

# September 18, 2022 Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can

serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon." -Luke 16:10-13

## Be Shrewd

God in the First Reading is quite offended by his people's evil actions, just as we would expect. But in the Gospel parable we find the master of the house *rewarding a dishonest steward for cheating*. What is going on?

A question: are you shrewd? Can you get troubled circumstances to work to your advantage?

If you said yes, doesn't that mean you are un-Christian?

After all, we are supposed to dedicate ourselves to charity, giving always to others. Or at least that is the usual understanding of Christianity.

Start with the First Reading. God sees that the merchants are actually agreeing to "fix their scales for cheating!" This is bad enough, but they have determined also to actually buy poor people, to purchase them and their lives for silver or even for a pair of sandals!

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: never will I forget a thing they have done!

Such slavery no longer exists in the United States, for which, hurray! But aren't each of our own lives being bought off by luxury? Haven't you noticed that commerce wishes to buy you with cable TV, or a convertible, or prescription drugs, or real-estate plans, or weight reduction, beautiful teeth, slick automobiles, perfect wheel chairs, and even breath-freshening chewing gum (whose advertising portrays sexual promiscuity in order to sell their gum)?

God's reaction is very clear, and we should react similarly.

God hates it.

Yet in the Gospel, a parable portrays God's attitude quite differently. The master comes back to find that his top steward has been squandering the master's property. Naturally he plans to fire the man, and in this he agrees completely with the First Reading, that cheating should not be tolerated.

But then comes the curve ball. The servant is portrayed as shrewd. He thinks up a plan. If I am to be fired, I had better acquire some friends so I will not be homeless. Since I will remain steward until I give an account, I will go to each of my master's debtors and make a deal. Give me half of what you owe and I will count it on the books as fully paid.

The master actually commends him for this plan! He tells the servant, you have been prudent in preparing a home for yourself!

Why does he treat this dishonest servant differently than the dishonest merchants in the First Reading? The answer is in Sunday's Psalm 113, which says:

Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor!

Do you think the merchants from the First Reading were "lifting up the poor"? Weren't they buying and selling them instead, purchasing them for even "a pair of sandals"?

Well, the Gospel's steward doesn't show disdain for the poor even though he is taking care of his own future (by making friends with the poor). He gets a portion of their debts back for the master. He never buys or sells them—he makes their life a little easier by cutting their debts in half, and he courts the master's favor by cutting losses to his property.

So he was shrewd.

He did good by being so clever. The remaining servants were happy. The master was happy. The steward kept his job. Good was served rather than evil.

Maybe the actual moral for Sunday is: be clever when you do good. -John Foley, SJ

## Readings For This Week

Reading I: Amos 8:4-7

Reading II: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

## Readings For Next Week

Reading I: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

Reading II: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

## Finance / Stewardship:

First Collection = \$1,689

Building and Maintenance = \$997

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection this week is for Mission Co-Op.

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection next week is for Diocesan Seminarians.

## Walk in the Footsteps of Jesus with Fr. Bernard

You are invited on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Bernard D'Sa from Feb. 24-March 7, 2023 through Holy Land Tours and Travel. There is limited seating at \$3,895 per person (double occupancy). Price includes round trip airfare (from SF), deluxe accommodations in hotels, daily breakfast and dinner, land transport by deluxe motor coach, sightseeing with Christian guide, & all outside fees and taxes. For more information please call 1-800-655-8644 info@holylandtoursandtravel.com or www.holylandtoursandtravel.com

## Religious Education Conference Invitation

**Friday, September 23, 2022:** Again this year, our Catholic Schools will work jointly with the Department of Religious Education and offer an event on Friday, September 23, 2022, with a gathering of Educators and Catechists. This event is mainly for our educators and catechists in our diocese. The event will open with Holy Mass. A variety of workshops and keynotes are available throughout the day.

**Saturday, September 24, 2022:** Saturday's event is open to all adults and includes Liturgy, presentations, exhibits, and much more. This event is free. See attached brochure. All are invited this day. We encourage educators to join us on both days. For more information: Carmen Perez Aanenson, Diocese of Santa Rosa, Department of Religious Education, PO Box 1297, Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Ofc: 707-566-3366 Fax: 707-791-7495

## **Eureka Holy Mass Schedule:**

### **Saturday, September 17**

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm +Sipriano Hernandez St. Joseph Church

### **Sunday, September 18**

7:30 am Mass for the People St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am +Yvette Logan Sacred Heart Church  
10:30 am Int. John Jr. St. Bernard Church  
12:15pm Sp +Felipe de Jesus Silva Rodriguez  
Sacred Heart Church

### **Monday, September 19**

12:15 pm +Francisco Vega St. Bernard Church

### **Tuesday, September 20**

7:30 am +Dy See Hoc DyLuLeco St. Joseph Church

### **Wednesday, September 21**

12:15 pm In Honor of the Holy Spirit St. Bernard Church  
1:00 pm Adoration & Confession St. Bernard Church  
6:00 pm Adoration & Confession Sacred Heart Church  
7:00 pm Sp +Felipe de Jesus Silva Rodriguez  
Sacred Heart Church

### **Thursday, September 22**

7:30 am +Mary Smith St. Joseph Church

### **Friday, September 23**

12:15 pm +Norma Hamm St. Bernard Church

### **Saturday, September 24**

3:15 Confession St. Joseph Church  
4:00 pm +Paul Hoffman St. Joseph Church

### **Sunday, September 25**

7:30 am +Chet Branum St. Joseph Church  
9:00 am Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church  
10:30 am Int. Beth Jordan St. Bernard Church  
12:15pm Sp Alejandra Ramirez (Feliz Cumpleanos)  
Sacred Heart Church

### **Please Pray For:**

John Hines, Marian Griffin, Margaret Knight, Julie Dolan, Winsome Miller, Margarita Martinez, Evangelina Martinez, Anne Hamant, M. Vargas, Neal Geving, Family of Mario Jesus Lopez, Jacob Rivera, Tici McCormack, Delores McBroome, Ahron Jurney, Eain Graham, Timmerman Family, Kenneth Burns & Family, Vickie B, Jean Murphy, Nikkie, Donald Whitehead, Millie Perrone, Star Salazar, Barbara, Shawn, Laurie Morales, Marilyn Ziblich, Anderson Family, Judy Mill, Monika Rose Cleenewerck, & Basil & Santos Mainus

### **Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:**

Chet Branum, Tom Bronchetti, Bernice Abreu, Dan Freitas, Delores Soares, Eveline B. Sutton, Yvette Logan, Avira Agata Concepta Gomes, Chad Kryla, Colby Arnett, Mario Jesus Lopez, Joel Cudney, & Fr. Gerard Brady

*"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 Toni 24/7 at 445-3616*

**The Sacred Heart Rosary group invites you to join them on Tuesdays at 11:30 am at Sacred Heart Church in the chapel. We look forward to seeing you there.**

### **VOTE "NO" ON PROPOSITION 1**

*Proposition 1 promotes an unlimited expansion of abortion here in California, while its defeat would keep all abortion laws as they are, including our common-sense limits on late-term abortions. Options United trained call responders, or visit [www.optionsforpregnancy.com](http://www.optionsforpregnancy.com) Please visit [www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1](http://www.CAcatholic.org/Prop1) to find answers to common questions and resources to help defeat this misleading,*

*expensive, and unnecessary ballot initiative.*

*The California Catholic Conference of Bishops have endorsed these announcements.*

### **St. Bernard Pancake Breakfast on October 2nd**

A pancake breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus will be held October 2nd in St Bernard Parish Hall. Time: 8:30 am till 12pm. Menu is pancakes, ham, sausage, scrambled eggs and all the usual wonderful trimmings! Cost \$8 for adults, \$4 for children under 12. The



proceeds go to the St. Bernard's Building Maintenance Fund. We need volunteers to help cook and serve. Please call Alan @707-442-6844. God bless you!

### **Join Us for the Public Rosary Crusade - Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**

What: The Holy Rosary

Where: Outside St. Bernard Church, 615 H Street, EKA

When: Saturday, 10/15/2022 at 12 pm

For more information, contact Halina (707) 601-9528 or

Email: [ANFRosaryRally@aol.com](mailto:ANFRosaryRally@aol.com) Web: [www.ANF.org](http://www.ANF.org) or

Phone: (866) 584-6012

### **Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA): An Invitation to Quench Our Deepest Longing.**

The human heart seems ultimately to manifest itself in the desire to be loved and to love in return. Until then, as St. Augustine said, our hearts are restless until they rest in God who is Love. As Catholic Christians, we are privileged to share God's love through Mass, the sacraments and how we live our lives.

Do you know someone thirsting for God? Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a different Christian tradition thirsting to know what it means to be Catholic? Do you know someone already Catholic but who has not yet received Confirmation or the Eucharist? They may be thirsting, too!

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a place to ask questions and seek understanding. Weekly "no strings" inquiry gatherings are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the back classroom of Sacred Heart Church. We would love for you to invite/accompany anyone you know whose heart is restless for the God who loves them. For more information, please contact Ann Lynch (443-6741) or call the rectory office at 707-443-8429.

### **Please Note: CCD Classes have begun**

**English:** 6-7pm Tuesdays @ St. Bernard Academy

**Spanish:** Sundays 10:30- 11:30am @ Sacred Heart

Please contact Maria Romo 707-443-8429.

### **Pregnancy Care Center Harvest Banquet Invitation**

The Pregnancy Care Center of the North Coast will host their annual fund-raising Harvest Banquet on Thursday, October 13th, 2022 at the Fortuna River Lodge. For more information on how you can sponsor a table for eight, or purchase tickets, please call (707) 444-0423. Thank you and God bless you for your help.

**ICF Applebee's Fundraiser** Monday Sept. 19th from 5 – 10 pm. All food purchased during those hours the ICF will receive 15% to help our mission of support for St Bernard and Sacred Heart Parishes and promote Italian cultural awareness in Humboldt County. Featured games on Applebees' 7 big screen TVs are two Monday Night Football contests: the Titans vs Buffalo Bills AND the Vikings vs Eagles. Also the San Francisco Giants vs Colorado Rockies baseball game will begin at 5:40PM.