



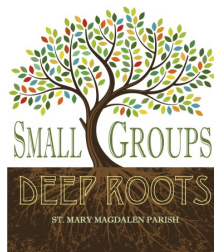
November 4, 2018

**THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME**

GOSPEL [MARK 12:28-34](#)

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this:
Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.
The second is this:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these."

The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.



November 4, 2018

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GOSPEL [MARK 12:28-34](#)

Good and Gracious God,

Thank you for your many generous gifts and overflowing love.

You commissioned us to use these gifts to “*Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.*”

Your call is urgent.

You do not tell us to follow you at some time in the future but HERE and NOW – at this moment, in these circumstances.

You urge us, “there can be no delay.”

Please give us the strength and wisdom to “Go and proclaim the kingdom of God...”

We ask this in your name. Amen.

Our response to a God who loves us unconditionally must be total. Linking love of God to love of neighbor is distinctively Christian - with all our heart, with all our strength, with all our mind and to love our neighbor as ourselves. We have been given the greatest gift from God - the gift of faith. Stewardship is the practice of putting our love for God into action. We do so by focusing on the mission of Christ and the Church, and in turn, our Parish. How do we carry out God’s mission? We start by placing God first. When we do that, we are in the right mind to go and make disciples.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

“Love is a many splendored thing,” as the song goes. What criteria would you use to judge a person’s love for God? Or a person’s love for others?

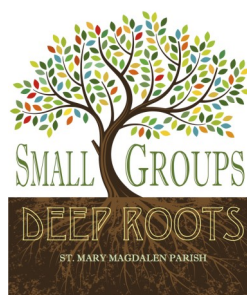
What does “to love God with one’s whole being” mean to you? Name one thing that hinders you from loving God with your whole mind and heart?

What is true love of self? How is it different from selfish love of self?

What is the one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday’s Gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?

RESPONDING TO THE WORD - WITH PRAYER & ACTION

Invitation this week is to take the first step through Prayer as we start our monthlong prayer for the mission and ministries of our parish. *Having listened to the Word of God, what are you hearing God say to you? Your response will be what you bring to Eucharist on Sunday, asking Jesus to help you respond as He asks of you. Go wherever the Spirit leads you.*





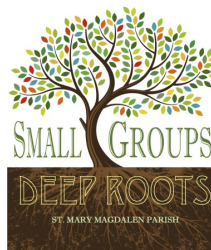
November 11, 2018

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL MARK 12: 38-44

In the course of his teaching Jesus said to the crowds,
"Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes
and accept greetings in the marketplaces,
seats of honor in synagogues,
and places of honor at banquets.
They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext
recite lengthy prayers.
They will receive a very severe condemnation."

He sat down opposite the treasury
and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury.
Many rich people put in large sums.
A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few
cents.
Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them,
"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more
than all the other contributors to the treasury.
For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth,
but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had,
her whole livelihood."



November 11, 2018

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GOSPEL MARK 12:38-44

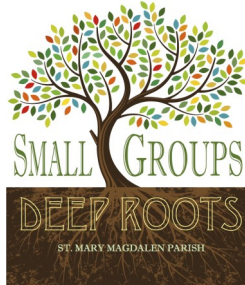
•Placing one's total trust in God is very hard for the vast majority of us. **What has helped or currently helps you to be trustful in difficult situations?**

•In the Gospel, Jesus condemns the Pharisees for seeking to take places of honor and draw attention to themselves. **What can help us to do good without seeking attention or applause?**

•What helps you to be a good steward of your time, treasure and talent? Do an inventory of your giving when it comes to time, treasure and talent. **Do God, the Church, and the wider community merely receive your leftovers or do they receive from your substance?**

•**What is the one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday's Gospel about how a disciple should speak or act?**

What do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?



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RESPONDING TO THE WORD - PRAYER & ACTION

Having discerned the word of God, look into your heart and discern how you can be a good steward of God's gifts as a Disciple maker. Your response will be what you bring to Eucharist on Sunday, asking Jesus to help you respond as He asks of you. Go wherever the Spirit leads you.



November 18, 2018

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL MARK 13: 24-32

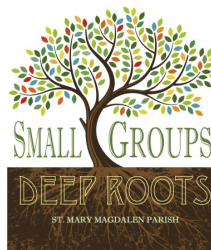
Jesus said to his disciples:

"In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky.

"Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."



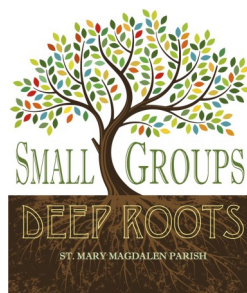
November 18, 2018

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

GOSPEL [MARK 13:24-32](#)

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Everyone knows that it is wise to be prepared, to think ahead, to plan for the future. **What have you carefully planned or prepared for lately?** [vacation, college, retirement, career, budget, next week's test, family meal]
- We plan things important to us because we want things to work out well - and we fear if we don't plan, things may not go well. **Have we had those experiences?** [things big and small: airplane seat prices increase unexpectedly, no spots left in college admission, not enough savings for retirement, not enough food cooked for dinner...etc.]
- Today's Scripture is about the end of times - the Bible is clear, that at the end of times, this will be the most incredibly wonderful of times for those who have planned well.
- **What do you hear Jesus saying to you in this Sunday's Gospel about the Second Coming?**
- **How can you prepare?**



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RESPONDING TO THE WORD: PRAYER & ACTION

After listening to the Good News, quietly and prayerfully consider: When the time comes, God wants to know what we have done with our lives. We have a personal vocation or calling to use all the special gifts God has given us. In this season of harvest, of blessings, we spend a few weeks as a parish every year considering our gifts and through Sacrificial Giving, what our what each own's appropriate response might be to God's generosity to us. **How will you Go Forth?**