

October 4th, 2020 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Jesus said to them (chief priests and elders), "Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes?* Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit." -MT 21:42-43

The Real Story

There is a very powerful truth-telling device, as we saw two Sundays ago: the device called *story*.

Our brains love stories because they include events with "before-and-after" built right in, along with suspense, action, relationships and intercommunication; not to mention emotion and disappointment and elation and so on. These elements are the most like daily experience of any device we have in the language.

So, Sunday we will hear several tales of a vineyard.

The first story tells about "a friend" who carefully built a vineyard: clearing stones, building a watchtower, planting the choicest vines (*First Reading*). He even "hewed out a wine press." But the vineyard yielded bad grapes. God tells the people of Jerusalem and Judah in vivid language that they themselves are this vineyard, and that he is going to destroy it and trample it down. They would not let God's love grow up among them.

In the *Gospel* Jesus embroiders this tale. In just one sentence he handles the part about planting a vineyard, digging out a wine press, building a tower. Then he goes further.

In his version he says that the owner rents his rich vineyard to tenants, as was the custom, and he trusts them to raise choice grapes for him. In due season he sends his servants to collect the yield—which must have been great because the tenants dishonestly want to keep everything including the vineyard. But the tenants beat or stone or even kill the servants!

Next, a surprising, seemingly implausible twist to the tale. The owner decides to send his own son, thinking that the tenants will surely respect him. Would you have done the same? Wouldn't you or I have said, "I will keep my family away from these criminals"?

I surely would. But not the owner. He sends his only son into the trap and the tenants kill him.

The details of the two stories are different, but isn't it the same story, about God punishing those who fail to produce?

Actually, the two parables are not the same. There is much, much more in the *Gospel*. Jesus hints at this afterwards:

Did you never read in the Scriptures: *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes.* (*Gospel*)

This is a new metaphor, and it is the key to the *Gospel* tale. It fills the story with dramatic new meaning.

The son sent into the vineyard is Jesus himself!

He is to be rejected and killed, just as the prophets - and the owner's son were. But here is the difference: as God's son he is entirely willing to go among the sinning people. He lives by compassion, so danger takes second place.

If the main character in the *Gospel* were called *Life*, and it had its own choices to make, it would desire to turn into another being, one called *Love*. *Life* always yearns to go back to its source, the everlasting union called by that simple name, love.

Greed and disregard stop this progress. True *Life* gets buried. It rises again when we look to Jesus on Sundays. He is love. He is there for us in our vineyard.

God sent his own son into the trap of human life not because life is perfect, but because His love is.

-John Foley, SJ

Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 5: 1-7

Reading II: Philippians 4: 6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 25:6-10A

Reading II: Philippians 4: 13-14,19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Finance / Stewardship Collection: The plate last weekend was **\$1,534.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS TODAY, OCT.4th

WELCOME BACK! This year, due to COVID, Religious Education will begin with at-home instruction by the family. Instruction begins today October 4th. Registration forms for the families have been in September bulletins and on the parish websites, to be turned in by email to sacredsaintccd@gmail.com or the church offices or register online at sacredheartweb.org or saintbernards.org. Assistance from parish catechists is available after Masses monthly for registered families in person or by phone. Contact Kim Farrell, DRE for more information; sacredsaintccd@gmail.com, or 707-442-2233. For English, we will be sending Baltimore Catechisms to each family that enrolls, and to you as well if you are interested in assisting in this way. For Spanish, we are still researching options to keep the programs as similar as possible. Our Faith and Life series is still our main text, but during at home instruction this text is much easier for parents: <https://www.comcenter.com/program/429/>

Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

Saturday 03

8:00 am SH 1st Sat. Marian Devotion
Stella Reyes Int.
4:00 pm SJ Janet Tan Int.

Sunday 04

7:30 am SJ Mary Davey †
9:00 am SH Frank Scolari †
10:30 am SB Mass for the People
12:15 pm SH Michael Walsh † (Sp)
4:30 pm SH Norene Balderson †

Monday 05

12:15 pm SB Bud Cloney †
5:30 pm SH No Intention

Tuesday 06

7:30 am SJ Marietta Tanchoco Tan Int.
5:30 pm SH No Intention

Wednesday 07

12:15 pm SB Tan Family †
6:00 pm SH Adoration
7:00 pm For the healing and support for the
victims of clergy sexual abuse. (Sp)

Thursday 08

7:30 am SJ Alicia Claustro †
5:30 pm SH No Intention

Friday 09

12:15 pm SB Chad Kryla Int.
5:30 pm SH No Intention

Saturday 10

4:00 pm SJ Mary Gierek Hoffman †

Sunday 11

7:30 am SJ Fred Pepper, Sr. †
9:00 am SH VanderVeldt Family Int.
10:30 am SB Chad Kryla Int.
12:15 pm SH Carmen Zaragoza HB Int. (Sp)
4:30 pm SH Mass for the People

Please pray for: Marilyn Ziblich, Baby Olivia, Monika Rose Cleenewerck, Chad Kryla, Don DeHennis, Basil & Santos Mainus, Harold Giacomini, Chet Branum, Florence, Fran Hill, Isela Adams, Lindy Timmerman & Family, Mary James, Dave Silverbrand, John Bertain, Denise Sledge, James Iron Shell, James Lemon, Wm. Hahn Family, Rose Ann Hurst, Armado De Los Santos, Judy Mill, Julia Walters, Connie Mather, Steve Mill, Ryan Pepper, Fred Pepper, Paul Shabata & Family. **PRAYER LINE**- "Prayer is an act of love; words are not needed. Even if sickness distracts from thoughts, all that is needed is the will to love." St. Teresa of Avila Call our prayer line leader Toni at 445-3616-24/7.

On October 7, Catholics remember Our Lady of the Rosary.

The feast was actually instituted under another name: In 1571 Pope Pius V instituted "Our Lady of Victory" as an annual feast in thanksgiving for Mary's patronage in the miraculous victory of the Holy League over the Muslim Turks who were attacking with superior forces, attempting to conquer all of Europe in the Battle of Lepanto. Two years later, in 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the title of this feast day to "Feast of the Holy Rosary." And in 1716, Pope Clement XI extended the feast to the whole of the Latin Rite, inserting it into the Roman Catholic calendar of saints, and assigning it to the first Sunday in October. In 1913, Pope Pius X changed the date to October 7, as part of his effort to restore celebration of the liturgy of the Sundays.

The Battle of Lepanto



On October 7, 1571, a patchwork fleet of Catholic ships primarily from Spain, Venice and Genoa, under the command of Don Juan of Austria, was at a distinct disadvantage. The much larger fleet of the Ottoman Empire—a force with 12,000 to 15,000 Christian slaves as rowers—was extending toward Europe.

However, St. Pope Pius V, realizing that the Muslim Turks had a decided material advantage, called upon all of Europe to pray the Rosary for victory. Christians gathered in villages and towns to pray as the sea battle raged; and at the hour of victory the pope—who was hundreds of miles away at the Vatican—is said to have gotten up from a meeting, walked over to an open window exclaiming "The Christian fleet is victorious!" and shed tears of joy and thanksgiving to God.

The Ottoman fleet lost 210 of its 250 ships, of which 130 were captured by the Holy League. Coming at what was seen as a crisis point for Christianity, the victory at Lepanto stemmed Ottoman incursion into the Mediterranean and prevented their influence from spreading through Europe. Through the intervention of Our Lady, the Hand of God prevented the Muslims of the East from overcoming the Christian West.

The epic victory has been commemorated in literature: Miguel de Cervantes, a Spanish soldier wounded in the battle of Lepanto, recovered to become a novelist, poet and playwright; and he was so inspired by this battle that he incorporated elements of it in his own acclaimed novel, Don Quixote. And philosopher/writer and Catholic apologist G.K. Chesterton retold the story in his 1915 ballad, *Lepanto*

Scripture Study and Lectures at St. Bernard In Memory of Fr. Eric Freed Have Begun...

In memory of Fr. Eric Freed we have again started scripture study and lectures. Lectures on the Reformations will continue for 12 weeks **through 11/29 with one 20-minute lecture per week, in the St. Bernard Church Hall right after the 10:30 mass.** We are meeting every Sunday. There will be study notes, but no coffee. Those who stay for the lecture will clean their own spots. —Deacon Frank Weber