

Our Lady of Humility Parish



10655 Wadsworth Road, Beach Park, IL 60099 • (847) 872-8778 • www.Ourladyofhumility.org

September 18, 2011 • Twenty Fifth Sunday In Ordinary Time



DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME

Catechetical Sunday

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Parish Mission Statement

As a branch of the one vine, as the family of our Lord Jesus, it is our mission to follow the way of the Lord, by extending welcome, embracing in healing love, and sharing the good news of the Gospel.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 19th

8:00 AM Fr. John O'Brien

Tuesday, September 20th

8:00 AM Special Intention For
Darlyne Whyte

Wednesday, September 21st

8:00AM Communion Service

Thursday, September 22nd

8:00 AM + Rita & Louis
Caingap

Friday, September 23rd

8:45AM For Students &
Teachers

Saturday, September 24th

8:00 AM For The Men & Women
In the Military & Their Families

5:00PM + Jammi Hui

Sunday, September 25th

7:00 AM + Craig Nellis, Sr.

9:00 AM + Ann & + Albert
Ochsner

+ Suzanne M. Podolski

+ Audrey Wiedner

+ Veronica Gomez

Purgatorial of OLH

11:00 AM + Robert Krause
Special Intention for
Terri Soukup
People of OLH

Please Support Our Advertiser of the Week

CJ'S COFFEE HOUSE
2352 Sheridan Rd.
Zion, Illinois

847-731-2208

Open 7 Days
Monday-Saturday
4:30 a.m. 7 p.m.
Sunday
4:30 a.m.—4 p.m.



“**T**he kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard...When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’” — Mt 20:1, 8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



Saturday, September 24th, and Sunday, September 25th

Saturday Confessions: 3:30-4:30PM Fr. V. Laini

Presider:

5:00PM	Fr. V. Laini	Deacon Jim
7:00AM	Fr. T. Hoffman	Deacon Mike
9:00AM		Deacon Mike
11:00AM	Fr. V. Laini	Deacon Jim

Eucharist Ministers:

5:00PM	C) P. Duncan	D) R. Thomas
	F. McGrath, J. McGrath, J. Farris, B. Brothman	
7:00AM	C) M. Rakher	
	S. Huff, B. Savage, S. Murakami	
9:00AM	C) G. Askew	D) A. Range
	W. Moran, G. Moran, R. Howard, L. Mercure, J. Pope	
11:00AM	C) R. Krueger	D) K. Krueger
	B. Reid, B. Ennesser, A. Ennesser, M. Florczyk, P. Miller	

Lectors:

5:00PM	(1) L. Hazinski	(2) E. Tomkowiak
7:00AM	(1) JB. Dickson	
9:00AM	(1) M. Bruno	(2) G. Krame
11:00AM	(1) P. Schaub	(2) P. Jones

Altar Servers:

5:00PM	A. Wegrzyn, M. Rivera
7:00AM	A. Rivera, N. Rivera
9:00AM	M. Mason, R. Mason
11:00AM	H. Norrish, J. Norrish

M. R. Med Center: Sept. 25: John Bockrath

LWC Leaders—Sept. 25: 9 a.m. C. Wolak 11 a.m. F. Mangubat

In a few days the Boy Scouts will be busy making spaghetti for their annual Spaghetti Dinner which is Friday, Sept. 23. You can purchase your ticket after all the Masses this weekend.

A Seminarian from the University of St. Mary of the Lake will speak at all the Masses on the weekend of Sept. 24/25. A second collection will be taken to support the Archdiocesan seminary system.

The First Friday school Mass will be on Friday, Sept. 23 at 8:45 a.m. From Sept. 23 until the beginning of June, there will be no 8 a.m. Mass. Mass will be at 8:45 a.m. whether the children are there or not there.

Looking ahead to October— The seventh and eighth grades of our school will be hosting the 5 p.m. Mass. The seventh and eighth grades will be greeters, ushers, gift bearers and lectors. The first Sunday in October is Respect Life Sunday. There will be a holy hour that evening at 7 p.m. The parish will have its annual Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct. 7. The school will be sponsoring casino night on Saturday, Oct. 22 in the parish center.

Beginning now the number of intentions for the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday will be limited to four intentions. This does not include the intention

for the People of the Parish and the Purgatorial Society.

As you are well aware there will be a new translation of the Mass beginning the First Sunday of Advent. Articles are appearing in the bulletin making you aware of the changes. At first it will seem awkward and challenging but eventually these new responses/translations will be very familiar to you.

The parish is blessed with both, a very solid school and religious education program. The school is under the guidance and direction of Patrick Browne who is the principal. This is his fifth year as principal of our school. The religious education program is under the guidance and director of Kate Kinser. This is Kate's third year as the Director of Religious Education. Of course Patrick Browne could not operate the school without a dedicated and committed faculty and Kate Kinser could not operate the religious education without catechists who are volunteers and volunteer their time. Both our school and religious education program are growing, thanks to the dedication and commitment of so many teachers and catechists.

Please pray for parents — Especially single parents.

Right To Life Sunday

October 2nd is Respect Life Sunday, when the Church celebrates the sanctity and beauty of human life from the moment of conception until natural death. Our Church urgently calls all to a "a general mobilization of consciences, and a untied ethical effort to create a great campaign in support of life."

Join us for a Holy Hour from 7 p.m. until 8 p.m. in Church for a Pro-Life Prayer Service, a Rosary for the intention of ending abortion, Adoration of the Blssed Sacrament and Benediction. Let us join together to pray and help to build a culture of life.

"God our loving Father, grant wisdom to those who govern us, compassion and courage to those who work to defend human life and safety and care to every human being. For You alone Who formed us in our mother's womb, and Who call us home to heaven, are our God forever and ever.

Amen.

Week At A Glance

Sunday, September 18 2011

Boy Scouts selling Spaghetti Dinner Tickets after all Masses
 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m. Child Care (Pre-School Room)
 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.—R E Classes (All School cClassrooms)
 12:15 p.m.—Donut Sunday, Blest Art, Flu Shots (PC)
 12:30-2 p.m.—Christ First Peer Minister Meeting (TC)

6:30-8 p.m.—English as Second Language Meeting (HCC)
 7—9 p.m. Helping Hands Meeting (HCR)
 7-8:30 p.m.—Joyful Hearts Choir Practice (C)

Thursday, September 22nd

2-6 PM—Eucharistic Adoration ©
 6-8:30 p.m.—Boy Scouts—Troop 66 (H)
 7-8:30 p.m.—Chorus of Faith Choir Rehearsal ©
 7—9 p.m. Knights of Columbus Officers' Meeting (HCR)
 7—9 p.m.—Mission Nattita Committee Meeting (RLL)

Friday, September 23rd

4:30—7 p.m.— Boy Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, September 24th

4-11 PM—Bingo (H)

Sunday, September 25th

8:45 a.m.—12 p.m.—Child Care (Pre-School Room)
 10::15 a.m.-12 p.m.—R E Classes (All School Classrooms)

Monday, September 19th

6:30-8 p.m.—RE Classes (All School Classrooms)
 6:30—9:00 p.m.—Christ First (TC & PC)
 7:15—9:30 p.m.—RCIA (HCR)

Tuesday, September 20th

4 -7 :30 p.m.—Volley Ball Practice (PC)
 6:30—7:30 p.m.—Brownies-Daisies, Jr. Girl Scouts (H)
 7:- 10 p.m.—Parish Pastoral Council Meeting (HCR)

Wednesday, September 21st

4:30 -9:30 p.m.—Volley Ball Practice (PC)
 6:15-9 p.m.—FSA Meeting (TL)

Our Lady of Humility Food Pantry...



Is in need of **Creamed Soups, canned tomato soup and beef stew.** Non-perishable food can be dropped off at the Rectory Monday—Friday 9AM-3:30PM, or brought to the northwest vestibule of the Church on Saturdays or Sundays before Mass. *Again, thank you for the continued generosity.*

Bingo Workers Schedule - September 17, 2011

Team Two: Captain; Chuck Roberts
Two: McCabe Family, Jelena Ramirez, Christine Rieger
Two: Knights of Columbus
Callers: Knights of Columbus
Chili Makers: Leva Family

For Thanksgiving, the Food Pantry is in need of:

Stuffing, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Boxed Pie Crust, Cranberry Sauce, Jell-O, Fruit Cocktail and Canned Yams.

Readings For The Week of September 18, 2011

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
 Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Lk 8:16-18
 Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk 8:19-21
 Wednesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13
 Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Lk 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg 2:1-9/Lk 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk 9:43b-45
 Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

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Soup Kitchen



Do something helpful this Summer, Thursday, September 29 is Our Lady of Humility's commitment to provide volunteers to help with the Soup Kitchen at Holy Family Services (the old St. Bartholomew Parish) located at 914 8th Street, Waukegan.

It is always the fourth Thursday of every month. Food preparation begins at 3PM, dinner is served at 5:30PM, followed by clean-up. We are usually done by 7PM.

Any time that you can give is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please call Peg at (847) 623-1639.

Weekly Parish Contributions For 9/4/11

Weekly Offering: \$12, 551.62 Children's Collection: \$16.00
Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Sanctuary Light Intentions—9/18/11— 9/24/11

For the Men and Women Serving In The Military

Knights Of Columbus 2011-2012 Raffle Winner

9/5—First Raffle Ticket #215 - No Winner

Religious Education Program

TODAY IS CATECHETICAL SUNDAY, when we bless and thank all those in our parish who pass on our faith to both children and adults: Teachers in our parish school, as well as catechists in Religious Education, RCIA, Baptismal Preparation and Adult Education. *We bless them because they are a blessing to us all.*

Our Religious Education Program began this past week, and we were very pleased that students came on time and were enthusiastic and attentive. Families who have not completed registration can come to the Religious Education Office on Sunday from 9 a.m.—2 p.m. or Monday from 4 p.m.—9 p.m. and their children can begin classes the third week. We will continue registrations on Sundays and Mondays and by appointment until Wednesday, September 28th., when classes will be closed for the year. We are still looking for catechists and aides to fill out our teaching corps. Parents of our RE students who become catechists receive a substantial reduction in their Religious Education tuition. We will provide training and guidance for those who want to begin their ministry as catechists.

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, Our Sunday classes will begin to attend the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses on a rotating basis. Next week, Amanda Norrish's 7th grade will be at the 9 a.m. Mass and our 6th grade (Joanne Minnoch, catechist) and 5th grade (Marcela Franco, catechist) will be at the 11 a.m. Mass. Pews will be reserved for our classes, and we will also rotate those designations, so our students will not always be in the same row or same side of the Church. **REGULAR MASS GOERS:** Thank you for your generosity and understanding in welcoming our students to Mass. They are the future of our Church and our parish, and if they get in the habit of Mass attendance now, they will fill the pews in the decades to come. Please contact Kate Kinser, Director of Religious Education, at 847-746-3744 for more information on becoming a catechist or about our RE Program.

INTERESTED ADULTS PLEASE NOTE: ADULT EDUCATION for RE Parents and other adult learners has already begun in English (10:15-11:30 in the Hayes Room for Bible study with Nancy Rivera) and will commence next Sunday and Monday (September 25th and 26th) in Spanish, with Cristina Rodriguez on Sundays and Minnie Rakher on Mondays. Our Spanish language parent education will take place in the Holy Child Center, in the small house to the north of the school building. Please call the Religious Education Office for more information.

NURSERY CARE AVAILABLE ON SUNDAY MORNINGS:

FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN: On those Sundays when Religious Education is in session, **TOM HAWLEY**, one of our most experienced, beloved volunteers & his teenage assistants will care for and entertain young children in our Nursery, which meets during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Masses in the early childhood classroom just inside Door #3 of the school. Parents who attend our adult education programs can also use the Nursery during RE hours

Donut Sunday —

is this Sunday, Sept. 18, hosted by our Knights of Columbus. Join your fellow parishioners for some delicious treats, and the even better treat of community and fellowship.

If **September** is your birthday month, please come and enjoy a complimentary drink and donut of your choice with your friends and the Knights. (Pick up a complimentary birthday card from the Grand Knights Table at the beginning of the donut line). Free Coffee Refills!

The History of the Mass:

A New Adult Education Opportunity Tuesday morning Adult Education will begin again this fall, beginning October 4th through December 20th. Diana Jurista, will lead a course of study on the History of the Mass, using materials developed by Fr. John Baldovin of Boston College. Each session will meet from 9:15-10:30 AM in the Hayes Community Room in the basement of the Rectory.

Our Lady of Humility - 8th Grade Fundraiser

The 8th graders will be selling Mr. Z's Pizza & Home items after select masses this week end. Pick up a brochure on your way out or stop by the Scrip Table to place an order. All orders will be accepted until Sept. 19th. If you have questions, please contact Lee at 847-789-6121.

Life of Christ Retreat

By Michael Hugo

Saturday, October 22, 2011

8:30 a.m. until 12 noon

St. Raphael the Archangel
Catholic Church

All are welcome to the retreat, which will begin with mass followed by donuts and coffee in the hospitality room. We will gather again in church for the Life of Christ presentation, which will be about an hour and a half followed by shared response and questions. Lunch will be at the Shanty in Wadsworth for those who wish to attend.

The Life of Christ is a presentation that incorporates costume, music, props and drama to bring to life the story of Jesus. Michael Hugo, campus minister at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, seeks to have the audience see more closely who Jesus was as a human being, how he spoke, what his growing up years might have looked like and, finally, his last hours. People who have witnessed the program have been moved and inspired by Michael's presentation, saying that they felt more in touch with Jesus' humanity, making it easier for them to relate to Him. It is a moving, dramatic and thoughtful presentation that both youth and adults will gain something valuable for their spiritual life. This is the 20th year that Michael has presented The Life of Christ to parish communities.

Sponsored by OLH Women's Club & Catholic Daughters of St. Raphael the Archangel. To register, sign up in the vestibule by October 16. Free will offering taken up after the presentation.

Changes to the Roman Missal—Liturgy Notes

Starting today and in future weeks, we'll look at the changes in the People's Parts of the Mass. We start with the "Greeting".

PRESENT TEXT - Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you.

NEW TEXT – Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And **with your spirit**.

At the beginning of the Mass, immediately after the Sign of the Cross, the celebrant extends one of three different liturgical greetings to the people. The one that is perhaps most commonly used is "The Lord be with you." It is a familiar line that will remain unchanged with the new translation.

Our new response will be the first major change in the Order of Mass. Instead of "And also with you," we will now be saying, "And with your spirit." This new response will also be made at the four other times during Mass when this dialogue occurs: at the reading of the Gospel, at the beginning of the Eucharistic Prayer, during the Sign of Peace (when the Priest says, "The peace of the Lord be with you always"), and at the conclusion of Mass.

Why this change? At the most basic level, "And with your spirit" is the proper translation of the original Latin text: "*Et cum spiritu tuo*." By correctly expressing this dialogue in English, we are actually aligning our translation with that of all the other major language groups, which have long been translating the Latin properly. For example, in Spanish, the response is "*Y con tu espíritu*."

But even beyond the linguistic, the recovery of the word "spirit" also carries Scriptural meaning. One form or other of "The Lord be with you" appears multiple times in the Bible, including the greeting given by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation: "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). Then in the Pauline epistles, multiple variations of "The Lord be with your spirit" are employed as parting words to different church communities. Understood together, this liturgical dialogue in the Mass is an exchange whereby all present – both Priest and congregation – ask that the Holy Spirit (whom we call "the Lord, the giver of life" in the Nicene Creed) establish a stronger communion among us.

In addition, for the congregation to answer the Priest, "And with your spirit," is actually a theological statement about what we Catholics believe regarding ordained ministers. No. 367 of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* speaks of how "spirit" can refer to an elevation of the soul, whereby the soul "is raised beyond all it deserves to communion with God." Through Holy Orders, Christ has forever configured the Priest's soul to Himself in a special way, by the power of the Holy Spirit. By specifically referencing the Priest's spirit, we can affirm this transformation and pray for his ministry.

This new response of "And with your spirit" will be a difficult change to remember – perhaps one of the most difficult for us laity. However, it will not take long to grow accustomed to the new wording, especially given its frequency. Above all, we should reflect on how it conveys the content of Sacred Scripture, as well as the work of the Holy Spirit in the Church.

OLH 2011 – 2012 Bowling League

We are getting close to starting our 14th season of the OLH Social Bowling League for OLH members, school parents and friends. The league will again bowl at Sunset Lanes in Waukegan on the third Saturday of each month during the school year. The league begins in September and goes through April or May (depending on holidays).

We are looking for teams of 4. Keep in mind, our league is not sanctioned, this is strictly for fun and is open to all skill levels. If you need, we can try to place you on a team if you do not have enough people but would like to come out and have some fun. The cost will be \$15 per person, which covers lane fees, the main dish for our potluck dinners, and a small donation to the school. We have two pot-luck nights, one at Christmas and one on the last night of the season. We also have 50/50 raffles as well as in the past, we have had generous families contribute gift baskets to be raffled off. All proceeds go into the prize fund that goes to OLH. Interested? To bowl in the league, please contact Kate Braden at 847-731-2094 and let her know how many bowlers you have. We are always looking for teams! Hope to see you in September!

“A Traditional Fireside Christmas”

The Fireside Theater trip to see “A Traditional Fireside Christmas” on October 29th still has a few seats available. Please see the sign-up sheet in the church vestibule for more information, and sign-up.

If you have already signed up, please put your payment in an envelope labeled ***Fireside Christmas*** and place in the Sunday collection, drop off at the Church Office during normal business hours, or mail. **Payments are due by September 26th, 2011.**

New Lectors Needed

Do you feel called to proclaim the Word of God at our celebration at Mass? The next training session will be at St. Alphonsus Parish in Prospect Heights on Saturday, September 24, 2011, 9 a.m.—12 noon.

If interested, please call Laurie at 847-244-6656.

Market Day

October 6, 2011 is the next Market Day.

Please pick up a flyer, fill it out and bring it to the school.

Thank you for your support.

Boy Scouts of Troop 66 Spaghetti Dinner

The Scouts are serving their 17th Annual Spaghetti Dinner on **Friday, September 23rd**, in the Parish Center. Dinner will be served from 4:30 until 7 P.M. The meal includes fresh salad, noodles with meat or marinara sauce, garlic bread, dessert and a drink. Soda and bottled water are also available.

The cost for this All-You-Can-Eat Dinner is:

Advance Ticket Prices are:
Adults: \$6.00; Seniors+: \$4.00;
Child Ages 4-12: \$4.00; Child
Ages 4-12: \$5.00; Under 3
Years of Age: Free; All Carry-
out Orders: \$7.00.

Tickets are available from any Scout in Troop 66 after each Mass this weekend, or at the Church Rectory by calling (847) 872-8778.

Grief Support Group

The Bereavement Committee of Santa Maria del Popolo in Mundelein is offering a nine-week support session to all adults who have lost a loved one and are struggling with grief and loss. If you and/or anyone else are interested, please call Stephanie at 847-949-8597 or Maura at 847-566-0945 for more information and/or to sign up. All facilitators are Archdiocesan trained in this much needed and important Christian ministry. First meeting is Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m.

Our Lady of Humility Parish

10655 Wadsworth Road, Beach Park, IL 60099

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturdays: 3:30 to 4:30PM

Sacrament of Marriage:

An appointment, at least 4 months in advance (Diocesan Policy), is made with the Pastor prior to setting a date. Catholic persons will have to obtain new Certificates of Baptism.

Sacrament of Baptism:

Baptisms are scheduled the 1st Sunday of every month. Attendance is required at a Preparation Session. Please call the Parish Secretary for arrangements.

Sacrament of the Sick:

Please notify the Rectory if a member of your family is in the hospital or sick at home, and wishes to receive the Anointing of the Sick. Phone the Rectory for home communion calls.

Welcome New Parishioners:

We would like you to become a parishioner. Registration packets are available at each Church door.

The Rosary:

Prayed on Sunday after the 7AM Mass.

Handicap Accessibility:

There is an access ramp on the west, and a lift on the east side of Church. Handicap parking is available.

Quinceaneras:

Call the Rectory 9 months prior to setting a date.

Eucharistic Adoration:

Thursdays 2-6PM.

Rectory: (847) 872-8778; Rectory Fax: (847) 872-8780

School: (847) 746-3722; School Fax: (847) 731-2870

Religious Education: (847) 746-3744

Parish Office E-mail: olhoffice@ourladyofhumility.org

Web Site: www.Ourladyofhumility.org

Please E-mail all Bulletin Articles, Flyers, or Announcements to:

bulletinarticles@ourladyofhumility.org

Deadline for all Bulletin submissions is 12 Noon on Fridays 10 days before you want the Article to appear. (For example: Friday, April 1st, for Sunday, April 10th)

Sunday Masses: 5:00PM Saturday, 7:00, 9:00, and 11:00AM Sunday

Weekday Masses: 8:00AM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Friday: 8:45AM (During School Year) 8:00AM during Summer

Communion Service: Wednesday 8:00AM

All Are Welcome!

Our Lady of Humility Staff Contact Information

Pastor: Rev. Thomas Hoffman – frtom@ourladyofhumility.org

Retired Priest: Rev. Valerian Laini

Priest In Residence: Rev. Charles Ssenyondo

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. David Mulvihill

Deacons: Jim Askew, Mike Mercure, Bob Ochsner

Principal: Patrick Browne – pbrowne@olhschool.org

Director of Religious Education: Kate E. Kinser – kkinser@ourladyofhumility.org

Director of Liturgy and Music: Rita Byrd – rbyrd@ourladyofhumility.org

Business Manager: Laura Jones – ljones@ourladyofhumility.org

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lmercure@ourladyofhumility.org

Religious Education Secretary/Parish Secretary: Sandra Buegeler –

sbuegeler@ourladyofhumility.org

Bulletin Editor/Parish Secretary: Margaret Richter –

mrichter@ourladyofhumility.org and bulletinarticles@ourladyofhumility.org

Youth Ministry: Linda Bugos-Noble – youthministry@ourladyofhumility.org

Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)

Rev. Thomas Hoffman, *Pastor*

Brenda Dickson, *Chair*

Terri Rusek, *Vice-Chair*

Kelly Metoyer, *Secretary*

Gloria Askew

Kelly Krueger

Don Duncan

Ryan Krueger

Ann Ennesser

Lesley Nurczyk

Leslie Hazinski

Mary Schaub

Parish Finance Council (FC)

Rev. Thomas Hoffman, *Pastor*

Phil Tobin, *Chair*

Gary Fields

Noreen Paulsen

Dave Grampovnik

Richard McFarlin

Michael Bruno

LeRoy Shea

Any Questions or Ideas for PPC or the FC?

ppc@ourladyofhumility.org

fc@ourladyofhumility.org

Please Remember In Your Prayers:

Lisa D., Diana D. Janet Jones, Terri Soupkup, Darlyne Whyte, Shauna Whiteside, Fran Gamberini Family, Bill Last, Bill Schaefer, Edward Stofel, Nelissa Piktel, Marion Heiny, Patt Heiny, Bill Leicht, Jim Yonke, Dennis Gonka, Garrett Goodwin, Frank Jaros, Darlene Abernathy, Beverly Gyger, Mary and Joe Lokay, Ron Mitten, Vince Bisbee, Cheryl Mitten, Tyler Lundy, Catherine Gourley, Margaret, Marie Bruno, Ashley Vargas, Kevin Junge, Ginny Merkel,

For the Deceased:

Robert Phillips
Petra Jimenez
Lorraine Pencak

Family Matters: 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time--September 18, 2011

"Thus the last shall be first and the first shall be last." Matt20:16

Fairness and justice are issues families deal with all of the time. Today's readings remind us to live and work for the sake of Christ and others, not be concerned about the reward for "the last shall be first and the first last." How do we explain and live this powerful faith message throughout the many cycles of our life in family?

As the parent of two young adult women, I am in awe at their inner beauty and the gifts they have brought to my husband and I and our extended families. I feel blessed by the Creator and filled with love. Do all parents feel this way? Certainly, many do; including many parents who watch their children go hungry or unclothed or uneducated. Do these children deserve less than my children because they were born in a different place? Of course not. Yet United States statistics display high infant mortality rates, high teenage suicide and pregnancy rates, high child poverty rates, high school dropout rates. What is my family doing for the care of hurting children: on our block? in our city? in our state? in our world?

Under God's covenant with the Jews, care of the orphans and widows was the responsibility of both the community and the families within the community. .In fact God's continued presence with His people depended on the care of the poor and oppressed. Jesus came into the world a poor and helpless child. Throughout His ministry, He blessed and welcomed the children. His message about "the last judgment" is extremely clear. We will be judged by our treatment of the most disadvantaged, the most helpless, the "last".