**St Teresa’s Green Team**

As Halloween approaches and you’re getting ready to buy small candies to give away, consider purchasing sweets that have a Fair Trade certification. Bonus points if you’re able to find Fair Trade treats to hand out with sustainable packaging! To consumers, a Fair Trade certification communicates that the good in question was produced in a more socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable way (and has undergone a verification process). To producers, Fair Trade standards support the community by offering price minimums to support farmers in unstable markets, providing frameworks for environmental sustainability, prohibiting child labor, and contributing premiums toward community development projects such as improving access to education and healthcare.

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**ON-LINE GIVING**

To make a one-time gift, scan the QR code, scroll past the login, click on Quick Give To register for the program, scan the QR code and complete the login, etc.

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**FAITHFUL**

St. Teresa’s welcomes the Archdiocesan Youth Rally this Sunday. This is a wonderful event for youth in 8th grade or above and will feature a guest speaker, Rhyam Ramirez, known as Bro Rhy.

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**REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES**

November is called “the month of the Holy Souls”. During November a Book of Remembrance will be placed inside the Church. Parishioners are invited to write the names of deceased loved ones in this book and to bring a photo(s) for display during the month. All photos will be returned at the end of the month. Please put your name & phone number on the back of the picture.

We will remember those we have lost this year on Sunday, November 3rd at the 10am Mass.

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**Welcome to St. Teresa of Avila’s Parish Community**

We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here celebrating with us. Whether long-time residents or newly arrived in our parish, we thank God that you are with us. If you are not registered or have changes to your registration, please fill in the form below, or complete the form on our website.

Name: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Address: __________________________ __________________________________________

City: ___________ Zip: ___________ Email: __________________________

☐ New Parishioner  ☐ New Address and/or phone  ☐ Send Sunday envelopes  ☐ On-Line Giving

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We have had on-line giving up and running here at St. Teresa’s for 10 months! It has proven to be a big success with parishioners. We have seen an increase in offerings each month.

If you have hesitated, but are interested in supporting our parish through this program, please do not hesitate to contact Stephani in the parish office.
**Suffice it to say, the two characters in today’s Gospel are not especially attractive. The is a persistent widow, an annoying woman who spends her time and energy nagging the judge. Jesus told this parable “on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart”, but his point is easily lost because we – as hearers – identify with neither of the two characters. This Sunday’s is a tough Gospel, and making sense of it is a formidable task for today’s homilist. That is why – in this week’s column – I will avoid the specific characters in the gospel. Instead, I’d like to focus on the generic topic of widows.**

**Why do the Scriptures “feature” widows? The reason is because, in the social structure of the Hebrew and Christian worlds, women and children had few (if any) rights. Women and children were dependent on husbands and fathers for survival and sustenance, and should the head of the household die, the survivors had nowhere to go. In some cases, the widow’s ex-”husbands” or ‘husbands’ were her Augustine witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.**

**SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**Parish Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Oct 20</td>
<td>- Faith Formation, 9am, Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, Oct 21</td>
<td>- Youth Rally, 12 noon, Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Choir Practice, 7pm, Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- AA Step Meeting, 6:30pm, Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, Oct 22</td>
<td>- AA Meeting, 7:30am, Avila</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- SVDP Sandwich Tuesday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- 9am, Parish Kitchen</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- SVDP Grocery Distribution 1pm, Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, Oct 23</td>
<td>- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat, Oct 26</td>
<td>- AA Meeting, 7pm, Avila</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun, Oct 27</td>
<td>- Faith Formation, 9am, Hall</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Ministers Schedule for Next Week October 26 & 27**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Bread</th>
<th>Hosp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:15 PM</td>
<td>P. Diaz</td>
<td>C. Groepper</td>
<td>L. Lechich</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Lector: B. Doyle</td>
<td>2 Lector: T. Labuqen</td>
<td>2 Bread: E. Kudya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 AM</td>
<td>L. Lucia</td>
<td>S. Siebel</td>
<td>R. Kingman</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 Cup: Volunteer</td>
<td>Hosp: J. Warnock</td>
<td>Host: T. Lando</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Mass Intentions**

As we celebrate Mass together we include in our prayers:

- **Saturday, October 19**
  - Shirley Marasco
  - Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)

- **Sunday, October 20**
  - Peter & Bianca Lodolo
  - The People of the Parish
  - Jennifer Price

- **Tuesday, October 22**
  - Lupita Pereza

- **Friday, October 25**
  - Harry & Katherine Law

- **Saturday, October 26**
  - Gino Garibaldi
  - Henry Morgan, Jr. (Spec. Int.)

- **Sunday, October 27**
  - The People of the Parish
  - Frank Sullivan

**Widows in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures**

Suffice it to say, the two characters in today’s Gospel are not especially attractive. The first is a corrupt judge, a feisty curmudgeon “who respected neither God nor man”; the second is a persistent widow, an annoying woman who spends her time and energy nagging the judge. Jesus told this parable “on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart”, but his point is easily lost because we – as hearers – identify with neither of the two characters. This Sunday’s is a tough Gospel, and making sense of it is a formidable task for today’s homilist. That is why – in this week’s column – I will avoid the specific characters in the gospel. Instead, I’d like to focus on the generic topic of widows.

Widows appear frequently in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Here are several examples where they play a central role in the narrative or story:

- **1 Kgs 17:7-16 (Elijah and the Widow)**: The widow takes what little food she has and feeds Elijah; a miracle takes place and she is provided with food for a year.
- **Lk 7:11-17 (Raising of the Widow’s Son)**: Jesus – journeying to the city of Naim – encountering a funeral procession of a man who had died. The deceased is the only son of a widow and, moved with pity, Jesus commands the man to rise. The dead man sits up and begins to speak, whereupon Jesus returns him to his mother.
- **Lk 21:1-4 (The Poor Widow’s Contribution)**: A widow puts two small coins in the temple offering; from her poverty, she “has offered her whole livelihood”.
- **Acts 6:1-7 (The Need for Assistants)**: The Hellenists complained against the Hebrews “because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution”. The Apostles choose seven men to serve the widows; these are the first deacons.

Why do the Scriptures “feature” widows? The reason is because, in the social structure of the Hebrew and Christian worlds, women and children had few (if any) rights. Women and children were dependent on husbands and fathers for survival and sustenance, and should the head of the household die, the survivors had nowhere to go. In some cases, the widow’s ex-husbands were her Augustine witnesses to a world so in need of His healing, love, and peace.

Both the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures emphasize that the anawim are special in the eyes of God. Additionally, the Scriptures hint that we will be judged on how well we attend to the needs of the anawim. Those who are in positions of power – the religious, economic, and political leaders – bear the responsibility of utilizing their privileged position to minister to and care for those who are less fortunate. These less fortunate – the anawim – are not able to make it on their own, and they are dependent on the community for support. The Scriptures are quite clear in emphasizing that the religious community – whether Hebrew or Christian – is challenged to care for the anawim. In the Hebrew Scriptures this is a central message of the Prophets, and in the Christian Scriptures the Gospel of Luke especially focuses on attending to the needs of this group.

Michael Kwiecien, O. Carm.