

MASS INTENTIONS: October 5 - 11

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



OCTOBER 4, 2020

PxHere

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

As the opening lines explain, today's first reading, **Isaiah 5: 1-7**, is a song. It is not unusual for a prophecy to be sung. Even today in the Middle and Far East, official proclamations are often written with a deliberate beat and vocalized in rhythmic chanting; thus, it is most likely that important prophetic orations were also delivered in a tonal chant. Today's reading, Isaiah's *Song of the Vineyard*, begins as a narrative ballad celebrating the grape harvest.

Isaiah identifies the vineyard owner as his "friend." Isaiah then describes how thoroughly and carefully the landowner prepares, plants and protects his vineyard. He even makes a wine press for the expected crop of sweet juicy grapes. The ballad's storyline takes an unexpected turn when those choice vines produce only wild grapes which are too small, dry and bitter for making wine. Naturally the owner is disappointed and angry because his hard work has been unproductive. He says he will break down the walls and let the wild animals eat and trample the plants. He will allow weeds and briars to reclaim the land. These are normal reactions to the frustration of a poor harvest and are within a human owner's ability to carry out. However, the threat to withhold the rain reveals that Isaiah's "friend" is God Himself and that his song is a prophetic message.

Through Isaiah, God expressed His displeasure with His Chosen People whom He so lovingly settled in the Promised Land (Canaan) where they were supposed to worship Him alone and obey His commandments. Instead of the obedience, justice, righteousness and peace that God expects to find among His people, He discovers that they are divided by a civil war, worshipping idols, cheating and abusing one another and entering into foreign alliances for protection instead of trusting in Him to deliver them from their enemies. In the song, God clearly indicates the dire consequences the people of Judah can expect if they do not reform their lives and return to Him. Unfortunately, Isaiah's message is not taken seriously.

[Note: the words used to describe the difference between the good behaviors that God expects to find and the sinful behaviors that He actually finds are clever puns in Hebrew, but they fall flat when translated into English. God looked for *mispat* (justice) and found *mispah* (bloodshed); He looked for *tzedakah* (righteousness) and found *tze'akah* (cries of distress). Although similar in spelling and pronunciation, the pairs of Hebrew words are opposite in meaning. A similar pun could be made in English with the words "famous" and "infamous."]

CONTINUED ON BACK

MONDAY 8:00 AM:
Vernon Keller
 by Patsye Lunk

SATURDAY 5:30 PM:
Jules & Josephine Petit
 by Ernest & Shirley Webre

TUESDAY 8:00 AM:
Dorothy "Sis" Lirette
 by Lloyd & Curtis Alexander

Luke & Odile Robert
 by Children

WEDNESDAY 8:00 AM:
Vayne Bascle
 by Randy & Leslie Petit Family

**Robert Ward
 Philonese Petit
 Hebert Robert**
 by Sandra Ward

THURSDAY 8:00 AM:
**Communion Service
 (NO MASS)**

**Louis Robert
 Gwen Robert**
 by Babette Robert

FRIDAY 8:00 AM:
Joseph Daigneault
 by Ricky Breaux

Victorine Luquette
 by Deborah & Albert Luquette

SATURDAY 8:00 AM:
Janet Bonvillain
 by Sandra Ward

SUNDAY 9:30 AM:
Parishioners of St. Mark

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Dutch Kappel, Dolena Robert, Carol Jones, Sam Granier, Monica Schexnaydre, Audrey Zeringue, Dana Jones, Gay-Lynn Folse, Morris Zeringue, Gaye Webre, Lynell Wipple, Francis Robicheaux, Sandra Cortez, Ernest Webre, Mike Guillot, Diane Triche, Joyce King, Easton Owen, Glenna Smith, Vanessa Johnson, Juli Zeringue, Elsie Sandolph, Larry Landry, Donna Theriot, Troy Pintado, Kerri Breaux, Hilton Landry, Mabry Laviolette, Linda Caminata, Mende Ford, Babette Robert, Haley Dufrene

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE TO ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYER REQUEST LIST.



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

VICTORINE LUQUETTE

(Oct. 4-10) by Deborah & Albert Luquette



SANCTUARY LAMP IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

LAWRENCE & EARLINE GAUBERT

(Oct. 11-17) by Barbara & Charlie Gaubert

LET US PRAY: That through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we will be spared damage to life and property during the hurricane season.



LOVE LIFE AMENDMENT (#1 on the Nov. 3rd ballot)
 The Louisiana Catholic Bishops encourage Catholics to vote YES to this constitutional amendment.

St. Mark's First Communion Class

September 27, 2020



Fr. Ed with the First Communicants: (l to r)
Caison Berthelot,
Logan Robert,
Adilyn Troxler, and
Caiden Scallan



Reflection continued . . .

The parable of "The Wicked Tenants" in today's Gospel, **Matthew 21:33-43**, reveals Jesus' familiarity with Isaiah's *Song of the Vineyard*. Both parable and song have similar beginnings, but in the parable the landowner leases his vineyard to tenants who must pay him a portion of their harvest as rent. On two occasions the owner sends his servants to collect the tenants' payment, but they are beaten and killed by the tenants. Finally, the owner sends his son, expecting the tenants to respect him, but the tenants kill him, in the hope of getting the property for themselves. [Note: This idea was not as illogical in Jesus' day as it seems to us. At that time, if a landowner died without an heir, the tenants would have first claim to the property they rent.]



Jesus' story about the evil tenants is an allegory; therefore, all the people and events in the story are symbolic. The landowner represents God; the vineyard is His Kingdom; the tenants are the Jews; the servants are the prophets, and the son is Jesus. When the chief priests and the elders tell Jesus that the landowner should put the wicked tenants to death and lease the vineyard to others who would pay their rent on time, they pass judgment on themselves. Throughout their history, many of the Jews, especially the religious leaders, had been bad tenants, refusing to give God the devotion and obedience that they owed to Him. Moreover, they ignored, insulted, and sometimes did physical harm to the prophets whom God sent to remind them of their obligations.

Now, they are refusing to believe the words of God's own Son. They reject Jesus and want no



Thank You

Ms. Loup thanks everyone who helped to make the First Communion special: Laurie Walters (teacher), Claire Whittaker and Connie Lauve (music & singing), Lillian Wegmann (ushering), Mary Clulee (flowers) and Rosary Crain (banner and basket)

SCHOOL OF RELIGION INFORMATION

We are glad that all the students registered for the online religious education program. However, less than half of the families have sent in the registration fee of \$30 per child. We need the money to pay for the program.

We remind those who have not paid that they can put the money in a labeled envelope and put it in the collection basket at church or in the letter slot at the Parish Office or in the mail (10773 River Rd).



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part of the Kingdom of God about which he speaks, and—like the tenants in the story—they will kill the Son. As a result, God will do exactly what the religious leaders said the landowner should do. He will take away the vineyard of His Kingdom from those who withhold what is due and give it to those who willingly fulfill their obligations. **Thus, the Jews who reject Jesus will be replaced by the Gentiles who believe in him and willingly follow his teaching.**