



“FIRST AND FOREMOST PRAY” (Before and After)

The Thirty-first Week in Ordinary Time began at Our Holy Redeemer Roman Catholic Church in Freeport, New York the way it did at every Catholic church on Long Island. It began with Sunday Mass.

(Please, if you know someone who’s missing out on this weekly expression of God’s love for us and our love for Him through, with, and in Christ Jesus, be not afraid to invite them to *come home* with you next Sunday (the First Sunday of Advent). And just in case you haven’t heard, a Sunday evening 5:00 P.M. Mass was conceived and born during the Jubilee Year of Mercy and will remain with us even though the Jubilee Year has come to an end!)

At that Mass, we heard (with help from the Old Testament Book of Wisdom) that *God can do all things and that He overlooks people’s sins that they may repent.*

(Even though the Jubilee Year Doors of Mercy have been closed in our churches, the Mercy of God is always available. Please if you or someone you know has been away from Confession for a while, *come down quickly* (like Zaccheus did) to Our Holy Redeemer: He must dine in your house! cf. Saint Luke 19:1 – 10)

Those words not only led us to their fulfillment in the encounter between Zaccheus and Jesus, but they also led us to words from our Bishop; Bishop Murphy.

(Please, if you or someone you know did not hear those words for yourself, go to Our Holy Redeemer’s website at www.ohrfreeport.org and you can find them within our Sunday Bulletin for 30 October 2016.)

In his letter, Bishop Murphy reminded us that “(s)upport of abortion by a candidate for public office, some of whom are Catholics, even if they use the fallacious and deeply offensive “personally opposed but . . .” line, is reason sufficient unto itself to disqualify any and every such candidate from receiving our vote.” And while that reminder was what caught the attention of many, it is what Bishop Murphy asked us to do in the beginning of his letter that **we need to be reminded** of today:

“Spend time in prayer” he wrote, “asking God to guide you and your family and our country during this time. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament, pray to the Blessed Mother, pray the Rosary and entrust your decision to the Lord.”

Just as the Priests and parishioners of Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport followed the direction of our Bishop *before* the election when on 7 November we came home and prayed before the Blessed Sacrament from 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., and on 8 November we prayed the Rosary from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M., the Church in Freeport will pray before the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Mother *after* the election as well.

**Last Sunday of the Month: Holy Hour 8:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Third Friday of the Month: Rosary 7:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.
Every Saturday Rosary: 8:30 A.M. to 9:30 A.M.**

Let us pray ...

