TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2020

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2020  
5:30 P.M. Ralph Cortellessa  
Kathy Weckler  
Michael Gurliaccio  
Frank & Rose Montaperto

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2020  
7:30 A.M. Parishioners  
Mikalina & John Bullet  
Kathy Hivish  
10:00 A.M. Emelia Glorioso  
Benjamin Glorioso  
Intentions of Dom & Dorothy Cortellessa  
12 NOON Elaine Arendas  
Charlene Barbagallo

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2020  
8:00 A.M. Souls in Purgatory  
Intentions of Josephine Venezia

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020  
8:00 A.M. Charlene Barbagallo

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020  
8:00 A.M. Charlene Barbagallo

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020  
8:00 A.M. Anthony Cafarella  
Intentions of Josie Venezia

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020  
5:30 P.M. Rita Destito  
Ralph Cortellessa  
Intentions of Ava Sofia Johnson

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020  
7:30 A.M. Parishioners  
Anne & Carl Hivish  
10:00 A.M. Benjamin Glorioso  
Roy & Shirley Parian  
Frank & Dorothy Orofino  
Rocco Tarulli  
12 NOON Charlene Barbagallo  
Fiore Maria Nardulli

Pray daily for our servicemen and women serving their country.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:  
Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Judy Moran Gary Ragusa  
Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte Lois Maskley  
Evelyn Means Bob Delventhall Jacqueline Alt amore  
George Link Michael Soojian Valentina Manuele  
Susan Nichols-Boggio Ryder Sasso Michael Gotti  
Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Lydia Rivera  
Jerome Foray Loretta LaSala Infant Ronan Suatoni  
Manuel Esquerra Jessica Skorubski Marianne Dorn  
Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry Frank Polglaze  
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Florence Grim  
Josephine Venezia Alex Coronel Geraldine Kearns  
Alice Roslund Alejandro Salcedo Bernie Shushan  
Jean’na Wojik Post Patrick Keegan Herman Koenig  
DECEASED: Florence Korkuch

WEEKLY COLLECTION  
Sunday, September 13, 2020 - $3,584.00  
Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION  

Dear Friends in Christ,

In the background of today's Gospel lies the vineyard, prophetic image of the people of Israel in the Old Testament, and now, of the new people of God, born from the wounded side of the Lord in the Cross. The question: to belong to this people, as the effect of God's personal call to each one of us: «It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you» (Jn 15:16), and, thanks to the volition of our Father in heaven, to extend this call to all men, motivated by His generous will of salvation.

In this parable, the grumblings of the workers of the first hour are enhanced. They are the parallel image of the elder brother of the parable of the prodigal son. Those who see their task to win the Kingdom of God (the work in the vineyard) as a heavy affliction («we have endured the day's burden and heat»: Mt 20:12) and not as a privilege which God favors them with, are not working with filial joy but with the ill temper manner of the servants.

Faith, for them, is something that binds and enslaves, and, deep inside, they envy those that “live life”, inasmuch as they conceive the Christian conscience as a constraint rather than as the wings that provide our human life with a divine flight. They think it is better to remain spiritually idle, instead of living under the glow of God's word. They feel entitled to their salvation and, accordingly, they are jealous. Their miserable and mean spirit notably contrasts with the Father's generosity, who «who wills everyone to be saved and to come to knowledge of the truth» (1Tim 2:4), and this is why He calls us to his vineyard, «The
LITURGY OF THE WORD

The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The readings for today give us a good example of God's generosity, yet we seem to focus on the "unfairness" of the landowner in the Gospel. The unions would surely be after him in today's environment. We must remember that this is a parable, a “story” with a message. So what is the message? The First Reading is from the Prophet Isaiah (55:6-9).

Here we have the prophet preaching to his congregation the virtues and generosity of God, citing: "God's ways are not like mankind's ways." We should be thankful for that and remember it when we feel that we are being treated unfairly, and then ask ourselves, "What is going on here? Why is God treating me this way?"

The Responsorial Psalm (145:2-18) is a prayer in which the psalmist praises God for His goodness, compassion and generosity. The Second Reading is from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (1:20-27). "Philippians" is all about humility. In this passage, Paul is saying that he is so grateful to Jesus Christ for bringing him to this stage of his life that it makes no difference if he, Paul, is dead or alive.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (20:1-16). In this passage, Jesus is giving us a lesson on what the kingdom of heaven is like. When the Bible uses the word "like" it does not mean "the same as." So we must look for a similarity or likeness. In this story, the similarity is the landowner who is somewhat like God the Father. God can be as generous as He wishes to those He loves and even to those who He might not totally approve of.

This might be the way He is working with someone to bring them around to His way of thinking. So we must not look with longing at someone who is rich or powerful or good looking. Who knows, behind the facade there could be all kinds of problems. If we have needs, either spiritual or temporal (and who doesn't?) we should call upon our generous Lord and God for mercy and help, but we should also see to it that our spiritual house is in order.

Congratulations to our First Communicants and their parents.

Where is Heaven?

A few months ago after Mass a child asked me “Father Greg, you said that Christ was transfigured before the Apostles and they felt as if they were in Heaven. The Apostles a foretaste of joys of Heaven. But this place which we call heaven – where is it? Tell me: Where is Heaven?”

Good question: Where is heaven?

Some people believe that heaven is somewhere beyond the stars, somewhere up beyond the clouds, the moon, the sun and all the other planets. No matter where heaven is, our main concern right now is how to get there. What is heaven really like?

Now and then we read of some person on the operating table whose soul left the body for a few seconds and found itself in a place of supreme joy and when brought back to its body experienced a truly remarkable transformation in his or her life. That person no longer feared death, because he or she now knew what to look forward to.

St. Paul tells us: “The things that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, things beyond the mind of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him” and St. Augustine wrote: “This happiness may be felt, but not described.” Heaven is everlasting life. It is the home of God and our home one day too, if we have merited it with our good lives on earth. Heaven is the place where our loved ones, whom we hope to join have gone, never more will we be separated from them.

How does one go about reaching this home of unending happiness?

First of all we must be baptized, because Baptism not only removes original sin, but it also makes us pleasing to God. Remember what our Lord said: “unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God”

In our lives we must obey God’s law and thus avoid sin which is transgression against the law of God. We must love God and our neighbors according to the law of God. We must give alms
and thus help those of suffering God wants to test our loyalty to Him. We must be resigned to resist the temptations that may come to us from the world. These are the principal things that will help us reach heaven.

When the appointed hour and day comes to each one of us, and God receives us into that eternal home, we too no doubt will exclaim “Lord, how good it is for us to be here.”

**2020 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL**

*“Love Thy Neighbor”*

The 2020 Diocesan Ministries Appeal (*formerly called the ‘Bishop’s Annual Appeal’) is officially kicking-off this weekend. The theme of this year’s Appeal is *“Love Thy Neighbor.”* It is a vivid reminder, especially as we all face the COVID pandemic together, that what we do for our neighbors in need, we do for Christ himself. Please support this important cause that helps so many of our brothers and sisters in our Diocese.

The Diocesan Ministries Appeal supports the work of our Catholic Charities, priests’ extraordinary healthcare needs as well as Nazareth Village, our diocesan priests’ retirement residence, urban elementary schools and seminarian education. These are all important ministries that touch many lives, and your participation makes this assistance possible. You can give with confidence, knowing that funds from the Diocesan Ministries Appeal are used solely for the causes described in the campaign materials. They are used for no other purpose.

For your convenience, you can support the Diocesan Ministries Appeal by making an on-line gift. Simply go to [www.2020appeal.org](http://www.2020appeal.org) and follow the user-friendly instructions.

**SILVER WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS**

Couples, were you married in 1995? The Diocese of Paterson invites you to celebrate your 25th wedding anniversary during a special Mass to be offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson, NJ. Bishop Sweeney will serve as main celebrant on this joyful occasion to be held: Sunday, November 8th, 2020 at 3:30pm. Arrangements can be made by contacting the parish office. The deadline to register is Thursday, October 1st, 2020. You will receive additional information from the Office of Family Life once your registration has been processed. Congratulations on this joyous occasion!

**PARISH HAPPENINGS**

Fri., 10/2 - Sat. 10/3 Overnight Adoration
7 PM- 8 AM

Sat., 10/3 - 1st Saturday Novena Mass to Our Lady of Fatima

Sat., 10/10 – America Needs Fatima Public Square Rosary at 11:45 AM in front of the church.

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**

October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary with her feast day being celebrated on Oct. 7th and the anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima celebrated on October 13th. What better way to get to know Our Blessed Mother than by spending some time with her Son, praying for the grace to have Mary in our lives. She is our Mother too and can show us, most perfectly, how to love God, who is our Father, her Son, and her spouse, the Holy Spirit.

There will be Overnight Adoration on Friday, October 2nd which will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude at 8:00 AM on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Only those who sign up will be permitted in the Church during the overnight hours. Please leave your name and phone number so that we can contact you to confirm your scheduled time and give you any additional updates. Because of social distancing, only 3 people/families will be permitted to sign up for a given hour.

Come spend some time with Our Lord! who are in need. We must accept suffering whenever God permits it to come our way, because by means

**LECTORS**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2020**

5:30 P.M.  Martha Bisaccio

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

7:30 A.M.  Margaret O’Neill
10:00 A.M.    Judy Moran
12 NOON    Armando Haro
IS 55:6-9
Seek the LORD while he may be found, call him while he is near. Let the scoundrel forsake his way, and the wicked his thoughts; let him turn to the LORD for mercy; to our God, who is generous in forgiving. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm PS 145
The Lord is near to all who call upon him. Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD and highly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable. The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

Reading 2PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A
Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for your benefit. Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Alleluia

Gospel MT 20:1-16A
Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ 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.’