

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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TWENTIETH-SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
September 27, 2020

First reading Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Turn and Live

This reading is part of a large collection of oracles (Ex 14-19) warning about the collapse of the royal house of David. The prophet compares the kingdom to a vine that cannot be used to make anything, there is nothing more to do but throw it into the fire.

Human way! Certain royal officials meet with the prophet complaining that God's judgment against the kingdom is not fair. The precise details of their argument are not given. But it seems they believe they are being punished unfairly for sins committed by generations long past.

How easy it is for fallen people to claim that God is not being **fair** in the way He deals with us! Our natural eyes are so blind and our natural minds are so darkened that we always imagine we are the aggrieved party, even when our own sin has landed us in trouble. God will judge each of us on the basis of our individual, spiritual connection to Christ and our personal behavior.

Ezekiel assures us that a person can turn from evil or sin and do "what is just and right." God inspires us and helps us to change and improve so that we will really live to the full.

Second reading Philippians 2: 1-11

Unity through Humility

Paul encourages the people to unity and humility by telling them that such conduct will make his joy complete and by reminding them of the example of Christ.

The example of Christ! Though the Son of God and equal to God, Jesus became like us. He did not stand on his divine dignity but embraced all the consequences of being human. He gave himself to a life of obedience to his Father and even to death on a cross. As humility brought his exaltation, so also those who imitate him will find eternal glory.

We can put aside rivalry and jealousy, and "look others' interests" rather than to our own. That's what love is all about. Jesus is the perfect example of such love.

The Gospel Matthew 21: 28-32

The Parable of the Two Sons

This parable of the brazen words and actions of **two sons** declares that Jesus does not count what people profess with their lips as obedience; only their deeds matter. An obedience that brings a person into vital, intimate, personal relationship with Christ is one that consistently performs what it professes.

Jesus tells the parable of the two sons to the chief priests and elders in order to correct them and to call them to conversion.

Purpose: To follow the example of Jesus and move from our selfishness to love for others.

The challenge of our life is to change our minds and hearts for the better. We are about to once again profess our faith in a God who helps us to change our lives, to turn to selfishness and sin to love. We profess our faith in Jesus, who though he was God, emptied himself, became a human being, "humbled himself...accepting even death, death on a cross" for love of us.

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Women's Club/Prayer Group

We meet 4th the Wednesday of each month from 1 to 2:30 p.m. **October 28th**

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

MASS INTENTIONS Sept. 26 – Oct. 2

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Jon Kelly

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Layman E. Allen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + John Schaner

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Fr. Fabian Vela
+ Constantino Silva

Friday 9:00 a.m. All Priests and Religious

Welcome to Father Ron Shirley and Father Rudy Ruiz who preside over our Masses this weekend! Thank you!

General Audience Pope Francis

– Wednesday, 16 September 2020 -

Catechesis "Healing the world" Care of the common home and contemplative dimension.

Dear brothers and sisters, good morning!

To emerge from a pandemic, we need to look after and care for each other. To look after and care for each other. And we must support those who care for the weakest, the sick and the elderly. Ah, there is the tendency to cast the elderly aside, to abandon them. And this is bad! These people – well defined by the Spanish term "cuidadores" (caretakers), those who take care of the sick – play an essential role in today's society, even if they often do not receive the recognition and recompense they deserve. Caring is a golden rule of our nature as human beings, and brings with it health and hope. Taking care of those who are sick, of those who are in need, of those who are cast aside: this is a human, and also Christian, wealth.

We must also extend this care to our common home: to the earth and to every creature. All forms of life are interconnected, and our health depends on that of the ecosystems that God created and entrusted to us to care for. Abusing them, on the other hand, is a grave sin that damages us, and harms us, and makes us sick. The best antidote against this misuse of our common home is contemplation. But how come? Isn't there a vaccine for this, for the care of the common home, so as not to set it aside? What is the antidote

against the sickness of not taking care of our common home? It is contemplation.

"If someone has not learned to stop and admire something beautiful, we should not be surprised if he or she treats everything as an object to be used and abused without scruple." Also in terms of using things and discarding them. However, our common home, creation, is not a mere "resource". Creatures have a value in and of themselves and each one "reflects in its own way a ray of God's infinite wisdom and goodness". This value and this ray of divine light must be discovered and, in order to discover it, we need to be silent, we need to listen, and we need to contemplate. Contemplation also heals the soul...

17th Annual Giving at Greenfield!

What is Greenfield? The Christ Child family adopts 50 needy families from Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Greenfield each year. We purchase gifts for every person in the family. Family information and sign-ups will happen at Christ Child in November and we will deliver all gifts on a specific TBD date in December.

There are many ways to participate in this charitable project including: Adopt a family – Adopt an adult or child – Giving a monetary contribution – Shopping for a family using money donated to the project – Donating gently used coats and sweaters, toys, children's games and books.

The Greenfield Project will obviously be different from past years because of COVID-19. We are in contact with the team in Greenfield to work out logistics and select a date for delivery of gifts. I will make sure I send you detailed information in October.

On a personal note, I would love a few people who would like to participate in the leadership and organization of the project, Please contact me if you are interested. karenjoesten@gmail.com 408 375-0984 cell (please leave a message as I don't pick up if I don't recognize the name or #)