

November 16, 2008

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Sunday



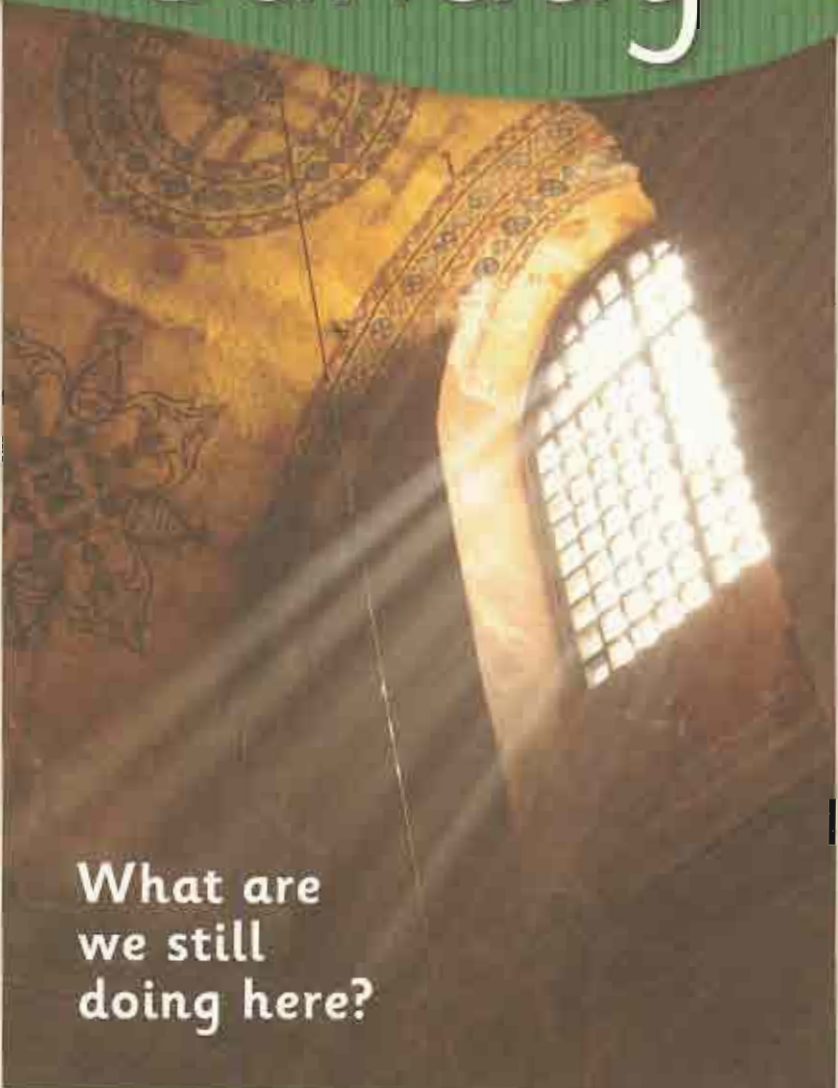
**TODAY AT MASS** we read from the oldest surviving Christian document we have—a letter from the apostle Paul to Thessalonica. Biblical scholars date it as coming from around the year 50 or 51, a couple of short decades after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (The Gospels relate material from the time of Jesus, but in the written form we receive these, they come from after Paul's letters.)

Through this window into the earliest years of the Church, what do we see? In this first-century community, one particular poignant question weighed on them. *What are we still doing here?*

In their experience of Christ risen, his followers saw the reign of God begin. They also knew God would complete the job as promised and that the fullness of God's justice and God's presence, drying every tear, would free those who gave their lives to Christ.

They believed Christ would do this in their own lifetimes, but they were worried because some of their fellow Christians had died. It is ironic—a sign of God's power—that Paul, the former persecutor of the Church, was the one to embolden them.

We have the distance of almost twenty centuries to give us the knowledge that Christ's return was not meant to be immediate. We may smile at bumper stickers that expect the coming of Christ to leave some cars driverless. We may only vaguely hear the ancient yearning in the "mystery of faith": Christ



What are  
we still  
doing here?

has died, Christ has risen, *Christ will come again.*

Yet what are *we* worried about? Where do we long for Christ to step in?

Today these questions are bound to Christ's parable in Matthew. What does it look like for us to *develop* the talent we have been handed rather than burying it in the ground? What should we be awake to *today*?

DAN FINUCANE

[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)



## Today's Readings

Prv 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31

1 Thes 5:1–6

Mt 25:14–30 or 25:14–15, 19–21

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# St. Stephen Catholic Church

**Pastor: Rev. Fr. John Casey, SAC**

**Deacon: Carlos Frias (817-307-8332)**

Office – 1802 Bethel Road

Weatherford TX 76086

817-596-9585

Fax 817-613-0808

**Pastoral Assistant—**

Sister Mildred Gordon, SHSp.

817-596-9587

**Director of Religious Education –**

Jeanette Houle-817-613-8008

doschicas@att.net

**Secretary – Dorothy Mendolia**

**Accountant – Ron Westendorf**

**Parish Interfaith Ecumenical**

**Representative—**  
LaVerne Cardwell 817-594-3805

**Choir Director – Dave Mees**

817-596-5097

**Parish Pastoral Council President—**

Chuck Schabow 817-599-6644

**Office Hours – Monday through Friday**

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road**

817-596-9586

**Web Page – www.ss-cc.org**

**Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM**

Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM

Noon to 12:30 PM

**Club House—817-599-8423**

**Pro Shop—817-599-8431**

## MASS SCHEDULE

*All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted*

**Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM**

**Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)**

**Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**Daily Mass 8:45 AM**

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

*Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	November 15	6:00 PM	Charles Ledbetter, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Albert the Great, bishop and doctor of the church</i>
Sunday	November 16	8:00 AM	Dennis Mees, RIP	<i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Joan Wood	<i>33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	Los Difuntos	<i>33° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	November 17	8:45 AM	Dolores Mees, RIP	<i>St. Elizabeth of Hungary, religious</i>
Tuesday	November 18	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Dedication of the Basilicas of St. Peter and St. Paul I Rome, apostles</i>
Wednesday	November 19	8:45 AM	Vic Bierschenk, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Thursday	November 20	8:45 AM	Viola Mikus, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Friday	November 21	8:45 AM	John & Louise Neu, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Saturday	November 22	6:00 PM	Jesus Ipina, RIP	<i>St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr</i>
Sunday	November 23	8:00 AM	Dennis Mees, RIP	<i>34th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Community	<i>The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>34th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
				<i>The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King</i>
				<i>34° Domingo Ordinario</i>
				<i>La Solemnidad de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo el Rey</i>

**Marriage** – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

**Baptism Instruction**—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

**Quinceañera** – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

**Prayer Chain Coordinators**—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

**Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins.** Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

**Census Information**—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

**Bulletin Notices** are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

## REGULAR COLLECTION

November 8-9

\$10,288.97



*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend  
Are A Gift From  
Lawrence & Barbara Bierschenk  
In Thanksgiving*



**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**What are your God-given talents? Help them to grow by sharing them with others. Discover the joy of service in ministry.**

**(Matthew 25:14-30)**

**33° Domingo Ordinario**

**Al que tiene, se le dará más. Cuenta tus bendiciones, y ofrécelas a otras personas.**

**(Mateo 25:14-30)**

## PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00

Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00

Total Contributions to Date—\$9,669.59

Interest Paid to Date—40,129.00

## WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.

**Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Hispanic Group.**

*Dear St. Stephen's Family. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all for the devoted prayers, for the many kind words of sympathy encouragement and support, for the food prepared for our family, and for the beautiful cards we have received during the illness and loss of my Mother, Nancy Halbrook. Words cannot express how much our faith family means to us and how grateful we are to be a part of the St. Stephen Community.  
May God Bless each you—Loretta Huddleston & Family*

**TWENTY TO THIRTY-SOMETHING BIBLE STUDY:** Join us beginning **Monday, November 17 at 6:30pm** for a six-week study of Advent. "Advent is a time for new understanding, for putting different pieces of God's revelation together to see the divine plan more clearly." Contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net) for more information.

**HARVEST DINNER DANCE—Saturday, November 22 from 7 to Midnight.** A Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner will be served. Dance to a DJ, participate in the Silent Auction, and join in the fun. This is sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the America's of St. Stephen. Tickets will be on sale for \$10.00 beginning November 2 between Masses or from any CDA member.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER** training will be conducted in the church at **3 PM on Sunday, November 23.** All Eucharistic Ministers must be over the age of 18. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister for the St. Stephen parish, please plan to attend this important session. Also, all existing Ministers are welcome but not required to attend the session. For more information, please contact Sharmayne Bierschenk at 817-596-9141 or [sbiersch@ont.com](mailto:sbiersch@ont.com).

**REMINDER:** Altar Society will be selling Christmas baskets and handmade mini capes in the Holy Spirit Center on **December 6 after Mass and at the breakfast on December 7.**

Basket preparation meetings will be held on **Saturday, November 22 at 3:30 PM** in the Holy Spirit Center. Call Bette Binzer at 817-599-0454 for information. *All profits will go toward the Land Purchase.*

**NEW PARISHIONERS:** To register, complete and return the Parish Registration Card available in the Church Foyer or complete and return the Parish Information Form below and a Registration Card will be mailed to you.

**Parish Information Form**

\_\_\_\_\_ Change of name/address/phone #

\_\_\_\_\_ Send New Parishioner Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

**AROUND THE DIOCESE**

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat for Healing After Abortion.** Rachel Ministries is offering a weekend retreat for healing after abortion on **November 21-23.** For more information, please call 817-923-4757. Confidentiality is strictly observed.

**NOVEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS**  
November 22-23  
**Campaign for Human Development**

Since 1970, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked alongside poor and low-income people to identify their needs and implement effective solutions. CCHD's respectful partnership and dedication to social justice has lifted millions of Americans above the poverty line.

**"HELP WANTED"**

Couples on Friday afternoon, 1-4 PM  
for Parker County Jail Ministry.  
**Wages:** Countless Blessings  
and a good deposit in your Heavenly account.  
**Contact:** Paul or Barb Claffey at 817-220-2681.

**TEEN CORNER**

**Youth Group:** All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the **Youth Music Ministry.** Join us **Sundays at 6 PM.**

**WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
(All activities held at Bethel Road)

<b>Sunday, November 16</b>	
9:15 AM	Religious Education Classes (English)
9:15 AM	Adult Catechism (Room 19)
9:15 AM	Adult Bible Study (Room 3)
11:15 AM	Religious Education Classes (Spanish)
<b>Monday, November 17</b>	
6:00 PM	Parish Pantry
6:30 PM	Young Adult Bible Study
7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM	RCIA
7:00 PM	Citizenship Classes
7:00 PM	Grupo de Oracion
<b>Tuesday, November 18</b>	
9:30 AM	Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)
<b>Wednesday, November 19</b>	
6:00 PM	Youth Group
6:30 PM	Choir Practice
6:45 PM	Divine Mercy Chaplet
<b>Thursday, November 20</b>	
10:00 AM	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM	Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
<b>Saturday, November 22</b>	
3:30 PM	Altar Society basket preparation meeting
7:00 PM	Cursillistas Ultreya— <b>Spanish</b> (Rm. 1 & 2)
7:00 PM	CDA Harvest Dinner Dance (Parish Hall)

# Dear Padre

## Can returning Catholics receive the sacraments?

**Q** A friend of mine was baptized Catholic and received all of the sacraments of initiation. Many years ago, she converted to another denomination. Now she has decided to return to the Catholic Church. Can she receive the sacraments?

Ellen

Dear Ellen,

How wonderful that your friend has decided to come home!

I suggest your friend talk with her parish priest. He may suggest she go to reconciliation as preparation for her return. He can't require this, because he doesn't know the state of her soul. But if it's been many years since the last time she received that sacrament, it would probably be good for her.

He will also ask her to make a profession of faith similar to the one non-Catholic Christians make when they join the Catholic Church. She could do this at



the Easter Vigil along with the adults being baptized into the Catholic faith. However, she can also do this privately at the discretion of the parish priest.

She will be able to receive the Eucharist once she has made her profession of faith.

Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
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<b>November 17</b> <i>Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, religious</i> Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5 Lk 18:35-43	<b>November 18</b> <i>Weekday</i> Rv 3:1-6, 14-22 Lk 19:1-10	<b>November 19</b> <i>Weekday</i> Rv 4:1-11 Lk 19:11-28	<b>November 20</b> <i>Weekday</i> Rv 5:1-10 Lk 19:41-44	<b>November 21</b> <i>The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Rv 10:8-11 Lk 19:45-48	<b>November 22</b> <i>Saint Cecilia, virgin and martyr</i> Rv 11:4-12 Lk 20:27-40	<b>November 23</b> <i>Our Lord Jesus Christ the King</i> Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 Mt 25:31-46