

**NOVEMBER 5, 2017  
THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is all too easy to cultivate a judgmental attitude when viewing others and their actions. We can distance ourselves from the wrongs of others while at the same time justifying and exonerating ourselves from what we judge wrong in others; a forgiving and excusing attitude with relation to ourselves, a harsh and accusing attitude with relation to others. This is the kind of hypocrisy that Jesus rails against. It is at the heart of today's Gospel.

It is important to note that Jesus is not making an attack on all Pharisees. He was aware that there were some Pharisees who were extremely good people. Generally speaking, the Pharisees were among the most observant and devout Jews. Jesus was attacking not specific people, but the arrogant and hypocritical way of thinking and acting that was displayed by many of them. Jesus attacks this mentality in three areas. First of all, He says that the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees should be put into practice because they are simply handing on the truths of their faith. But their behavior is a different matter altogether which is not to be imitated. They lived a double standard of life, as they said one thing and did something else. Real authority is not the exercise of power but of enabling people to do something good in freedom. Secondly, those in authority claimed special privileges: the wearing of special and distinct uniforms, the expectation that they are more deserving of certain benefits over others. Here they provided a clear message about their own status and power. Thirdly, they showed that they wanted to be distinct from others and not mingle with the rest. They look for special

places of honor in the Synagogue or the Temple. Again, Jesus continued to condemn them for seeking such special honor because they wanted to make an impression on the people. They loved to be greeted in the marketplaces to be known as special persons. In those days, politeness demanded that the length of one's greeting correspond to their dignity.

Our Christian love (that we talked about last week) demands us to manifest God's love in our life. This sounds simple but in practice it can be very challenging. Christian charity also asks us to make reparation for the sins and failings of others. So strong is the bond of Christian brotherhood and sisterhood that we are asked to make ourselves jointly responsible for the faults of our brothers and sisters. If Christian charity does indeed penetrate our lives, then our spontaneous attitude to the sins of others is not the cold and callous distancing judgment, but the sadness at a wrong done, the desire to take upon ourselves something of the burden of sin, and the active concern to do all in our power to help those who have sinned. The implosion of Hollywood that is unfolding before us is a perfect example. People are distancing themselves from one and other and claiming they knew nothing when in reality it seems that everyone knew something was wrong. It was not the sins of one man but the collective sin of a culture that cultivated and nurtured an atmosphere that allowed such disturbing behavior to flourish. The same thing happened in our Church in the 1960's and 70's.

It is easy to read today's Gospel and start pointing fingers at others, but it is important that we see how it applies to our own life. The Gospel is always addressed to each one of us and today we need to hear what it is saying to our heart at this moment. Of course, we can point a criticizing finger at all the officials we know, political, religious or otherwise, but we are called to integrity and honesty. What is difficult to tolerate is the hypocrisy which Jesus

so rightly attacks and of which we are all at one time or another guilty.

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

### **INCREASED OFFERTORY PROGRAM**

"...As generous distributors of God's manifold grace, put your gifts at the service of one another, each in the measure he has received."  
*1 Peter 4:10*

The well-being of our parish is the concern and responsibility of every member. Its effectiveness and continued life depends on the support of the entire parish family. It can only serve us if we support it. We all share. We all are stewards of God's goodness.

Our parish has launched an increased offertory program. You will receive information through the parish bulletin, the mail and from the pulpit explaining the purpose and need for this effort. What we ask of you is that you consider taking a candid look at what your parish has done and continues to do for you and your family. Look, too, if you will, at your weekly offering. If you believe it is a good return to St. Thomas, then you need do nothing more. But if you believe there is room for increase then I ask you to consider doing so. I thank you for your support knowing all the goodness you continue to do for our parish. – Monsignor Hurley

### **THE FIRST GOSPEL**

Why is St. Mark's Gospel So Significant?"

November 12 & 19 after the 10am Mass

The Gospel of Mark was the first to be written and his narrative provided a paradigm for Matthew and Luke to follow. What was Mary trying to accomplish with his narrative? What lessons and insights can we glean from more knowledge about the how's and the why's? Presented by Father Michael Connolly, OSFS

**LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY**  
**\$2,511.00**  
**Thank you for your generosity**

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

#### **Monday, November 6**

6:00pm – Patricia Ann Palandrani

#### **Tuesday, November 7**

8:00am – Neil Donovan

#### **Wednesday, November 8**

8:00am – All Souls Novena.

#### **Thursday, November 9**

8:00am – All Souls Novena

#### **Saturday, November 11**

5:00pm – Mass for the People

#### **Sunday, November 12**

8am – Christopher Ableman

10am – William Cox

### **PRAY FOR OUR CHILDREN**

Mothering is hard work - but we don't have to do it alone! I am seeking other moms - new and seasoned - with whom to start a prayer group. We will gather regularly to pray for our children and our children's caretakers (daycare providers, teachers, doctors, etc.) as well as support each other. If you are interested in this type of fellowship here at St. Thomas, please contact me, Victoria, at [moms.pray.together@gmail.com](mailto:moms.pray.together@gmail.com) with your ideas and availability.

### **THE BISHOP'S 5K RUN**

Lace up your running shoes! The Bishop's 5K will step off Saturday, November 18, at Bellevue State Park! Once again, you'll have beautiful views to enjoy during your run or walk, and prizes and refreshments will be waiting for you at the finish line. The day's family fun activities will begin at 9 am and close at 12 pm. The early-bird registration fee is only \$15.00 per person (plus \$2.50 service fee). This low registration fee is for the first 100 registrants! Sign up now to get this low price!

Enter as a single race participant, a team, or as a guest. For more information go to: [runsignup.com/Race/DE/Wilmington/TheBishops5K](https://runsignup.com/Race/DE/Wilmington/TheBishops5K)

### **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

"Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted." Learn how to humble ourselves for our spouse by exploring a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are March 2-4 and November 2-4, 2018, in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information and to apply online visit [wwww-delmar.org](http://wwww-delmar.org), or call Tony & Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

### **VOCATION REFLECTION**

Today's readings remind us that priests are called to serve God and His people humbly and faithfully. As we pray today for God's blessings on our priests, please pray too that God call many healthy men to serve as priests in the Diocese of Wilmington. If you think God is calling *you* to the priesthood, call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Be sure to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations](http://www.cdow.org/vocations)!

### **GOD IS ON THE AIR**

You are invited to listen to the Catholic Forum podcast. A new podcast is posted every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications) or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, hear an interview with Bishop Carlos Enrique Trinidad Gómez, Bishop of San Marcos, Guatemala. Since 2003, the Diocese of Wilmington has had a Solidarity Partnership with the Diocese of San Marcos. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](https://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications) or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts

### **MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

Marriage Moments: You can watch a favorite program together, but beware of TV or videos stealing time from being together.

#### Parenting Pointers:

Honor those you know who have died. Perhaps try a dinner prayer like, "Dear God, we thank you for the life of \_\_\_\_\_ who taught us to \_\_\_\_\_. Include pets if you wish.

### **HOLIDAY HOPE**

As a service to the community, Doherty Funeral Homes will sponsor a free program designed to help grieving families and individuals cope with the holidays. You and your guests are invited to attend on Sunday, November 12, 2017 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Deerfield Golf club in Newark. Refreshments will be provided. For more information or to register, please call (302) 999-8277 by Friday, November 10.

### **BAPTISM**

For parents who wish to have their babies baptized the next class will take place on Tuesday, November 14, at 7:00pm in the church. For further information and to register, please call the rectory office at 658-5131

### **ST. VINCENT DePAUL SOCIETY**

The St. Thomas the Apostle Conference of St. Vincent DePaul Society formed to provide spiritual support and economic assistance to parishioners and our neighbors in distress. This can only be accomplished through the efforts of dedicated volunteers and your generous contributions. For assistance, to volunteer your time and talents or for further information, please call the parish office at (302) 658-5131 x6. The next meeting of the St. Vincent DePaul Society will be held on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the parish workshop. Anyone interested in learning more about the St. Vincent DePaul Society or joining our group are encouraged to attend.

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time | Matthew 23:1-12

Jesus told the people to listen to the good things the Pharisees say, but do not follow their example. They do not practice what they preach. The greatest on earth are those who serve others.

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**"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled;  
but whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."**

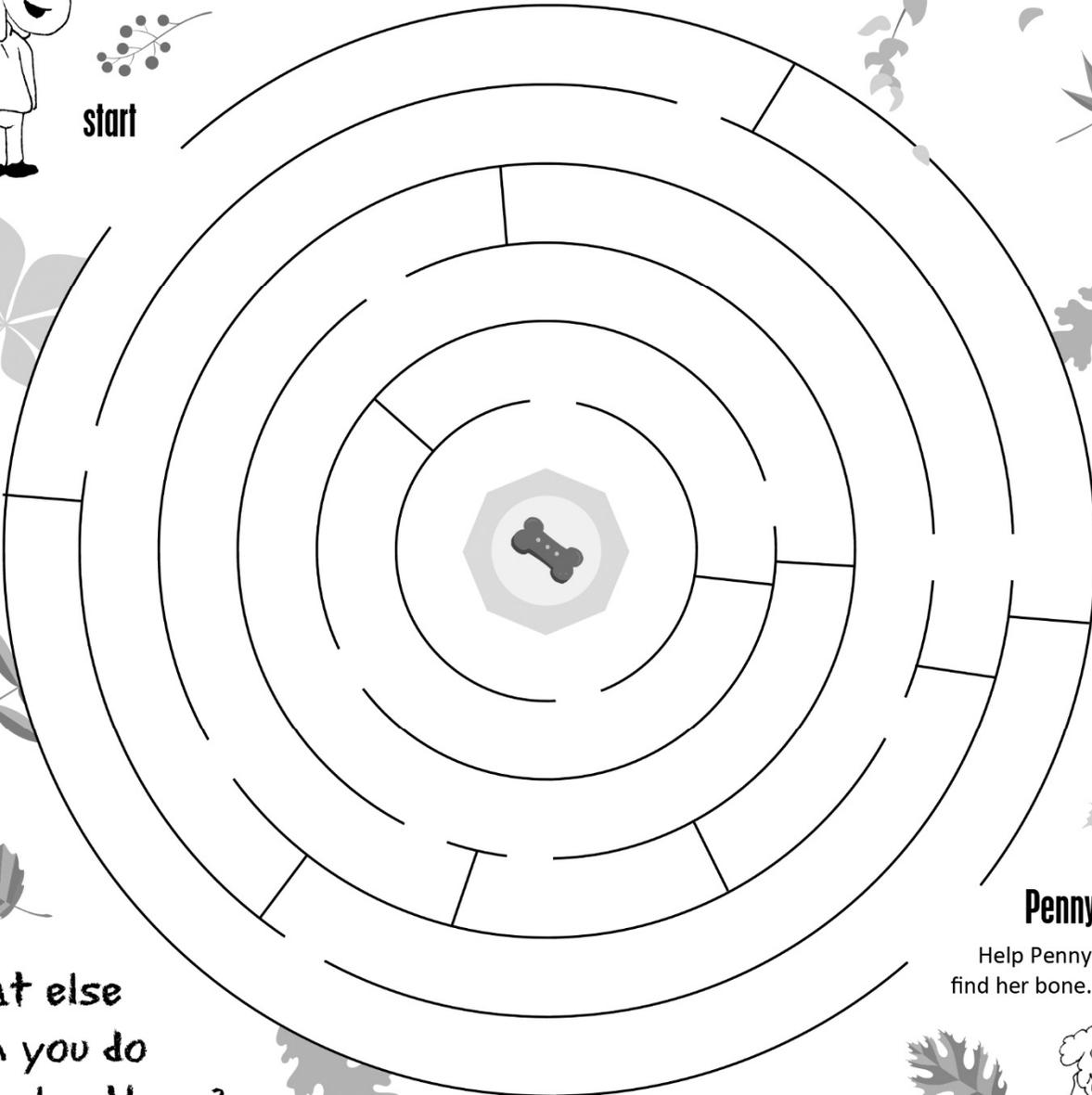
Mt 23:12



Penny,  
where  
are you!

**Help Honey find  
Penny who is lost.**

start



**Penny!**

Help Penny  
find her bone.



**What else  
can you do  
to help others?**