

September 27th, 2020 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time



“When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

-MT 21: 31-32

When I was serving as Principal of a school, somebody advised me never to change my mind/decision once made, as it would bring confusion among the teachers and students; moreover, it would portray me as an unreliable and unsteady principal. I therefore opted to buy time and used the simplest sentence “Give me some time and I will convey my decision later.” It really worked for me.

This weekend Jesus presents to us two sons who changed their minds. The older son initially refused to go out and work in the vineyard, but later went. The younger son did just the opposite. This parable is addressed to the chief priests and elders who rejected John the Baptist. Accepting John the Baptist would involve a change of mind. This would demand a lot of courage as they would have to give up their own beliefs that might cost them their jobs and social status; they would appear a laughing stock to their own people. How would they defend their change of mind and accept John the Baptist?

On the other hand, the tax collectors and prostitutes who lived sinful lives decided to embrace John the Baptist and his teachings and received Baptism. The people who changed their minds were the sinners.

Change of mind, for a good reason, is born out of due reflection on God and conviction. Pride takes a backseat and humility makes us courageous and ignores the strange looks of others seeking explanations and defence of the change of mind.

Many times we are led by impulse, fear, emotion, pride and such forces that may influence our decisions. Therefore, we constantly need to pray for the gifts of the Holy Spirit when in the process of decision-making. For the greater good of all we need to be humble enough to own our mistakes and change our minds if needed to do God’s will. We need to permit ourselves to see something new, especially if that something is leading us to God.

We don’t always make changes successfully or permanently. John Henry Newman, who was beatified in our contemporary times said that to live

here on earth is to change, and that to be perfect is to have changed often. Becoming perfect might be hard. But in this Gospel, we see one way to start.

Conversion begins with the heart, for only in the heart can one truly change. Conversion means rejecting the old life of sin and ushering into a new way of virtuous life that keeps us eternally youthful. Reflect today on how God is leading you to change and in what aspects of life. Pray for the gift of wisdom to clearly hear the Lord’s voice and the power to make changes that bring you closer to Him. –Fr. Bernard

Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Reading II: Philippians 2: 1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 5: 1-7

Reading II: Philippians 4: 6-9

Gospel: Matthew 21: 33-43

Finance / Stewardship Collection: The plate last weekend was **\$1,945** and Seminarians was **\$343**

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. 29th, with Rosary at 3:00 pm and Mass following.

SOS: Kady Dunleavy, parishioner at St. Joseph’s in Fortuna, is recovering from knee surgery and over the next six weeks is in need of someone to help her a couple hours twice a week to provide some light housekeeping and grocery shopping. If you are able to help, she would be most grateful. 7070-616-1656. Thank you.

Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

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

Monday 28

12:15 pm SB Daniel Cloney †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Tuesday 29

7:30 am SJ Mary Grinsell †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Wednesday 30

12:15 pm SB Hugo Pompati & Family †

6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm SH For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm. (Sp)

Thursday 01

7:30 am SJ Mary Cloney †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

Friday 02

12:15 pm SB Spencer Boyd †

5:30 pm SB First Friday Devotion
1) Rosary) 2) Confession,
3) Mass, & 4) Holy Hour

5:30 pm SH No Intention

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 †

Please pray for : Courtney Train, 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- 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.

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 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/](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!

Confirmation It's that time of year again for us to begin preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. If you or a loved one is between 7th grade and 17 years old, now is the perfect time to join us! Please leave a message with Deacon Dance at (707) 442-2233 or email at dancefarrell@gmail.com, and clearly say that you are interested in Confirmation, leave your name, the name of your child, and your phone number. Deacon will contact you soon regarding classes!