

# September 20th, 2020 – 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

-Mt 20: 9-16

## Just Imagine

I taught grade school religion for a short semester when I was about 22. By accident I discovered a great trick of teaching, one I needed very much. The class, you see, was in complete chaos each time I arrived in mid-day.

But if I told a story, even the simplest story, the pandemonium ceased. It morphed into rapt attention. You could hear a pin drop. Until the story ended, that is, and then anarchy resumed.

I never did find another way besides stories to reach these little cherubs, even though I memorized each name and each picture in the long list, and called different ones out for serious talks, etc.

There must be a special part of the brain devoted to stories.

It was only years later that I applied this insight. Why does the gospel get such special attention at Mass? Why do we hold the book up and parade it to the pulpit? Because it is a story, the story of Jesus. We are struck by the narrative about him, much more than we are by the sometimes-complicated theology in Paul's letters. Within the gospels, which are themselves stories, we find the parables Jesus told.

Stories.

So take a good look at the parable in Sunday's Gospel and let the story lead you. See if it works. Imagine the landowner hiring laborers for his vineyard as he shakes their rough hands and invites them to work. You can see their satisfied smiles, since they know they will get the usual daily wage.

The day gets hotter. And hotter. High noon has come and the owner walks back to town to go shopping for this and that. He glances around. Men are leaning on buildings, loitering really, bored but still hopeful. The owner crosses over to them and offers to hire them. They come to life and hurry off to his vineyard to earn just half a day's wages. It is more than nothing.

Then the work day is about over. The owner is still in town for whatever reason, and what should he see but strong men lolling about in doorways, wet with sweat from the heat and from their dejection. To their surprise, he hires them too.

Day ends and "just wages" are handed out. It is the exact same amount for every worker, no matter - how many or how few hours anyone had worked. Look at the faces. Anger in the ones who had slaved all day This is not fair! We demand our rights! We put in the time and these oafs did nothing. The late ones smiling sheepishly.

What does the story mean? You will find the answer if you sense the scene rather than just use brain power. Let your imagination see the kindness in the owner's face. Call to mind the gloom of the ones hired so late. See their amazement now.

Obviously, these wages are not a strict remuneration for hours worked. They are more like a gift from a fond heart. How does this feel to you?

Didn't Jesus tell his parable to show how God's caring heart works, how he gives a depth of love to each person in this world, especially to ones who suffer and are left behind?

If it is hard to see, ask for light.

-John Foley, SJ

## Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 55: 6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1: 20C-24, 27A

Gospel: Matthew 20: 1-16A

## Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Reading II: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

**Finance / Stewardship Collection:** The plate last weekend was **\$1,108** and Building & Maintenance was **\$492**.

## **Scripture Study and Lectures at St. Bernard In Memory of Fr. Eric Freed have begun.**

Several people have mentioned how much they miss scripture study. In memory of Fr. Eric Freed we will begin again by discussing The Reformations for 12 weeks: 9/13-11/29 with one 20-minute lecture per week, in the St. Bernard Church Hall right after the 10:30 mass. We will meet every Sunday. There will be study notes, but no coffee. Those who stay for the lecture will clean their own spots. -Deacon Frank Weber

**REST IN PEACE** Please pray for the recently deceased and her family members; Bertha Yost. Service will be held at St. Bernard Church Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, with Rosary at 3:00 pm and Mass following.

**Please wear your mask**

## Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

### Saturday 19

4:00 pm SJ Mary Gierek Hoffman †

### Sunday 20

7:30 am SJ Mass for the People

9:00 am SH Dan Freitas Int.

10:30 am SB Lisa & Ernie Domingo †

12:15 pm SH No Intention (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Diana Clauser Int.

### Monday 21

12:15 pm SB Emyrie Cameron Int.

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Tuesday 22

7:30 am SJ Fran Wahlund †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Wednesday 23

12:15 pm SB Chad Kryla Int.

6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm SH For the conversion and just punishment for the perpetrators & concealers of clergy sexual abuse. (Sp)

### Thursday 24

7:30 am SJ Hugo Pompati & Family †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Friday 25

12:15 pm SB Virginia Del Grande †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Saturday 26

4:00 pm SJ Lowell Allen †

### Sunday 27

7:30 am SJ Jim Pastori †

9:00 am SH Norma Crisostomo †

10:30 am SB Gerard McCormick †

12:15 pm SH No Intention (Sp)

4:30 pm SH Mass for the People

**Please pray for :** Courtney Train, Marilyn Ziblich, Baby Olivia, Monica Rose Clinewerk, 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.

God our Father, you have promised to remain forever with those who do what is just and right. Help us to live in your presence. For the honor of your name, lead us and guide us. Call our prayer line leader Toni at 445-3616-24/7.

**Welcome back to Holy Mass!** Although Religious Education will begin a bit differently this year with at-home instruction, we hope to return to in-person classes as soon as we are able. For registered families, we will have Catechists available after Masses monthly for questions or by phone. Please fill out your registration form and return by October 1 to one of the church offices, by email to [sacredsaintccd@gmail.com](mailto:sacredsaintccd@gmail.com) or register online at [sacredheartweb.org](http://sacredheartweb.org) or [saintbernards.org](http://saintbernards.org). Call Kim at 442-2233 with any questions! Thank you!  
Grace and Peace

## 2020-2021 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION UPDATE

1. Religious Education will begin with at-home instruction by the family on October 4th.
2. We hope to have Catechists that are willing to be available for questions after Masses once per month and to call the families assigned to them once or twice a month to check in. If you would be comfortable filling this role, please let us know what age range you prefer to work with. If you do plan to volunteer this year, please remember to update your [cmgconnect.org](http://cmgconnect.org) training. If you or your family are concerned about Covid, please do not feel obligated to volunteer.
3. Registration forms for the families will be in September bulletins and on the parish websites to be turned into the church offices.
4. 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. This is a solid but simple reference text that families can keep to help them walk their children through at home education. 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/>
5. We hope to be able to return to in-person instruction as soon as more regulations are lifted and most people feel safe to gather in large groups. We will review this around December or January. Please spread the word for people I may not have email addresses for and those that may be willing to be new to the volunteer role this year. We hope you and your families have a beautiful Labor Day weekend. Stay prayerful, stay safe, stay happy!  
**SANTA ROSA RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS 2020 -Human Love in the Divine Plan** On September 25-26, 2020 there will be a free virtual religious education conference offered online. No pre-registration is necessary. You are invited to connect at <http://santarosacatholic.org/srcongress> or go to the Diocese of Santa Rosa website and click on the SR Religious Education link to find everything you will need to join from the comfort of your home or office.