

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

When we fall sick we go to the doctor, and it would not make any sense to tell the doctor about another person's illness. The doctor would not be able to treat us if we complained about someone else's illness and did not tell our own symptoms. If we are to do that we would go home again as sick.

In today's Gospel we see the Pharisee and tax collector both go to the Temple to pray. However, the pharisee, instead of presenting himself humbly before God and asking for God's help and grace, lists the faults of others, and complains also about the tax collector praying nearby; *"O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity-greedy, dishonest, adulterous or even like this tax collector."* The Scripture says that after this prayer, the Pharisee did not go home justified.

On the other hand, the tax collector goes to the temple in repentance. Even his body language displays his repentance: he stood away at a distance, did not raise his eyes, and he beat his breast. Above all we see his great humility and true repentance of heart in his prayer; *"O God, be merciful to me a sinner."* Unlike the Pharisee, he did not put on a mask to hide his real self from God. He presented himself to God as he was; therefore, God was able to see him, and he was able to see God and the Gospel states that, he went home justified. The encounter of the tax collector should be an example for all of us. We know that, if there is an obstacle in front of our eyes, we cannot see what is in front of us. The same way, when we stand before the Lord, it is our responsibility to clear all the obstacles of sin from our heart, to see and to experience Him, because our relationship with God is a heart-to-heart relationship. Please do not forget the scripture passage of 2 Chronicles 7:14, I mentioned in the homily of last weekend. Yes, a humility of heart is much needed to see and experience our God and so Jesus says; *"learn from me, for I am meek and humble in heart."*

There is no doubt that the tax collector is really living the first beatitude: *"Blessed are the poor in spirit"* (Matt 5:3). He is poor in spirit. He is just like another tax collector, Zacchaeus, who humbly meets Jesus in a spirit of repentance. He is just like the sinful woman caught in adultery. He is just like the good thief at Calvary, and He is just like the prodigal son. They all in their great humility of heart acknowledged their unworthiness before the Lord and were saved. Do you wish to be saved? Dear friends, after praying for hours and hours, if we do not find peace of Christ within ourselves, be sure we are not too far from the Pharisee. It is about this kind of attitude Late Pope John Paul II commented *"The tragedy of today's*

world is that people lose the sense of sin." It is because of this reason we find people try to justify their actions and spoken words without considering whether it is good or bad. It is because of this reason people try to compromise their religious obligations with many other engagements.

The first reading of today reminds us that God does not have favorites and hears the cry of the oppressed, that the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds. In the second reading St. Paul is also poor in spirit before God. He is living the attitude of the tax collector. He has no masks. What about us? Surely the Lord is saying to us through the Gospel that we have nothing to fear in approaching him just as we are. In fact, it is the correct way to approach God because otherwise we block God out from our life. We can humbly admit our nothingness before God and our dependence on God like St. Paul. It is when we realize that we have nothing that we are ready to receive God's grace. Let us pray; *"Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."* The Lord is waiting to fill us with his grace, forgiveness, and love, provided we approach Him with a humility of heart like the tax collector, *"O God, be merciful to me a sinner"* (Luke 18:13). **God Bless.**



Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to our churches.

Financial Report – October 16, 2022

St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$3,067.00 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 3,585.00 + 518.00
Emergency Fund	\$ 300.00
Special Collection	\$ 254.00

Financial Report – October 16, 2022

St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,249.00 weekly

Regular Collection	\$ 2,405.00 + 1,224.95
Special Collection	\$ 470.00

**Mass Schedule
Oct. 23 – Oct. 30**


- Sunday - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian
Thomas & Bernice Hobbs
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles
Sabrina Whitehouse Evans
- Monday – Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am – Mass at St. Sebastian
Tichenor-Leachman Families
- Tuesday – Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am – Mass at St. Sebastian – *Alvin Bickett*
- Wednesday- Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am – Mass at St. Sebastian
Tichenor-Leachman Families
-5:30pm – Mass at St. Charles – *Mary Albin*
- Thursday – Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am – Mass at St. Sebastian – *Joe Bickett*
- Friday- No Mass**
- Saturday – Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time**
-3:00pm – Confession
-4:00pm – Mass at St. Sebastian
Bill & Jacinta Garinger
- Sunday – Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**
-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian - *Lisa Young*
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles – *Joe Marcum*


"Faith is to believe what you do not see; the reward of this faith is to see what you believe."
-St. Augustine

Please Pray for our Military
MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey, and Corpsman Aly Franklin.

Prayer List for Members of our Community
Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Lisa Jackson, Ethan Settle, Jimmy Clayton, Pat Calhoun, Sonny Renfrow, Kimberly Nowak, Kimberly Stiles, Alice Weise, Callie Zhang, Tom Schutte, Becky Cheatham, Debbie Dunn, Ben Dunn, Tommy England, Louis Dant., Lance Green, Serena Cooper, Jeff Husk, Maurice Drury JR., Marcie Vanover, Cindy Miller, Betty Bickett, Gloria Tingle, Charles Mae, Tony Searcy, Jerry Abney, Bea Dame and Heath Dame.



Happy Birthday - St. Charles

Margie Logsdon – Oct. 22

Happy Birthday - St. Sebastian

Cindy Searcy – Oct. 22
Joseph Hayden – Oct. 23
Victoria Hayden – Oct. 24
Bethany Hayden – Oct. 25
Luke Hayden – Oct. 28

**Ministry Schedule
October 29, 2022**

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Susan Lebold
Lectors: Jim Lebold

October 30, 2022

St. Sebastian Euch. Min: Harriette Ellis
Debra Hamilton
Sid Hayden
Lectors: Josh Searcy
Laurine Sexton
Gift Bearers: Mr. & Mrs. Clay Durbin
Hospitality Ministers: Josh Searcy
Daniel Watkins
Money Counters: Lynne Scott
Mike Vollman

St. Charles Euch. Min: Lee Edwards
Darrell Bishop
Lectors: Lee Edwards
Marylyne Miller
Gift Bearers: Mr. & Mrs. Terry Baggett
Money Counters: Rondy Humphrey
Derek Miller