

FIRST READING

The widow made a little scone from her flour meal
and brought it to Elijah.

A reading from the first book of Kings

17:10-16

Elijah went to Zarephath,
and near the city gate he saw a widow gathering sticks for a fire.
He asked her to bring him a cup of water.
When she started off to get the water, he asked,
“Would you also please bring me a piece of bread?”

The widow answered, “In the name of the living Lord your God,
I swear that I don’t have any bread!
All I have is a handful of flour and a little olive oil.
I’m on my way home now with these few sticks
to cook what I have for my son and me.
After that, we’ll starve to death.”

Elijah told the woman, “Don’t worry!
Do as you have said
and fix something for yourself and your son.
But first, make me a small piece of bread.
The Lord God of Israel has promised
that your jar of flour won’t become empty,
and your jar of oil won’t dry up
before he sends rain for the crops.”

The widow left and did exactly what Elijah had told her.
So every day Elijah and the widow and her family had food to eat.
There was always flour and oil,
just as the Lord had promised and Elijah had said.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

146:6d-7b, 7c-8abc, 8d-9abc

R. (1b) Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

God always keeps his word.
He gives justice to the poor
and food to the hungry.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

The Lord sets prisoners free
and heals blind eyes.
He gives a helping hand
to everyone who falls.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

The Lord loves good people
and looks after strangers.
He defends the rights
of orphans and widows.

R. Praise the Lord, my soul!

or:

R. Alleluia.

ALLELUIA

Matthew 5:3

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

This poor widow has given more than all others.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

12:41-44

Jesus was sitting in the temple near the offering box
and watching people put in their gifts.
He noticed that many rich people were giving a lot of money.

Finally, a poor widow came up
and put in two coins that were worth only a few pennies.

Jesus told his disciples to gather around him.

Then he said:

“I tell you that this poor widow has put in more than all the others.

Everyone else gave what they didn't need.

But she is very poor and gave everything she had.

Now she doesn't have a cent to live on.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Thirty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B

Prayer:

Friend Jesus,
Help us to happily give whatever we have to show others your love.
In your name we pray. Amen

Readings:

Kings 17:10-16, Psalm 6:6d-7b, 7c-8abc, 8d-9abc, Mark 12:41-44

Activity:

Materials needed: Monopoly (or other play money), index cards, writing or coloring supplies, pictures of candy, pictures of toys, baskets or cans labeled "Church", "School", "Katrina Victims", "Family", "Friends", "Candy \$2", "Toys \$10"

Before reading the Gospel, give each child \$10 in play money. Instruct them to spend it by donating it to Church, School, Katrina Victims, Friends or Family (We don't usually just give money to our family or friends but sometimes we use the money to buy things for them that we know they need). They can also buy candy or toys. They can spend the money however they choose, all in 1 place or split it up.

After everyone takes a turn count and share how much money was in each basket. Ask them to talk about why they spent their money the way that they did. You will probably have some who will spend all of their money buying a toy and some who will buy candy and give their "leftover" money to the Church, etc.

Read the Gospel

Reflection:

Every Sunday, during Mass, there is a collection. Members of the Church put money in a basket or in a special envelope that is put into the basket. Several times a year you have also probably heard your parish pastor talk about how important it is to give money. Have you ever wondered why there is a collection each week or what God does with that money or why people are expected to give money in Church? We think of Church as being about God and love so how does money fit in?

Jesus taught us that love is shown by giving. He gave his health, his comfort, his happiness and his life when he died on the cross for us. He gave us His Spirit when he went to heaven. The disciples gave their time, their money and their lives to help spread Jesus' message of love. They left their homes, their families, and their jobs for Jesus. How hard and scary would that be?!

People today continue to give to show God's love. Money is given to the Church and other organizations to help pay the many people and bills that are needed to keep it running so the Church can continue to guide us. The Church and other organizations also need money to help people. Money is not the only thing needed to show God's love. It is necessary to have people to do the work so time and talent are also given.

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Jesus wants us to pay attention to the widow in today's Gospel. He said she gave more than anyone else even though she only gave 2 coins. She sacrificed to give. The money she gave, she could have used for food or something else she needed but because she loved God and trusted that God would always take care of her, she was able to make an offering of love.

Discussion:

What does God want us to give? (money, time, talent)

What does it mean to sacrifice?

Are you sacrificing when you give your extra money, time, toys, etc?

Activity:

Ask the children to draw or write on their index cards time and talents that they could give. For example: ½ hour after school to help someone with their homework instead of going to play right away or singing at Mass. Each time or talent should be on its own card. While they are doing that, redistribute the play money from the baskets. Each child should be given \$10 again.

When they all have created 2 or 3 index cards and have their money again ask them to take a minute of silence to talk to God about how they should spend their time, talent and money. After a minute or two invite them to again put their money, as well as their time and talent cards, into the baskets.

Count the money in each basket. Discuss the different outcome.