



# Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 9, 2020

## Readings

*This week:*

1 Kings 19:9a, 11–13a

Romans 9:1–5

Matthew 14:22–33

*Next week:*

Isaiah 56:1, 6–7

Romans 11:13–15, 39–52

Matthew 15:21–28

## Psalm

Lord, let us see your kindness and grant us your salvation. (*Psalm 85*)

## Today

In this time of COVID-19 restrictions, we are not celebrating Mass at St. Thomas Aquinas Church at 8:45 as usual. When we are able to resume in-person liturgies, we will be starting our Mass at 9:00 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, located at Waverley and Homer Streets in Palo Alto.

Members of the Thomas Merton community participate in planning these liturgies in the spirit of Vatican II and its call to “full, active and conscious participation” in Catholic liturgical life.

The Thomas Merton Center is supported by your donations. While we are sheltering-in-place, donations can be made through our website, [www.thomasmerton.org](http://www.thomasmerton.org). Click on the “Donate” tab to make a donation via credit card or direct deposit. Or you may mail your donation check to: TMC, P. O. Box 60061, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

## Calendar

Sunday, August 9, 1:00 pm, via Zoom

TMC (virtual) Coffee and Donuts  
(Zoom link to meeting is on Page 2.)

Monday, August 10, 4:30 p.m. via Zoom

TMC Liturgy Committee meeting

Wednesday, August 12, 5:00 pm, via Zoom

TMC Racism Discussion Group (contact  
Bob Foley at [bob.foley@gmail.com](mailto:bob.foley@gmail.com))

## From Thomas Merton

[Contemplation] knows God by seeming to touch Him. Or rather it knows Him as if it had been invisibly touch by Him. ... Touched by Him Who has no hands, but Who is pure Reality and the source of all that is real! Hence contemplation is a sudden gift of awareness, an awakening to the Real within all that is real. A vivid awareness of infinite Being at the roots of our own limited being. An awareness of our contingent reality as received, as a present from God, as a free gift of love. This is the existential contract of which we speak when we use the metaphor of being “touched by God.”

...[C]ontemplation does not simply “find” a clear idea of God and confine Him within the limits of that idea, and hold Him there as a prisoner to Whom it can always return. On the contrary, contemplation is carried away by Him into His own realm, His own mystery, and His own freedom.

—*New Seeds of Contemplation*

The Thomas Merton Center for Catholic Spiritual Development, P.O. Box 60061, Palo Alto, California 94306, was founded by a group of Roman Catholic lay persons in 1995, and incorporated in 1996, to offer Catholic liturgy, to augment, support and lead the development of ecumenical spirituality, and to foster new ways for Catholics and other Christians to develop a deeper spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ and, through him, with God. From its Catholic roots, it seeks to join with members of other faiths, Christian and non-Christian, to support religious education and spiritual development. Visit: [www.thomasmerton.org](http://www.thomasmerton.org).

# COMMUNITY NOTES

News Announcements Requests

## TMC Coffee Hour invitation (via Zoom):

**NOTE: The recurring standing TMC Coffee & Donuts Hour meeting has been renewed, and this is the new Meeting ID:**

On Sunday, August 9, at 1:00 pm, please join the TMC Coffee and Donut Hour—via Zoom. Here is the **NEW** information: (no password necessary):

### Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83624814842>

**Meeting ID: 836 2481 4842**

One tap mobile:

+16699006833,,81402157461#,,1#,158515# US (San Jose)

Or by telephone: +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

## Prayer shawl ministry—calling all knitters:

If you enjoy knitting and have a little extra free time these days, making a prayer shawl is a wonderful way to help someone else in need.

To date, almost 100 shawls have been given to people who are going through a very difficult time and wish to enjoy the warmth, love and prayers of a hand-knitted prayer shawl.

IF YOU KNOW of someone who might also be comforted by a prayer shawl, we are happy to currently offer a small selection from which to choose. They are distributed by our parish Home Ministries.

Call Judi Swope 650-856-6972 or Terry Atkinson 650-714-2131 for information. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Back-to-School supplies for Seton students:



Many of our pre-K through 8th grade students at St. Elizabeth Seton School need assistance purchasing back-to-school supplies and

our parish would like to lend those parents a helping hand. While students will be starting in mid-August learning from home, individual supplies will still be needed to support them in their learning experience.

Your donations will enable principal Evelyn Rosa and her staff to purchase needed student personal supplies.

If you are moved to help the students in this way, please write your checks to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, write "Seton supplies" on the memo line and mail to: St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 3290 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto, CA 94306.

Thank you on behalf of the many people who have contributed to this effort over several recent years. For any questions, pls call or text Terry at 650-714-2131.

## Masses streamed from STA church:

1) **Parish Mass:** Attend Mass at 11:00 am, streamed from STA church every Sunday morning and celebrated by STA pastor Fr. Stasys Mikalonis or vicar Fr. Sev Kuupuo: <https://dsj.zoom.us/j/759166471>

2) **Stanford Catholic Community:** Attend Mass at 4:30 p.m. every Sunday, streamed from STA church and celebrated by the Dominican priests of the Stanford Catholic Community (including Fr. Xavier Lavagetto, who has celebrated the TMC Mass once a month for several years): go to [www.stanfordcatholic.org](http://www.stanfordcatholic.org) for that day's link to the YouTube channel.

## Outdoor daily Mass:

Daily Mass is celebrated @ Saint Elizabeth Seton School Playground, Mon-Sat at 8:30 a.m. for an allowed number of 60 attendees. No prior sign-up is necessary.

- Upon arrival:
  - A. Sanitize your hands (bring your own sanitizer).
  - B. Cross off 1 # per person on the white board chart.
  - C. Sanitize your hands again.
- Bring and wear your face mask during the Mass.
- Bring and use your own chair or mat. No benches or chairs will be provided. (We will have special accommodations for those who might need it)
- Keep social distance (minimum of 6 feet) at all times.
- No daily missals will be provided.
- Holy Communion reception will be explained on site.

## Black Lives Matter at St. Columba parish in Oakland:

The TMC faith-sharing group on racism and white privilege that meets on Wednesday afternoons has been impressed with the work of St. Columba Parish in Oakland: <https://stcolumba-oak.com/>.

St. Columba Catholic Church's mission is clearly stated on the website: "St. Columba is a community of believers in Oakland California who know "who and whose we are" (God's people). Through African-American traditions, we are moved by the Spirit to serve in this world today."

It is a vibrant parish, with many ministries and prayer and action events.

Take a look, participate, be educated and inspired.

**PRAY FOR US:** Please remember in your prayers this week: Art Adams, Denise Alongi, Terry Atkinson, Rudy Bahr, Char Buchholz, Tom Carmody, Kerry Carmody, George Chippendale, Josie Colbruno, Mary Connors, Mike Cummings, Jim Davis, Ken Dias, Pat Dietrich, Dick Freeman, Deonna Gill, Emily Gill, Joanne Hasegawa, Fr. John Hester, Dean Judd, Eleanor Kraft, Hunter Kubit, Dick Jackman, Alicia Kot, Fr. Bill Leininger, Andre and Alyssa Lippard, Deacon Ysidro and Dolores Madrigal, Patricia Markee, Mercedes McCaffrey, Maureen Mooney, Susan Miller, Hayden Pastorini, Paul Prochaska, Bill Risch, Anne Rush, Priya Smith, Bernice Sullivan, Jean Vistica, Dolores Walsh, Kay Williams, T. J. Wooten.

[Add/subtract names by e-mailing Kay Williams, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net)]

# COMMUNITY FORUM

*Ideas Opinions Reflections Concerns*

## **Guide to social justice films on Netflix, Amazon and Hulu:**

[By America staff, 8/7/20]

As our country grapples with its history of racial injustice, many streaming services have been highlighting films and documentaries that help tell this painful story. Here we offer some links to that content, as well as some classic Catholic films highlighting heroes and saints who have worked hard for justice. We also have included films that address justice issues that America has long been concerned with, including the rights of workers and people with disabilities. (Stay tuned for America's pro-life streaming guide.)

These stories remind us that while the fight for justice is never over, individuals can make a difference, often with the aid and inspiration of their faith communities.

### **Documentaries**

**13th.** Ava Duvernay's documentary about the 13th amendment to the Constitution has become required viewing for those seeking to understand the history of racial oppression and its manifestation in the [U.S. criminal justice system](#). [Watch on Netflix](#).

**Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution.** Camp Jened, a summer camp in the Catskills designed to accommodate children and teens with disabilities, ran from the 1950s to the '70s. Many of the campers went on to become instrumental players in the disability rights movement. [Watch on Netflix](#).

**Roses in December.** The killing of three American nuns and a Catholic lay missionary in El Salvador in 1980 drew the world's attention to the civil war in El Salvador, which would go on to claim many more lives. [Watch on Kanopy](#).

**LA 92.** The story of 1992 Los Angeles riots provides essential historical context for the problem of police abuse that became the subject of global attention in 2020. [Watch on Netflix](#).

**Emanuel.** Two days after the killing of nine African-Americans during Bible study at Emanuel A.M.E. Church, the families of the victims forgave their killer. [Watch their moving story on Hulu](#).

### **Films**

**Romero.** This classic biopic of the recently canonized Archbishop Oscar Romero, who worked on behalf of the oppressed of El Salvador, is anchored by a commanding performance by Raul Julia. Watch on [Amazon Prime Video](#).

**Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story.** From her less-saintly days to the founding of the Catholic Worker, this movie depicts the life of Servant of God Dorothy Day—an eloquent advocate for the poor. Watch on [Amazon Prime Video](#).

**American Son.** In this Netflix adaptation of a play by Christopher Demos-Brown, Kerry Washington plays an African-American mother trying to find out

what has happened to her biracial son after he was pulled over by police. [Watch on Netflix](#).

**Cesar Chavez.** The legendary leader of the California farm workers' movement was also a devout Catholic who once broke a fast for justice by receiving the Eucharist. Michael Peña plays Chavez in this 2014 film. Rent on [Amazon Prime Video](#) or from Apple.

**Just Mercy.** Michael B. Jordan plays Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, in this adaptation of Stevenson's best-selling book about his legal work on behalf of the poor and wrongly accused. Rent on [Amazon Prime Video](#) or from Apple.

### **Television series**

**When They See Us.** This four-part series on the Central Park Five, the African-American teenagers who were wrongly accused of the rape of a Central Park jogger, is a disturbing look at how public fears about crime can lead to devastating consequences for the innocent. [Watch on Netflix](#).

[Join America's Catholic Movie Club on Facebook!]

## **Rudy Bahr update from daughter Jean:**

Rudy is in fairly stable condition, on oxygen, needs a walker, but he has not been in any pain for the last few months, so the "palliative" radiation treatments he had earlier this year seem to have had the desired effect ....the hospice care has been aides who come to help him bathe and a nurse to check on his vitals. I'm glad to be able to be with him, allowing him to remain in his own home. Best to all of you. Rudy misses the coffee, doughnuts and good friends.

## **Share memories of STA Church:**



The Teevan team that is restoring the exterior of STA Church is reaching out to us with an invitation and offer. Please read on:

Dear Neighbors and friends of St. Thomas Aquinas Church, As we restore this historical Palo Alto church, we are gathering stories from the community on what St.

Thomas Aquinas Church means to you. Stories will enter our dinner-for-4-drawing from our neighbor Osteria Toscana.

Please share your story via letter or video and tell us what makes this church so special to you and your family and as a part of our shared history in Palo Alto.

Please submit your story by September 15th, 2020 to: [info@Teevan.com](mailto:info@Teevan.com).

**TMC Board:** Gerard McGuire, [gerardmc@aol.com](mailto:gerardmc@aol.com), 650-814-2223  
**Bulletin:** Kay Williams, [kaywill@pacbell.net](mailto:kaywill@pacbell.net)  
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## As shocking as the Gospels:

[]By Gary Gately, NCR, 8/8/20]

Timothy Schmalz sees Jesus in the homeless, the hungry, the sick, the prisoners, the desperate refugees and migrants. He views himself as an evangelist who preaches worldwide, not with his mouth, but with his hands, casting the least among us from Matthew 25:31-46 into exquisite — and haunting — life-size bronze sculptures.

The 50-year-old Canadian Catholic's most famous sculpture, "Homeless Jesus," depicts a gaunt man lying on a bench covered by a thin blanket, with enough space for someone to sit at his exposed feet, which bear the nail wounds of his crucifixion.

Schmalz says he hopes that "Homeless Jesus" — now displayed outdoors in more than 100 cities worldwide — evokes in others the same epiphany he recalls when he spotted a shivering homeless man under a thin blanket on a bench in downtown Toronto at Christmastime in 2011.

"I just stared at him, and I couldn't stop thinking of Matthew 25, and then: 'That's Jesus. That's the least of my brother,'" Schmalz says. "I couldn't get that image — or those words — out of my head. I believe it was a true encounter with the divine at that moment." ...

A destitute art school dropout — he had hated what passed for contemporary art and wanted to sculpt in the tradition of master Christian artists like Michelangelo, Gian Lorenzo Bernini and Auguste Rodin — Schmalz lived four years in his early 20s in a tiny room in a mostly abandoned factory in Toronto....

Schmalz's way of hearing, seeing and sculpting the Word would propel him from a young self-taught artist living in an old factory to a well-known sculptor meeting Pope John Paul II and later Pope Francis at the Vatican.

Both pontiffs lavishly praised and blessed Schmalz's works, including "Homeless Jesus," which Francis had installed in 2018 outside a former Vatican palace, Palazzo Migliori. Now 50 homeless men and women who stay in the former palace pass "Homeless Jesus" every day.

Schmalz's sculptures invite us to touch the wounds of the sick, the hungry, the imprisoned, the naked Jesus; to gaze into his downcast eyes; to sit at one of the 12 empty seats at "The Last Supper" sculptures in Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

The sculptor also knows God transcends race and ethnic groups. He's sculpted an African Jesus, now displayed in an archdiocesan atrium in Atlanta, and an African body of the crucified Christ for a Catholic shrine in Tanzania. He's working on an African Mother and Christ child and plans sculptures featuring other racial and ethnic groups.

"I always thought, 'How would Jesus like to be sculpted?'" Schmalz says. "I think Jesus would want to be represented in art exactly how he represented himself. And if you look at Matthew 25, he didn't just say it's good to feed the hungry, it's good to give to the poor. He said, 'When you help the poor and the hungry, you are helping me, and if you do, you go to heaven. And if

you don't, you go to hell.'"

But while popes and millions of the faithful have embraced Schmalz's take on Jesus identifying with the marginalized, not everybody has.



"Some call it creepy, insulting to Jesus or say it doesn't reflect well on their communities," Schmalz

says. Others, mistaking "Homeless Jesus" for a dead man, have dialed 911.

For more than a year, though, "Homeless Jesus" had no home. Catholic Church leaders rejected proposals to install it, among other places, outside St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York and St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto.

"Many say 'Homeless Jesus' is shocking, but I respond that it's only as shocking as the Gospels," Schmalz says. "Part of the Bible is about comfort, but it is also meant to challenge us."

It seems fitting that Jesuit Fr. Peter Larisey, the priest who finally found "Homeless Jesus" its first home, at Regis College in Toronto, had been a spiritual director, an inspiration, an anchor to Schmalz for three decades.

Schmalz stayed in touch with Larisey — who had been an art lover and author with a doctorate in art history from Columbia University and counseled many young artists — until the priest died of COVID-19 on April 30 in Toronto....

Fr. Ray Chase, the pastor of the 180-year-old St. Vincent de Paul Church in downtown Baltimore, has long been a fan of Schmalz's work — and had on his desk a miniature "Homeless Jesus" he bought on Amazon a few years before the installation of the life-size version amid the trees outside the church in July 2018.... Chase suggests "Homeless Jesus" might also provide some comfort to the marginalized....

Schmalz's latest works prove as timeless as the Scripture and as timely as today's headlines.



"Angels Unawares," installed in St. Peter's Square on World Day of Migrants and Refugees last September, commemorates migrants throughout history fleeing genocide, slavery, war, hunger, persecution. ...Schmalz

found inspiration for the monument, as he has for many of his works in the past four years, as he sculpted it for a year while listening to 15 hours of Bible passages daily on CDs set on repeat function. A single line in Hebrews 13:2 inspired the "Angels Unawares" sculpture: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."...

[Gary Gately is a Baltimore-based journalist who has written for publications including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian, The Boston Globe, The Baltimore Sun, CBSNews.com and CNBC.com.]