

*November 11, 2018*  
*32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*

In 1 Samuel, God advises the prophet Samuel not to observe as men see but as God sees. He tells him to "look to the heart." This is the movement of this Sunday's Gospel reading. "Beware the scribes," Jesus advises. He points out their public greetings and "seats of honor," which stands in sharp contrast to their private greed. For the Jewish people of Jesus' day, honor resides at the top. Power and prestige created a high profile back then as it still does today. After his warning, Jesus turns his disciples' attention elsewhere: a poor widow.

"She, from her poverty, has contributed all she had." While the scribes donated large sums to the temple, they did so "from their surplus wealth." This woman -- in her faith and devotion -- offers "her whole livelihood." Jesus invited his disciples to see with God's eyes, to recognize a holy life in people the world overlooks. Here -- in the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized -- God waits hidden.

Today's Gospel begs a few questions. What do we see? Whom do we value? Are we impressed by the pomp and circumstance of modern day Pharisees? Do we ignore their self-righteousness because it looks impressive, even seems somewhat helpful? The point isn't to judge the scribes, of course. God can see their hearts as well, and those assessments are firmly his responsibility. The point is to turn our eyes from the typically honored to the rarely respected. Are we disinterested in the poverty of the modern day widows? Do we ignore their faith because we forget to look for it? This Sunday, consider the widows in your own life. Who can you see with God's eyes?

*Everyday Stewardship*

*Recognize God in Your Ordinary Moments*

What does sacrifice look like? I think of those who serve in the Armed Forces. They have sacrificed much for my freedom and to work towards real peace in our world. I think of those in service to our Church: priests, deacons, and religious. Their lives are dedicated to prayer and good works so that the Good News might not only be preached but be seen in the love they display toward God and their fellow brothers and sisters. I think of parents who stay up long nights with sick children and then one day find themselves staying up even longer as they wait for them to return home. I think of teachers who work hard to educate the next generation of citizens with low salaries and little respect.

I can see sacrifice all around me. I think you can see it, too, if you look. However, I also see too many seeking to get ahead at the expense of others. I see those who have so much and only crave for more. I see those caught up in themselves to the point where families fall apart, friendships disappear, and people literally die from a lack of compassion. I see many who have forgotten where all their gifts in this world came from, if they even knew in the first place.

I think of all those who sacrifice and see all those who do the opposite. May our eyes see more of those who are generous. May we never focus on those who have forsaken others more than those who have given freely to others. May the witness of true sacrifice show us the way to the Father and to a world full of His love.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

*Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice."*

*--St. Therese of Lisieux*

### *LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK*

We are all generous, at least to some degree. Most of us when asked for something -- whether it be our time, our talent, or our treasure -- assess whether we can "afford" to fulfill the request and still preserve our own needs. Have we ever given the last bit of what we had knowing that we will have to do without so that someone else can benefit? We all tend to be a little covetous of our time, talent, and treasure. There are people throughout history who have given everything away only to find that they have received much more in return. St. Francis of Assisi is a prime witness. The Scriptures today bring us two widows who do the same. Do we see in people such as this examples of foolishness or wisdom, inspiration, and hope?