



CONSOLATA SHRINE

31st Sunday In Ordinary Time

5th NOVEMBER 2017 - YEAR A



FIRST READING

Malachi 1:14b-2:2b.8-10

"You have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction."

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi

"I am a great King, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared among the nations. "And now, O priests, this command is for you. If you will not listen, if you will not lay it to heart to give glory to my name, says the Lord of hosts, then I will send the curse upon you. "You have turned aside from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your instruction; you have corrupted the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts, and so I make you despised and abased before all the people, in as much as you have not kept my ways but have shown partiality in your instruction."

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then we are faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 131:1-3

Response. Keep my soul in peace at your side, O Lord

O Lord, my heart is not proud,
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great,
nor marvels beyond me. **(Response)**

Truly, I have set my soul
in tranquility and silence.
As a weaned child on its mother,
as a weaned child is my soul within me. **(Response)**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
both now and forever. **(Response)**



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9,13

"We were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our very selves."

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Brethren: We were gentle among you, like a nurse taking care of her children. So,

being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us. For you remember our labour and toil, brethren; we worked night and day, that we might not burden any of you, while we preached to you the Gospel of God. And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

You have one Father, who is in heaven; and you have one master, the Christ.



Alleluia

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:1-12

“They preach, but do not practice.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



At that time: Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’ seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice. They bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with their finger. They do all their deeds to be seen by men; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, and they love the place of honour at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues, and salutations in the market places, and being called rabbi by men.

But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brethren. And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. Neither be called masters, for you have one master, the Christ. He who is greatest among you shall be your servant; whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

CALLING THE FATHERS by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves and made their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they lorded the law over the people (see Matthew 20:25). Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God. In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father figure, preaching the law but also practicing it—interceding and begging God's mercy and forgiveness of the people's sins (see Exodus 32:9-14; Psalm 90).

And Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood—in the family or in the people of God—comes from the our Father in heaven (see Ephesians 3:15).

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He himself referred to Israel's founding fathers (see John 7:42); the Apostles taught about natural fatherhood (see Hebrews 12:7-11) and described themselves as spiritual fathers (see 1 Corinthians 4:14-16)

The fatherhood of the Apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops, is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in Baptism, and feed us the spiritual milk of the Gospel and the Eucharist (see 1 Peter 2:2-3). That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care (see Isaiah 66:13).

His only Son has shown us the Father (see John 14:9) coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young (see Matthew 23:37). We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us—even our spiritual fathers—are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today is the first Sunday of the month. There is a second collection of St. Vincent de Paul to assist the needy of the parish.
2. Today we will have the Rosary being prayed in front of the Eucharist after the twelve o'clock Mass.
3. Today also, at 3pm we will have a Mass at Langata Cemetery in honour of all our faithfully departed followed by the blessing of graves.
4. The Consolata Senior Youth Group invites interested youth to participate in a Christmas Musical planned to take place on 9th December 2017. For this reason, registration for the Musical is taking place outside the church. The youth are also having a bake sale at the gazebo. You are welcome to support them.
5. The car stickers to support the construction of the Allamano Centre are already on sale, kindly get more detailed information about them outside the Church.

Thank you for your continued support.

6. In November we remember all departed souls. Envelopes with the November Cards are available at the entrance of the Church for you to fill in and deposit them in the blue boxes. The departed will be remembered in all masses during the month.
7. There will be a half day seminar on Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday November 11th Starting from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm at the Parish Hall. All are welcome.
8. The annual Consolata Shrine rite of passage is back it will be from 12th -19th November for 8-4-4 students and 10th -17th Dec for IGCSE students. Kindly visit the parish office for booking and more details.
9. The Consolata Shrine Dispensary will hold the annual free Medical Camp on 18th November 2017 in Deep-sea. We are appealing for medicine and cash donations to support the event. Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists are requested to volunteer services during the event. For more information kindly visit the table outside the Church.
10. The Parishes of Nairobi have organized a MASS WEDDING on 25th November 2017 at Holy Family Basilica to facilitate the reception of the graces of the sacrament of marriage. Come forward to regularize your situation of marriage in a meaningful way. Approach the catechist's office for more information.
11. The Construction of the ALLAMANO CENTRE to build a new block of pastoral offices, hall and parking is on-going. We kindly request you to stop by the tables at the entrances of the church and get detailed information about the project. We also invite you to give your contribution or make a pledge towards the project. We thank all those who donated towards the project by participating in the Raffle. May God bless you all! The pay bill number 804877 and USSD *369*2# remains open for donations.

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili** 9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon
and 5:30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

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