

24th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14
Ps 51:3-4,12-13,17,19
1 Timothy 1:12-17
Luke 15:1-32

Monday September 12 Holy Name of Mary

1 Corinthians 11:17-26,33
Ps 40:7-10,17
Luke 7:1-10

Tuesday September 13 St. John Chrysostom

1 Corinthians 12:12-14,27-31
Ps 100:1b-5
Luke 7:11-17

Wednesday September 14 Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Numbers 21:4b-9
Ps 78:1b-2,34-38
Philippians 2:6-11
John 3:13-17

Thursday September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Ps 118:1b-2,16ab-17,28
John 19:25-27 / Luke 2:33-35

Friday September 16 Sts. Cornelius and Cyprian

1 Corinthians 15:12-20
Ps 17:1bcd,6-7,8b and 15
Luke 8:1-3

Saturday September 17

1 Corinthians 15:35-37,42-49
Ps 56:10c-14
Luke 8:4-15

Today's Gospel is an assurance of God's desire to regain what has been lost. He is a God of reconciliation, pursuing

those who have strayed from the truth. Why? Because he cares – he cares more than we do about the people we know who are "lost sheep" or "lost treasures" like the coin in this parable.

Think of the people who have been lost to you because they have abandoned you. God cares and is pursuing them to bring healing to the relationship, and he will continue his efforts even until they take their last earthly breath (sometimes the healing comes after death).

Think, too, of people who are neglecting their faith. Jesus is a Good Shepherd who will never give up pursuing them. Why? Because their value to your family and to the Church is important! Their absence is depleting the strength of the community.

And God, who is the source of the life of the community, is doing everything possible – well, even the impossible – to

lead them to repentance, healing and a safe return.

However, we cannot leave it all up to God. He works through us. Only when we've tried and our influence is nil does God say, "Let go. Trust that I am continually working on the problem." We can believe that Jesus is



still chasing after them, even though they hide from him. He is not far from them, even though they push him away.

If there is something else we can do to invite them back into the sheepfold, but we don't, someday we will have to explain to Jesus why we didn't. Why did we fail to love as much as he loves them? Why did we let them stray away without researching how we could help them? Have we done anything to push them away?

No matter how difficult it gets as we partner with Christ to bring others back to the sheepfold, the most important thing we can do is keep loving them unconditionally. Hopefully, they will see in us the love that Jesus is offering to them.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Who are the lost sheep and missing treasures of your family and your parish community? What will you do to reveal Jesus and his merciful love for them?
2. Is there a parish ministry or an evangelization program that you could join to learn how to better help others turn to Jesus?
3. When the lost are not ready yet to turn to Jesus or return to us or to the Church, how do our attempts to give them Jesus prepare them for an eventual conversion?
4. Why is it worth trying, even if we don't see any fruits for our efforts? Even if it includes sacrifice and extra humility on our part?