÉS para incluir:**
Pañales - Tallas 4-6, Toallitas húmedas,
Ropa de bebé nueva o poco usada,
preferiblemente de 12 meses en adelante,
Lociones para bebés y Champú para bebés.
Puedes llevar tus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas.

CROSS CATHOLIC OUTREACH – Please welcome Fr. Jude Ezeanokwasa, who will speak at all Masses on behalf of Cross Catholic Outreach, which was founded to forge a stronger and more supportive link between parishes in America and the priests and nuns serving the poor in the Caribbean, Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America. Please be generous in your response to Fr. Ezeanokwasa's appeal. Brochures will be provided if you wish to support this worthy Catholic ministry.

• **ALL SOULS DAY** – Mass on All Souls Day, Monday, November 2nd, will be celebrated at 5:30pm here at Immaculate Heart, (*bilingual*). Remember to turn in your envelopes in remembrance of your loved ones, by Thursday, October 29th.

EMPOWERING GOD'S CHILDREN SESSION – for parents of CCD students - from Kinder to 11th grades is scheduled for this Sunday, October 25th, at 9:35a.m. at IHM Hall.

PRAY for our CCD 11th Grade Confirmation students who will be on retreat next Sunday, November 1st.

CCD RELIGIOUS EDUCATION 2026-2027
Sunday classes - Pre-K to 6th Grade; 9:30-10:40am
Wednesday Classes -7th to 11th Grades; 7:00-8:30pm

OCIA – Classes have started. If you are needing Sacraments or would like to learn more about the faith, you may still sign up to attend. Classes are held on Thursdays, 6:00pm, Holy Family Hall.

***WEDNESDAY –** Communion Service on Wednesday followed by Adoration until 8:30pm at IHM.

GRUPO MISIONERO - Meets on Thursdays, at 7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall

ULTREYA MEETINGS
Sunday, October 25th - 6:00pm (***English)***
Monday, October 26th - 7:00pm ***(Spanish)***
at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don't have to be a cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo movement, please visit
http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html

• NOTE: The back page of this bulletin -- " Meet and Greet" in the parish hall this Sunday.

TRUNK OR TREAT – Thursday, October 29, 5:30-7:00 pm, Immaculate Heart parking lot. We are still taking candy donations! You may bring them by the parish office!

Join us for a Meet and Greet

October 25, 2026

after the 11am mass

at

HOLY SPIRIT PARISH HALL

511 W Alabama Ave.
Sweetwater TX 79556

Lunch will be provided.

Come join us in fellowship and
get to know what the cursillo is about!

De Colores!