

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

COME, LET US BOW DOWN IN WORSHIP;
LET US KNEEL BEFORE THE LORD WHO MADE US.

OCTOBER 7, 2007

— Psalm 95:6

LET GO AND LET GOD

Many twelve-step programs use the phrase “*Let go and let God.*” In all their simplicity, these five words are the heart of today’s readings. For people who struggle with addictive behavior, these words plainly remind us that we can’t manage, control, or manipulate certain areas of our lives. How many times can we look back in our lives and find evidence of some plan at work other than our own? These are the moments when, for whatever reasons, we let someone greater than ourselves work the plan. We probably didn’t even recognize at the time that we were letting go of anything, but in retrospect, we see God’s hand and loving presence. It is our awareness of these moments that gives us the courage and initiative to let go again later on. It is this courage and initiative that are highlighted in today’s readings. We come to call it “faith”

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OCTOBER — RESPECT LIFE MONTH

As in the past, to highlight **Respect Life Month**, we at St. Matthew’s have conducted an on-going “baby shower” to benefit the moms and babies at the Precious Life Shelter, a facility which provides quality care and a safe living environment for homeless pregnant women 18 years and older. Throughout this month, you will have an opportunity to donate items to the shelter by placing them in the bassinet which will be in front of the Sacred Heart Altar. Suggested items that are always needed by the shelter are: receiving blankets, diapers, baby wipes, nightgowns, sleepers, booties and socks, onesies, shirts, baby powder, shampoo, lotion. Monetary donations may be placed in an envelope marked “**Precious Life Shelter**” and dropped in the collection basket.

WALK THE WALK...

You may put on your walking shoes to walk or simply sponsor a walker from St. Matthew’s again this year. What for? The annual **Church World Services/Crop Walk** taking place on October 21. Local groups that will benefit are *Catholic Charities, Centro Shalom, Christian Outreach in Action, St. Francis Center, Su Casa Family Crisis and Support Center and We Care of Los Alamitos.* The **Peace and Justice organization will be outside the church after the Masses today and next weekend to sign you up to walk or sponsor a walker.** Thank you for your generosity!

PRAY FOR OUR SICK

*Sr. Dolores Barling, Ann Waldmann,
Ida Banes, Rose Njob*

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY

All parish ministers are encouraged to register for our Ministry Enrichment Day which will be held on Saturday, November 10 at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Palos Verdes. This is your opportunity to hear our pastor, Fr. Guillermo Rodriguez articulate his vision for St. Matthew Parish, to be inspired by Paulist Father Joe Scott as he speaks about “Being a Disciple of Jesus Christ” and to open our minds to “The Gift of Cultural Diversity” presented by Rev. Jake Pomeroy of the United Church of Christ. RSVP to Sister Dolores by Friday, October 19 via 562.439.0931 x 5 or barling@stmatthewlb.org or fax: 562.434.7621.

VISITING OUR CHURCH

While many parishes have chosen to lock their church doors throughout the day, our church will remain opened for those who want to drop in to pray.

Beginning this Monday you are welcome to attend our daily weekday Mass at 8:00 a.m. and/or visit the church until 4:00 p.m. when we will lock it up for the night.

FLU IMMUNIZATIONS AVAILABLE BY APPOINTMENT

Flu immunizations will be available free to parishioners over 18 years of age on Sunday November 11 in classroom #2 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Sign-ups for guaranteed appointments and injections will take place in classroom #2 next Sunday, October 14th after 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Masses .**

THIS WEEK ...

take time to open your bible to read and reflect on next Sunday’s gospel reading. The readings are listed below along with a question to prompt you to relate the Word of God to your life.

— THE 28TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 5:14-17

SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

GOSPEL: Luke 17: 11-19

God tells us that by his very nature, he cannot be unfaithful to us. Given such a faithful friend, what are our chances of mending our relationship after a slip or fall.

Who are the Samaritans in today’s world. What can we learn from them.