SUNDAY GOSPEL ACTIVITIES
Today, we celebrate the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. We read from Luke 19:1-10. This Gospel is one of the better known scripture passages - it is about a man named Zacchaeus who has heard amazing things about this man named Jesus - and desires to hear him and see him! But Zacchaeus is short - he can not see Jesus - so he climbs a Sycamore tree to get a view above the crowd. Zacchaeus is NOT well liked in his town - he collects taxes for the Romans and is considered a very wealthy man.

Jesus looks up and tells him to come down! Jesus receives him with great joy and announces to all that he will be going to Zacchaeus' house. Those in the crowd - and probably even his disciples - are upset! How can Jesus associate with this man - a sinner!! Jesus uses this as a teachable moment - first by acknowledging Zacchaeus and inviting himself to his house -this act by Jesus changes Zacchaeus' heart! He announces right there that he will be giving half of his wealth to help those in need! Jesus then tells all that he has come to offer salvation to every person! The sinner and the righteous!

★ FOR MORE FUN★

★ Read the Gospel this week. Are there people in the world that are viewed as Zacchaeus was? How are we called to be as disciples of Jesus when we encounter them?

★ This week is National Vocations Awareness Week! Take the time to thank you priest for saying "yes" to his vocation, and pray for more men and women to say "yes" to their invitation to serve the Lord!