

Homily Themes

27th Sunday in OT through Christ the King

Theme: Reflecting Christ in us!

*Song for every weekend: Amen. El Cuerpo de Cristo #912 Gather
This is a Bilingual Song to help us to include those in our parish from Latin America and
South America. It is sung in both English and Spanish. If you don't know how to read
Spanish, Fr. Sam will be happy to teach you how to sing the words.*

For the Liturgical Art and Environment for all the weekends, a creative display of mirrors would be appropriate.

October 7/8 27th Sunday in OT

This parable reminds us of in-groups and out-groups in our communities and in our churches. The in-group in this parable, are the tenants who represent the Jewish religious leaders who tend to the vineyard which represents Israel. The landowner's servants represent the priests and prophets of Israel who strove to reform Israel and to have it return to faithfulness. The gentiles are represented as the other tenants. Precious Blood Spirituality encourages us to remain faithful to the covenant God makes with us in his Blood and to apply the merits of the Blood of Christ to all people everywhere. It invites us to challenge in-groups and out-groups in our parishes and ministries and seek to unite all persons in the Blood of Christ. It invites us also to welcome newcomers to our congregation with open arms and to allow all persons to be fruitful in using their gifts and talents for the sake of the Kingdom. As it is Thanksgiving weekend in Canada, today is also a day to be thankful for our blessings and to be a blessing to the less-fortunate and the outcast.

Liturgical Art may also include a thanksgiving display along with the mirrors.

October 14/15 28th Sunday in OT

Our second reading from Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20 invites us to be adaptable to any and all circumstances as intentional missionary disciples. It challenges us to not complain when we lack something and to allow God's grace to supply for our insufficiencies. It challenges us to avoid the sort of rigidity too, that Pope Francis has highlighted is a source of division in the church. Precious Blood Spirituality asks us to rely on God's providential love and care for a sinful world and to ask for the graces we need to bring healing and reconciliation whenever possible.

October 21/22 29th Sunday in OT

Stewardship of our time, talent and treasure is the dominant theme in today's gospel. It invites us to reflect on our own giving and the hesitations we sometimes have, to give of ourselves to others and to withhold, at times, our total devotion to God. Just as Jesus didn't hold anything back but gave to the point of shedding his Precious Blood, so our own ministries must be outpouring and generous, able to witness to others, our total reliance on God's grace and the power of God's Holy Spirit to live, with conviction, the Saving Word. Special mention may be made of the Apostle of the Precious Blood, St. Gaspar Del Bufalo (feast day October 21st) and the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and Adorers of the Blood of Christ who continue to live his Charism in our world today.

Today is also World Mission Sunday whose theme is *Hearts of fire, Feet on the move*, encouraging us to participate in the mission *ad gentes*. A collection is taken up for the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith today.

October 28/29 30th Sunday in OT

A review of the church's solidarity with migrants, refugees, widows and orphans, is called for by the first reading from the Book of Exodus. A brief description of the diocesan policies of sexual abuse of a minor may also be appropriate to educate all those present as to the protections set in place by the church. The church policies can be connected to the gospel's mandate to love as well. The Precious Blood of Christ calls us to be in solidarity with the outcast and the vulnerable.

November 4/5 31st Sunday in OT

Today's gospel invites us to walk the walk and to talk the talk. To live as a Christian by virtue of our baptismal consecration is our primary witness to the world of the authenticity of the Good News. Our secondary vocation, whether as a missionary priest, brother, or lay person, gains authenticity when we seek, not our own honor and glory, but God's. When we become the center of our ministry or church, there's a danger that Christ is no longer the center of our lives and that we're seeking validation from others for our gifts and talents, instead of seeing them all as originating in God. That is the witness to humility that the gospel challenges us to live out. Today's gospel therefore asks us to realign our lives to keep Christ the primary focus and the center of all that we say and do.

November 11/12 32nd Sunday in OT

Readiness for the coming of the Lord is highlighted in today's gospel. When we're ready, we maintain an awareness of the temptations that lead us into sin and proactively avoid them at all costs. When we're aware of God's presence, we recognize the presence of God within each person we meet and pay it reverence by the way we treat them. When we're aware of the presence of God, we see God in all things and celebrate our continued union with God at Eucharist. A book that is helpful is Anthony de Mello's Awareness. As Missionaries of the Precious Blood, we remain at the foot of the cross with those who are suffering and lift them up to God's embrace.

November 18/19 33rd Sunday in OT

How do we spend our time on earth? Are we continually developing our gifts and talents and growing in our relationship to Christ or are we coasting and resisting any change that God desires to see within us? Are we being a blessing to others and building up the church or have we become despondent at the post-covid realities in some churches? Have we given up all hope that God will come? Precious Blood Spirituality invites us to renew our commitment the covenant Christ made with us in his Precious Blood and to allow our life blood to bring new life to those involved in our ministries.

November 25/26 Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Our first reading proclaims that God seeks out the lost, brings back the strayed, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak, and feeds the sheep with justice. The image of our King being mindful of social justice, especially for the most vulnerable, is also highlighted in our gospel story of the sheep and goats. How does our church reach out to those segments of society that are often overlooked or ignored or considered as beyond redemption? What can we challenge our churches to do, to step-up our commitment to the marginalized?

ADVENT begins next weekend.