

Call to Worship - Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A
Sister Pat Torre, DW, Pastoral Associate - Sacred Heart Church, Southbury, CT

Our readings today remind us that all are welcome at the table – no matter what our particular perspective on life, or the position we hold in society, or the status of our employment...Jesus invites every one to be his disciple. And as disciples, it is not enough to follow the letter of the law if our hearts are not extending love and mercy to one another. “It is love I desire, not sacrifice,” we hear in the first reading. “I desire mercy, not sacrifice,” we hear in the gospel.

As disciples, we look to Jesus to show us the way to be loving and merciful. In today’s gospel, Jesus invites Matthew, a tax collector, one who was considered to be on the margins of his society, to be his follower. Jesus shared a meal with him, a symbol of accepting him as he is and an invitation to enter into a deeper relationship with him.

As disciples, we are called to do the same. As we share the meal that is Eucharist today, let us remember that we are loved and accepted by Jesus as we are – and we are invited to enter into a deeper relationship with him and with the entire Body of Christ. Today, in a special way, we are invited to the practice of mercy, sitting down at the table of life and opening our hearts in love to one another, extending our hands in welcome.

As we begin our celebration of the Eucharist, let us remember that all are welcome at Jesus’ Table and in that spirit, let us turn to one another, introduce ourselves and welcome each other to this celebration of God’s love. Please stand and turn to your neighbor and offer to one another a warm word of welcome.

5 pm - We are happy to welcome all those who are graduating this month and we hold them in a special place in our hearts during this liturgy. We will be presenting the scholarship awards from the Mustard Seed Fund at this Liturgy.

9 am - This morning at this liturgy we will be presenting the charitable grants from the Mustard Seed Fund to those organizations that have been recommended by our parishioners. This is a wonderful way of sharing the gift that we as a parish have been given.