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2025

#96 Our Lady of Sierra, Oakhurst

Our Lady of the Sierra Parish

Our Lady of the Sierra Church | St Dominic Mission | St. Joseph Mission

Sunday, August 3, 2025, Vol. 230

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Ecc 1.2; 2.21-23; Col 3.1-5, 9-11
Lk 12.13-21 – The Parable of the Rich Fool

Focus: Vanity of Vanities

There is an emphasis on the readings today about the destructive power of the sin of greed, and what greed does to a person who is consumed by it. Greed is one of the seven deadly sins, and is a sin of excess desire of wealth, status, and/or money. From the first reading we hear from the book of Ecclesiastes, "Vanity of vanities! All things are vanity!" The writer goes on to explain that all things are vanity not because material things are evil, but because one day, a man who labors for the things he has will lose it all when his life is demanded of him. Jesus explains this further in the Gospel when he shares the parable of the rich fool. The rich fool is foolish because he forgot the one certainty that we all have in our lives, which is death. Greed consumed the rich fool, and he began to worship things of the world when only God is due worship. He made himself to believe that the things of this world can satisfy, and forgot that only God is the one that satisfies. The things of the world perish, but the things of heaven remain forever, which is why "vanity of vanities, all things are vanity!"

What can we do to combat greed? We hear the answer in the second reading from St. Paul to the Colossians. To fight greed, we must always think of what is above and not of things on this Earth. We must never forget that our eternal home is heaven, and so the things we do on Earth should be with that end in sight. We must also not forget that as we look to heaven, to realize that the goods on the Earth are given to us by God, and to be thankful for them. Gratitude is another way to combat greed. An excellent way to do this is to spend a moment at the end of each day to give thanks to God for one blessing of the day. Through this we can overcome greed and live out more fully the spirituality of stewardship.

Summary

The readings today warn us of the destructive power that the sin of greed can have on a person's life, for a person consumed by greed worships his possessions more than he does God. "Vanity of vanity, all things are vanity," since when we die, we don't take our possessions with us, but only what remains is the way we lived our life. Let us always remember that the gifts given to us, time, talent, and treasure, are given to us by God, and to show gratitude to God for them. (Archdiocese of Toronto)

Self-Examination

When you remember that your life will come to an end, does it make you want to make any changes to how you are spending your limited time on earth.

Living the WORD

Material goods are necessary — they are goods! —, but they are a means to live honestly and in sharing with the neediest. Today, Jesus invites us to consider that wealth can enslave the heart and distract it from the true treasure which is in heaven. (Pope Francis, 18th Sunday OT)

Vision Statement: Journeying together in our quest for holiness.

Mission Statement: To become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ, nurtured by the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Patron, and accompanied by the shepherds, coordinators and people of our Church

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WHAT IS THE
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION?

Holy Days of Obligation are special days in the Catholic Church when Catholics are required to attend Mass and, if possible, refrain from unnecessary work. These days are set aside to celebrate key events in the life of Jesus Christ, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and significant truths of the Catholic faith. Just like Sundays, they are considered solemn and holy, reminding us of God's presence in our lives.

The purpose of these days is to help deepen our faith, strengthen our relationship with God, and reflect on the mysteries of our salvation. They are not simply traditions or customs, but opportunities for spiritual renewal and community worship. By attending Mass on these days, we honor God and recall the great things He has done for us.

In the United States, the following are Holy Days of Obligation (unless they fall on a Saturday or Monday, in which case the obligation may be lifted):

- Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (January 1)
– Honoring Mary as the mother of Jesus.
- Ascension of the Lord (40 days after Easter)
– Celebrating Jesus' return to heaven.
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (August 15)
– Mary's body and soul taken to heaven.
- All Saints' Day (November 1)
– Honoring all saints, known and unknown.
- Immaculate Conception (December 8)
– Mary conceived without original sin.
- Christmas (December 25)
– Celebrating the birth of Christ.

Missing Mass on a Holy Day of Obligation without a serious reason, such as illness or caring for someone in need, is considered a grave sin. These days are blessings, not burdens—reminders of God's love and an invitation to grow closer to Him through prayer and worship.



FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
FRIDAY, August 15th
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Devotion & Mass Times
Morning: 8:30 Rosary / 9:00 Mass
Evening: 5:30 Rosary /
6:00 Bi-lingual Mass

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To those who are considering becoming Catholic or those thinking of coming back: The "Stage of Inquiry" happens year-round. Call the office at (559) 642-3452 to arrange a personalized visit with an OCIA Catechist!

MASS INTENTIONS

05 Tue	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	09 Sat 4 PM	RM — Antonio Cardoza
06 Wed	SI—Steven Graham By Deborah Graham	10 Sun 8 AM	Pro Populo
07 Thu	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	9:30 AM	RM — Charles Bruen Marlene Ybarra
08 Fri	SI—Mark Chapin By Deborah Graham	11:30 AM	SI — Frances Ybarra By Marlene Ybarra
		6:00 PM	RM — Prospero Gonzales By Norma Gonzales

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CALENDAR AND SCHEDULES

WEEK-AT-A-GLANCE

04 Mon	Office Closed
05 Tue	8:00 AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 Mother of Perpetual Help
06 Wed	8:00 AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 Devotion to St. Joseph 10-12 Music Ministry, Practice 1:00 PM Pastoral Council Mtng.
07 Thu	8:00AM Divine Mercy & Mass 9:00 Devotion to Padre Pio
08 Fri	8:00AM Rosary & Mass 9:00 to 12 Noon Sacred Heart ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT
09 Sat	3:00 PM Confessions 4:00 PM Mass
10 Sun	8:00 AM Mass-St Joseph 9:30 AM Mass-St Dominic 11:30 AM Mass-OLS 11:45 PM ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS

04 Mon	(M) St. John Vianney, Priest Nm 11:4b-15/Mt 14:13-21
05 Tue	Tuesday, 18th Week in OT Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major] Nm 12:1-13/Mt 14:22-36
06 Wed	(F) Transfiguration of the Lord Dn 7:9-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36
07 Thu	Thursday, 18th Week in OT) Saint Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; Nm 20:1-13/Mt 16:13-23
08 Fri	(M) St. Dominic, Priest Dt 4:32-40/Mt 16:24-28
09 Sat	Saturday, 18th Week in OT Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Dt 6:4-13/Mt 17:14-20
10 Sun	19TH SUNDAY IN Ordinary Time Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1--19 /Lk 12:32-48

SECOND COLLECTIONS

03-Aug	Religious Education (P)
17-Aug	Cathedral Maintenance (D)
24-Aug	Maintenance Fund (P)