

**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR B

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Lord God,
you know we are young
and cannot do for you
everything we would like.
Look on us with kindness;
accept our little prayers
and the good things
we try to do for each other.
What we can do
we do for you
and Jesus, your Son,
and the Holy Spirit—
one God, forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

The focus of our readings is giving generously—not of excess, but from our need. Underlying this giving, of course, is faith. Faith allowed the widow to give all she had to live on at the request of the prophet Elijah. She was rewarded by God's generosity. In the Gospel, Jesus praises a poor widow for giving two small coins to the temple treasury. Her gift was praised by Jesus, not for its amount, but because it was all she had to live on and thus was an expression of her faith and total gift of self. We may be assured that his praise was accompanied by salvation since the Gospel consistently assumes faith and total surrender as prerequisite for salvation.

FIRST READING: *I Kings 17:10-16*

This is a reading from the first book of Kings.

When the prophet Elijah
went to the city of Zarephath,
he saw a widow gathering sticks to build a fire.
He said to her,

“Please bring me some water to drink.”

The woman was going to get the water,
and Elijah called to her and said,

“Please bring me a little bread also.”

The woman said,

“As sure as your God lives,
I do not have any bread baked right now.
I have only a little bit of flour in a jar
and a little oil.

I was just gathering sticks to build a fire
so that I can make some bread
for my son and myself.

But after we eat that,
we have no more food, and so we will die.”

Elijah said to her,

“Go in and make the bread
for your son and yourself.
But first, make some for me.
And don't be afraid, for my God says,

‘The jar of flour and the bottle of oil
will not go empty.’ ”

The woman went and did
just what Elijah told her.
And she and her son and Elijah
were able to eat for a long time,
for the jar of flour and the bottle of oil
did not go empty,
just as God had said
through the prophet Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

~~Nov. 12, 2000~~

RESPONSE: *Psalm 146*

RESPONSE:

I praise you, O God, for your faith - ful love. I
praise you, O God, for all that you do.

VERSES: [repeat by singing or clapping rhythm] to Response

1. You free the op-pressed and save the poor.
2. The hun - gry are fed, the blind can see.
3. ꞑ Hap - py are all who hope in you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Leader:

1. Lord, your Word is all we need:
2. Lord, your Word is al - ways true:
3. Lord, your Word shows us the way:
4. Lord, your Word brings us new life:

Al - le - lu - ia! Ai - le - lu - ia!

All:

Al - le - lu - ia! Bring - ing us life, - set - ting us free! -

GOSPEL: *Mark 12:41-44*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.

One day as Jesus was near the temple,
he saw the people
coming to put money into the collection box.
Many rich people came
and put in a lot of money.
But a poor lady, who was a widow,
came and put in only two small coins.
It was worth only about one penny.
When Jesus saw this, he said to his disciples,

“This poor widow
has given more to the collection
than all the others.
The rich people gave money
that they didn’t really need.
For them, it was extra money.
But this poor widow has very little money,
and she needs all of it to live on.
Yet she gave everything she had.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

After the first reading, ask the children to retell this marvelous story. Help them to recall the details, the dialogue. Finish the retelling with the last line, the heart of the story,

“for the jar of flour and the bottle of oil did not go empty, just as God had said through the prophet Elijah.”

After reading the Gospel, ask the children to retell this story. What it lacks in detail, it provides in tenderness and imagination. Though this widow is not described nor does she speak, we might imagine her. We might see her through Jesus’ eyes.

- Why does Jesus praise this poor widow?
- How is she like the woman in the first reading?
- What does God promise when we give truly from our hearts?

Help the children understand that these stories teach us that God calls us to be generous—not always with money (Gospel) but in sharing what we have (first reading).

An alternative to a direct reading might be to act out this little Gospel passage. Ask several children to take the part of the rich, each putting in their offering with great flair. The poor widow is so hidden among them that she is noticed only by Jesus.

Others will be disciples with Jesus. The only words spoken are those of Jesus as he sees the widow, placing her coins in the treasury.

“This poor widow. . .”

Thirty-second Sunday of the Year

Focus

A crucifix and candle, with a selection of money in notes and coins scattered around them.

Introduction

It is not important how much we give but what is in our hearts when we make an offering to God. However grand the gesture, however large the donation, if it is made without love, then it is worthless to God.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 3.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Mark (12:38-44)
(See page 386.)

Reflection

How did the scribes like to draw attention to their holiness?

Traditionally, Jewish men wore prayer robes with fringed tassels at each corner (to remind them of God's commandments), but the robes and tassels of the scribes were larger and longer than those of anyone else to emphasise their dedication to God's laws. They also took the best seats when invited to a feast, and made sure that they sat at the front of the synagogue nearest to the holy scrolls of the Torah (scriptures).

Have you ever heard the expression, 'Empty vessels make the most noise'? What do you think it means? What did Jesus think of their gestures?

Jesus could see into their hearts and he knew that their grand gestures of holiness were empty and meaningless. They would obey the law faithfully but selfishly disregard what was important to God or the needs and feelings of other people. They acted to ensure their own glorification and heavenly reward, with little regard for anyone else.

What did the wealthy Jews put into the collection box inside the Temple?

Many of them made large donations of money.

How much did the old woman give?

She gave two small coins worth as little as a penny.

Who gave more – the wealthy Jews or the old woman?

The wealthy men gave large amounts of money, but they could easily afford to do so. Their generosity made little difference to the quality of their lives. The old woman gave the only two coins she had; she gave everything and was left with nothing. It wasn't the amount they gave that mattered to Jesus, it was the 'value' of their gift.

What does this story teach us?

God values whatever offerings we make to him when we make them with love. It isn't the size of our offering that matters but the love with which it is given. Every-

thing we do or say in our homes, schools, shops, cars or playground can be offered to God as a sign of our love to him.

Activity

Arrange several identical or similar containers, filled with different amounts of the same material (for example, dried pasta or rice), in front of the children. (One container should be completely full.) Ask the children whether or not they think that each container will make the same amount of noise if someone shakes them. Invite some of the children to see for themselves! The 'empty vessels' make more noise than the container that is completely full. When our lives are full of love, we do not need to make a lot of 'noise' to draw attention to our goodness!

Now give each child an activity sheet to complete and colour.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for those who give up comforts and luxury to help the poor, the homeless and the unloved.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that greed and selfishness do not make us blind to the needs of others.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that rich countries and nations share what they have with their poorer neighbours.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for forgiveness and peace in our troubled world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
listen to our prayers and enrich our lives with your love.
Make them an offering that is pleasing to you.
Grant this through Jesus our Lord.

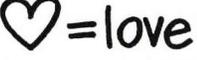
Amen.

Jesus sat
in the Temple and watched
the people making
their offerings

There are ten coins hidden in this picture!
Find them and mark them with a cross



Use the picture code to read this poem

 = Temple  = Widow  = gold
 = coins  = Jesus  = love

As  sat in the  one day,
A  woman came to pay
A  offering which was so small
It hardly seemed worth giving at all
Rich folk brought large bags of ,
Their offerings plain to behold
Just 2 small  the  brought
No admiration or thanks she sought
The  gave all she had
Her generous act made  glad
"She had no extra to give away
Such generous  will be repaid."
Mark 12:42-44

Thirty-Second Sunday of the Year

The generous woman

INTRODUCTION

Today's Gospel story teaches us that it is not how much we give to others that is important, but how we give it and what is in our hearts at that moment.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and sing the Candle Song together.

SORRY

Ask one of the children to choose a "sorry color" prayer for everyone to read aloud.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.
Happy are the poor,
because they will see the kingdom of God.
Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (MARK 12:41-44)

When Jesus was in the temple one day, he watched the people putting their money in a collection box as their offering. Many of the wealthy Jews gave large amounts of money. Then a poor old woman came into the temple and dropped two small coins, worth no more than a dime, into the box. Seeing this, Jesus turned to his disciples and said, "This old woman has given more than any of the others! They gave money that they could spare, but she has given all the money that she had."

DISCUSSION

Do you mind sharing what you have with other people? It is easy to share when we have plenty, because we do not really miss what we have given away. It is much harder to give to others, when we have very little ourselves.

Imagine you have a large bag of candy and were asked to share it with everyone in this room. Would you find it hard to do? Probably not,

because there would be enough to give everyone a piece and still have plenty left.

Now imagine you had just one piece of your favorite candy. How easy do you think it would be to give that precious candy away to someone else?

The rich men had plenty of money, and like us with a large bag of candy, it made little difference if he gave lots of it away.

The poor old woman only gave two small coins, and yet Jesus said that she had given the most. Why? The old woman gave very little, but it was all she had, so she had given everything. She trusted in God to provide her with whatever she needed.

Today's Gospel teaches us about giving and sharing. It is not how much we give that is important but how we give it, and what is in our hearts when we share something. Giving and sharing with a loving and sincere heart is what really matters to God.

What can you give and share with other people? Some things are:

- your love;
- your time;
- your toys and possessions;
- your happiness;
- your friendship.

(Encourage the children to suggest their own ideas.)

ACTIVITY

Copy this picture showing the old widow putting all that she had into the offering box. Encourage the children to draw Jesus and some rich men as part of the scene.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Lord, teach us how to share
and never to be greedy,
because everything that we have
comes from you.

