



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 14

November 3, 2019

Dates to Remember

- November 3: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM Mass
- November 4: Memorial of St. Charles Borromeo
- November 9: Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
- November 10: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM Mass

Did You Know?

The **Lateran Basilica** is the cathedral church of the pope who is the Bishop of Rome. The cathedral was first built in the early fourth century on a site in Rome formerly occupied by the palace of the Laterani, a noble Roman family, and was dedicated on November 9, 324. The basilica ranks as the "mother and head of all the churches in the city and the world."

The pope celebrates the Holy Thursday liturgy at St. John Lateran, an immense and beautiful cathedral, with towering statues of the twelve apostles bearing the instruments of their martyrdom.

The Lateran Basilica is one of the four major basilicas in Rome. The others are St. Peter's Basilica, the Basilica of St. Mary Major, and the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 19: 1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house."

And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying,

"He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner."

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,

"Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone

I shall repay it four times over."

And Jesus said to him,

"Today salvation has come to this house

because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.

For the Son of Man has come to seek

and to save what was lost."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Thanksgiving Food Drive — November 2/3 through November 16/17

Please bring your offerings of canned goods and non-perishable food items to the containers marked for this collection in our vestibule the weekends of November 2/3 through November 16/17. Please be sure to check expiration dates. Expired items are all discarded. All items must be non-perishable and unopened in the original package.



These offerings will be used to assist families in our sharing parish, St. Eulalia, during this Thanksgiving season. There need is greater need than ever and they will be distributing 600 boxes of food this year.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."
Matthew 25: 35, 40

Sunday Gospel Connection: November 3, 2019

The Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

Luke 19: 1-10

Gospel Background: In Jesus' day, tax collectors were not popular people. They were collaborators with the Romans and were despised by many Jewish people. The tax system allowed them to charge more than what was required so that they could make a profit for themselves. Thus, they were considered sinners by their countrymen. Observers in the crowd that day grumble because Jesus dines with a sinner.

Throughout Scripture, Jesus' choice of dinner companions set him apart from other observant Jews of his time. In first century Jewish culture, to dine together was to show a bond of fellowship and peace among those at the table. Observant Jews did not generally dine with foreigners and sinners. Yet, Jesus chooses to honor the tax collector, Zacchaeus, by staying at his house.



Even before Jesus comes to his home, Zacchaeus shows himself to be someone in search of salvation. Zacchaeus, described as short in stature, climbs a tree in order to see Jesus. We know from Luke's description that Zacchaeus was no ordinary tax collector; he was, in fact, the chief tax collector and a person of some wealth. In his search for salvation, he humbled himself by making a spectacle of himself by climbing a tree.

Jesus recognizes the faith of this tax collector exhibited in his search for salvation and calls him down from the tree. In the hospitality he extends to Jesus and in his conversion of heart, Zacchaeus is raised up by Jesus as a model of salvation.

Family Connection: In today's Gospel, we see Jesus as a guest in the house of Zacchaeus. Talk about the various ways in which your family prepares when guests are expected in your home. Then read today's Gospel, Luke 19:1-10. Observe that Zacchaeus had not prepared to be Jesus' host that day. And yet, he welcomed Jesus better than anyone else because of his change of heart.

Discuss how your family might receive Jesus in your home and how you receive Jesus in the guests that you make welcome in your home. Pray together that your family will welcome guests into your home as you would welcome Jesus.

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