

Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY Living the Gospel

August 31, 2025 • The Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



How humility becomes your strength

Fr. Michael Rennier - published on 09/25/22

More than anything, to be humble is to be authentic.

I've always had one not-so-very secret personality flaw -- I'm arrogant.

Maybe it's because I'm one of three brothers, each of us more competitively arrogant than the next. Our poor mother doesn't know how to handle us. One brother will claim he's getting in shape, and I'll respond *Big deal*, *I rode my bike 80 miles yesterday*, and our youngest brother will say he rode his bike 100 miles yesterday up a mountain in California and was the fastest one up and no one will ever be faster than him. Whatever the task, my brothers and I will guarantee we can do it best.

If you're reading closely right now, you may have noticed that, ironically, I'm kind of boasting about how arrogant I am. You might think I'm humbling myself by revealing my flaw, but the truth is that I'm willing to share embarrassing facts about myself so readily because I'm unreasonably self-confident.

But there's one problem: my pride doesn't match my abilities. With each passing day, it's becoming abundantly clear that I need to accept reality. This means getting serious about humility.

What is humility, anyway?

Humility is the virtue of accurate insight, the ability to avoid thinking we *are* that which we are *not*. There's this odd idea floating around – we all seem to share it to some degree or another -- that we're all fine just the way we are. People claim that they're kind and good, basically salt-of-the-earth, and if there are problems in the world it must be other people causing the ruckus.

It reminds me of the time that G.K. Chesterton, in response to the question, "What's wrong with the world?," fessed up that, if there's a problem, it's because of him. If, in my pride, I convince myself I haven't contributed to the issues that swirl and plague the world, my perspective is probably skewed to the point of being totally inaccurate.

At the very least, it reveals a side-effect of pride. It shrinks our world down to almost nothing by whispering in our all-too-willing ears *If you were in charge, everything would be much better*. Everything is about *me*, everything is happening to *me*, everyone else is an actor in *my* play.

It brings to mind Satan proudly proclaiming in Milton's "Paradise Lost," "Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven." Groucho Marx, as profound as Milton in his own way, jokes, "I wouldn't be a member of any club that would have a person like me as a member." It's the same with pride. I actually wouldn't be very interested in a world in which I was the best thing going.

Humility, paradoxically, has the opposite effect.



Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

Deacon

Deacon Bill Lovelace

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM, Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM, Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses, Monday - Saturday 8:00 am Weekend Masses, Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org

Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

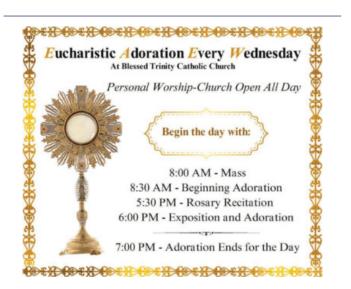
Parish Office

Monday—Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm 1600 54the Ave S St. Petersburg, Fl 33712

Phone, (727) 867-3663 **FAX**, (727) 864-2679

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Humility enlarges our world. If it is true self-knowledge, then it follows that it doesn't make us less than we are. To be humble, you don't have to curate a form of ah-shucks low self-esteem, fall into self-pity, or voice negativity about yourself. More than anything, humility is authentic. The more humble you are, the more comfortable you'll be with exactly who you are, knowing the good and willing to work on the bad.

Blessed Fulton Sheen warns, "If we are filled with our own importance, then we can never be filled with anything outside ourselves." Humility is the condition for breaking out of our limited, interior world and out into the infinite life that God has in store for us. Kevin Vost, in his book *Humble Strength*, points out that humility comes from the Latin word *humus*, which literally means "earth." Humility keeps us grounded and keeps our feet firmly planted, becoming a source of stability and strength.

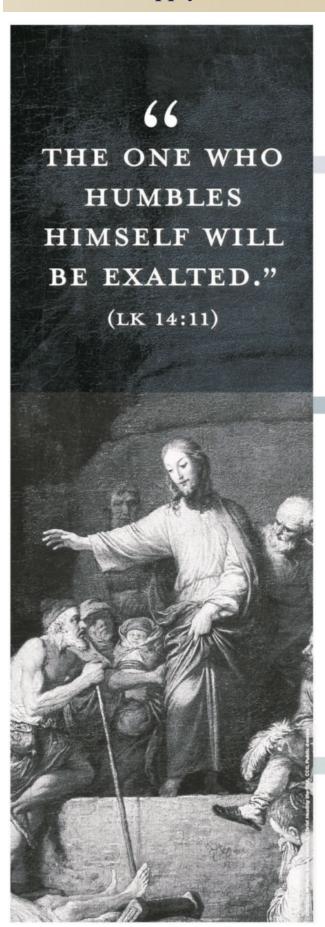
I think of Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit poet I'm fond of reading, who would sit and examine a drop of water on a leaf for hours and sketch the raindrop in his notebook. By becoming very humble and willing to learn from the smallest, most insignificant aspects of nature, the beauty of these simple things helped him know God better. People laughed and thought him very strange, but Hopkins didn't mind. If he seemed odd, well, his own reputation wasn't so important. He desired to raise himself up, not pridefully against God, but humbly towards God.

In order to get a foot onto that lowest rung on the ladder to heaven, to uncover the reason why the lilies of the field are beautiful beyond compare, to turn our souls fully to God, we must be very humble and very honest.

So what's the honest truth? We are flawed. We are messy. We harbor all manner of mistaken ideas about ourselves and our abilities. We do and say arrogant, presumptive things that embarrass us when we look back on them. It's also true that, in spite of this, God loves us dearly, and he will raise us to a heavenly throne if we're humble enough to accept his help.

Humility isn't mediocrity. It's heroic transformation. It's having your feet firmly planted on the earth and reaching for the stars.

Originally published at Aleteia.org, reprinted with permission



August 31, 2025

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 | Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a | Lk 14:1, 7-14

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

There's a well-known story about an actor who was asked by an elderly priest to recite Psalm 23. The actor agreed only if the priest also recited the psalm. While the actor's delivery was met with esteem and applause, the priest's was met with raw emotion, stunned silence, and tears. The actor, smiling, said, "I may know the psalm, but the priest, he knows the Shepherd." I can't help but be reminded of this story when reading today's Gospel. Like the Pharisees, the actor represents the one who was the "center of attention" who was humbled whereas the priest, in his humble service to God, found himself exalted. That is where true humility lies, when our actions and our everyday lives are rooted in God first and not ourselves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Jesus reminds us today, "Every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Beyond telling us this truth, Jesus lived it. Scripture tells us that Jesus - the second Person of the Holy Trinity - "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..." (Phil 2:7), and that he came not "to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45). Each of us is invited to consider the ways we can imitate the same humble servantleadership which Jesus showed throughout his life. What does servant leadership look like, practically speaking? Some simple examples: At work, it might look like signing up to do those less desirable tasks that others would prefer to avoid. In our homes, it could look mean letting your children or spouse choose what's for dinner rather than asserting your own preferences over meal planning. In our relationships, it might mean allowing a friend to talk through their struggles without offering advice or sharing how you might have handled things differently. With the eyes of faith, each of us can see countless opportunities to practice the virtue of humility in daily life.

WITNESS

Like the priest in the story above who revealed God to the crowd in his recitation of Psalm 23, you have the opportunity to let God shine through in your life to others. Be a servant leader, seeking to glorify God rather than yourself. When you are humble you "will be exalted" and "repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4 Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office.

Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed.

For more information call: 867-3663

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 30, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Communion Service (No Mass)

Saturday, August 30 Vigil for Twenty-Second Sunday in

Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Bill and Robin Biloski (liv)

50th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday, August 31, Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dawn and Malaya Cullen (liv)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners 11:30 a.m. Luann Kenning (dec)

Monday, September 1, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Deacon Lionel Roberts (dec)

Tuesday, September 2, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mary Lou Deuel (dec)

Wednesday, September 3, Memorial of Saint Gregory the Great,

Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, September 4, Memorial of Saint Augustine, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. The Beddoe Family (liv and dec)

Friday, September 5, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. The Bento Family (liv and dec)

Saturday, September 6, Weekday in Ordinary Time 8:00 a.m. Communion Service (No Mass)

Saturday, September 6, Vigil for Twenty-Third Sunday in

Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Matt, Jim, and Annette Lawler and

Patricia Sullivan (dec)

Sunday, September 7, Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Paula Sue Dubinsky (dec) 9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners 11:30 a.m. John Gray (dec)



Magnificat of St. Petersburg, a Ministry to Women, Invites you to a Magnificat Meal

Saturday, Sept. 6, 2025, 9:15 am to 12:15 pm, Reservations \$18.00 St. Patrick Catholic Church. 1507 Trotter Road, Largo, FL 33770

Join us for St. Patrick's Parish Mass at 8:00 am

Speaker: Michelle Lloyd

Please mail your check, payable to Magnificat, to our treasurer, Linda Barron, 6069 Second Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Checks must be received by September 1, 2025. Your

ticket will be at the door. Send your check early-seating is limited. Need More Information? E-mail magnificatofstpetersburg@gmail.com or text Jane at 727-452-7404 or Linda at 727-415-2693.

DO YOU HEAR RINGING?????

I do! Are you ready to make beautiful music and create fun memories? Can you hold a handbell? Do you like to make beautiful music, laugh and have fun?



Blessed Trinity Music Ministry has just the place for YOU!

We are forming a handbell ensemble! No experience is necessary, and you do not need to read music, just be willing to learn an easy notation system. Handbells are a beautiful way to enhance liturgy and become part of our growing Music Ministry.

Soon we will have a meeting about the where, when, and how, but in the meantime, please contact Lisa at **lss@btsp.org**, or by calling 727-867-3663, ext. 309.

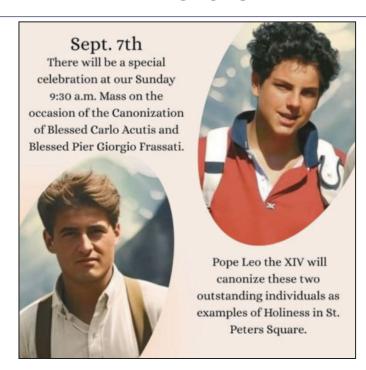
Let's go to ROME!



Please join Blessed Trinity on a pilgrimage and choir tour to Rome 2027 and attend the Papal Mass for Mary, Mother of God with Pope Leo XIV! Father Wayne will be our spiritual director. Our Festival Choir will minister at basilica Masses at St. Paul Outside the Walls, as well as

St. Peter's in Vatican City, along with a concert in St. Ignatius Church in Rome.

Mark your calendars for a parish meeting about the trip on Thursday, September 4 at 6:30 pm in the church. You may sing with the festival choir on this trip with a nominal rehearsal commitment. You do not need to read music, only have the desire to take this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa in the parish office at ext. 309 or email at lss@btsp.org.





Weekly Offering

Weekly Giving 08/24/25

Offertory	\$ 6,346
Other Donations	\$ 135
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 1,259
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 25

Thank you for your generosity!



Catholic Ministry Appeal



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

Upcoming Events

Sunday, August 31

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Monday, September 1 • Labor Day

Parish Office will be Closed

Tuesday, September 2

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting PC

Wednesday, September 3

Adoration

8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation

7:00 pm Benediction

Thursday, September 4

4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting CYH-1

Sunday, September 6 and 7

Mission Co-Op Weekend

Sunday, September 7

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Monday, September 8

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

Tuesday, September 9

10:00 am Scripture Class resumes CYH

Wednesday, September 10

Adoration

8:30 am Church open all day for prayer CH

5:30 pm Rosary

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation

7:00 pm Benediction

Sunday, September 14

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room, PL=Parking Lot





Scripture Classes

Blessed Trinity Scripture Classes will resume on Tuesday, **September 9th from 10:00 - 11:30 am**. We will study "Mary, Royal Mother of the Messiah," Lessons1-30. Classes will be held in Courtyard Hall. Books will be \$12. For further information call Barbara Townsend 727-867-3605.





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Office of the Pastor

September 1, 2025

Dear Parishioners,

Subject: Update on our Interior Renovation Restoring the Sacred

I am pleased to inform you that our Fundraising for Restoring the Sacred that formally began the first week of Easter has been a great success.

As of September 1, funds that have been committed to the project total \$1,354,740. Of that amount, \$788,788.46 has already been collected. Both the committed and collected figures include \$468,655 that was raised for the project prior to the beginning of the formal campaign.

The total project cost was last estimated to be \$1,574,169, which leaves an additional \$219,429 yet to be raised. We are planning some other fund-raising efforts in October. The question I am often asked is "When can we begin?". These are the steps we must follow before work begins. We must raise the remaining \$219, 429 in commitments. We need to apply for final approval for the bridge loan from the Diocese. We must consult with our contractor and vendors, to make sure that the original quotes have remained the same or if there may be an increase. I have also kept the Bishop of the Diocese informed. We will prepare the Parish Center, our original church, for masses during the church renovation closure.

During the coming weeks I will be keeping you informed regarding our progress as we get closer to meeting our goals. Please know how grateful I am for your generosity, enthusiasm, and continued support. It is greatly appreciated.

Kind personal regards,

Fr. Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor

Mission Co-Op Weekend, Sept 6/7 (Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur - India)

Please welcome Rev. Augustine Mailadiyil representing the Archdiocese of Imphal. He will speak at all Masses on the above weekend as part of the Missionary Co-op. plan.



The Diocese of Imphal, located in Manipur, Northeast India, is home to 34 indigenous Mongolian tribes. Since the first Catholic baptism in 1952, the Catholic population has grown to 101,283. The diocese now includes 45 parishes, 8 mission centers, and 174 priests, with 114 being indigenous tribal priests. Despite facing significant challenges and persecutions, including the martyrdom of six missionaries between 1990 and 2001, the Church in Manipur has thrived and is blessed with many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Sixteen priests from the Diocese of Imphal are currently serving in the United States.

Since May 3, 2023, Manipur has experienced severe ethnic and religious persecution against Christian minorities. This tragic period has seen unprecedented violence, including the burning of tribal villages, unprovoked shootings, and the deaths of over 500 innocent Christians. Nearly 70,000 people have been displaced, with their homes destroyed. Additionally, 248 churches, including 5 Catholic churches, along with rectories, schools, hostels, and convents, have been vandalized and set on fire, resulting in millions of dollars in damage. Rebuilding these churches and institutions will take several years.

In the immediate term, our focus is on alleviating the suffering of those affected. We seek to provide relief through aid programs and to construct 500 low-cost homes for the most impacted families, at a cost of \$6,500 per unit.

Any financial support you can give to the Mission Co-op would be greatly appreciated. More information on the Archdiocese of Imphal can be found at: www.dioceseimphal.org/en

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." -Saint Mother Teresa



Archbishop Linus Neli praying for peace inside a demolished church.

Liturgical Calendar September – November 2025





Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church

SEPTEMBER

September 1, Labor Day Weekend Mass 8:00 a.m.

September 6 &7, Mission Co-op Weekend (Special Collection at every Mass) Archdiocese of Imhal, Manipur, India. Welcome Rev. Augustine Mailadyil September 6, Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. September 7, Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:30 a.m., and 11:30 a.m.

OCTOBER

October 4, St. Francis of Assisi / Franciscan Helping Hands 9:00 a.m. Blessing of Animals on the Parish Grounds. Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m. followed by Dinner in the Parish Hall.

October 18 & 19, World Mission Sunday-Weekend Special Collection Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. Sunday Masses: 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

October 26, Volunteer Appreciation Day at Blessed Trinity

Mass 9:30 a.m. Fr. Wayne will confer the Trinity Medal of Honor, and the Distinguished Service Certificate. There will be a reception in the Parish Hall following the Mass for our Honorees and Family. Coffee and Donuts will be available following the Mass.

We will also announce the St. Jude Medal. The ceremony will be at the Cathedral of St. Jude at 3:00 p.m. Bishop Parkes will preside.

NOVEMBER

November 1, All Saints Day. <u>Not</u> a Holy Day of Obligation this Year Vigil Mass 4:00 p.m.

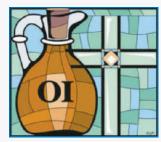
November 2, All Souls Day. We remember our Deceased Parishioners Reading Names after the Homily. Masses: 8:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.

November 27, Thanksgiving Day Mass of Thanksgiving at 9:00 a.m.

Arnold, Barbara Baker Family Barhorst, Brady Becker, Mary Brown, Bob & Beverly Cameron, Christopher Cameron, Kalyn Calamita, John Christ, Kathryn Connor, Kathryn Cisek, Marilyn Clark, Christine and Henry Clark, Brittany Noel Comeau, Teresa Coughlin, Bernadette Curcio, Louis Daniels, Joshua D'Azzo, Lina DeLong, Judy DeLong, Todd Feltes, Lauren Fitzgerald, Dan Gawlik, Frank and Sofia Genereux, Carol

Grace, Kelly Grimberg, Carol Gueli, Connie Hawkins, Ashlyn Hawkins, Barbara Helbig, Len Hoffman, Bette Hoskins, Kevin Huff, Walt Hunnefeld, Sarah Joyal, Christina Kartsaklis, Michael Kirchgessner, Marie Klima, Sue Kraynak, Gary Lague, Norbert Lanigan, John Lashley, Diana LeVan, George Lewis, Cynthia Lowe, Marie Matthews, Dan Mattingly, Pamela Mays, Hank Membreno, Mary & Gus

Newcomb, Jeff O'Connor, Mary Parillo, Ceil Parillo, Dave Parmigiani, Valerie Pilcher, Joel Preeper, Helen Riley, Marie Riordan, Donald Romani, Angelo Sacks, Laura Sanderson, Jack Shelby, Montez Smith, Elizabeth Stankiewicz, Cy Summerbell, Joan Theissen, Robert Thompson, Susan E. Vanderbeck, Cindy Vanderbeck, Jay Walsh, Thomas Watson, Linda Youngman, Ruth Zajac, Leslie



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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