November 5, 2026, Thursday

Thursday of the Thirty-First Week in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Luke 15:1–10

My dear brothers and sisters,

A mother once lost her wedding ring while cleaning the house.

She searched beneath the furniture, emptied the wastebasket, and checked every corner. Someone said, “Why work so hard? It is only a small ring.”

She replied, “It may be small, but it is precious to me.”

We search differently for something that carries great value.

In today’s Gospel, the Pharisees complain:

“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

They see people who have failed.

Jesus sees people who are precious.

So He tells two parables: a shepherd searching for one lost sheep and a woman searching for one lost coin.

The shepherd still has ninety-nine sheep.

The woman still has nine coins.

But love does not say, “I still have enough.”

Love notices the one who is missing.

Jesus says that the shepherd searches:

“Until he finds it.”

Those words reveal the heart of God.

God does not search reluctantly. He does not stop loving us when we wander. He continues calling, waiting, and reaching toward us.

The sheep does not find its own way home. The shepherd finds it, places it upon his shoulders, and carries it back.

That is grace.

We are saved not because we are strong enough to rescue ourselves, but because Christ comes searching for us.

Jesus then says that heaven rejoices over one sinner who repents.

Repentance is not simply feeling ashamed. The biblical word means a change of mind and direction—allowing God to turn us back toward home.

Today's challenge for us is…

Think of one person who feels forgotten, judged, or distant from the Church.

Do not speak about that person.

Reach out with a kind word, a phone call, or an invitation.

And if you are the one who feels lost, remember:

You may have lost sight of God, but God has never lost sight of you.

To the world, you may seem like only one person. But to God, you are the one worth searching for.

Have a blessed Thursday.

Until tomorrow, keep encountering Jesus. Amen.