

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, October 4th

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "Hear another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a tower. Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey. When vintage time drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to obtain his produce. But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned. Again he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way. Finally, he sent his son to them, thinking, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to one another, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and acquire his inheritance.' They seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. What will the owner of the vineyard do to those tenants when he comes?" They answered him, "He will put those wretched men to a wretched death and lease his vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the proper times." He said to them, "Did you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; by the Lord has this been done, and it is wonderful in our eyes? Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."



How can I overcome the obstacles to fulfilling my commitments?

First Grade

What are five things that you are expected to do to help out at home? What are five things that you are expected to do when you are at school? Is it always easy to do these things? What makes them difficult for you to do quickly each time? Those are the obstacles that you face. Who are some of the people that can help you with overcoming your obstacles?

Second Grade

We all have lots of things that we have to do. What are five things that you know that you should do but have a hard time completing? Why have you been putting them off? Why do you think you have a hard time completing what you are supposed to do? Who can help you to overcome these obstacles? How can God help you to fulfill all of your commitments?

Third and Fourth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear about a man whose servants wouldn't give him what was his. What obstacles did he face? What did he do to overcome the obstacles? When was a time that you wanted something to be done with what you were doing, but people would not listen to you? How was that an obstacle for you? What did you do to overcome the obstacle?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

What commitments do you have that you need to do every day or every week? What are some things that you are expected to do by your parents, friends, teachers and coaches? Do you always have any easy time completing these commitments or are there some obstacles? What do you usually do when you are facing an obstacle?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

Sometimes it can feel like we have too many obstacles to overcome in order to do what we have committed to. When was a time that you felt overwhelmed? Who did you or could you have asked to help you? What do you think are the biggest obstacles to you fulfilling your commitments? Why would it be good to ask God for help when you have obstacles to overcome?

High School and Adults

We face many different types of obstacles in our lives – social, physical, financial, and with our families and friends. What is one example of an obstacle that you faced recently? How did it stop you from fulfilling your commitments? How did you overcome it or could have overcome it? Could you do the same thing to overcome a current obstacle?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

Asking God and others to help you to overcome your obstacles means that you first need to trust. What does it mean to trust in someone and in God? Are you a trusting person? Today, choose an obstacle that you will work on this week. Then, trusting that God loves you and will help you, ask Him for His help. Write it down somewhere so that you can remember to trust!

Tuesday

One obstacle that everyone faces is fear. Fear often stops us from doing what we know is right and what we should do. In what ways does fear stop people from acting? What happens to you when you experience fear? How often do you let your fear stop you? Today, each time that you feel afraid, move through the fear and do what you know you should.

Wednesday

Overcoming your obstacles takes a lot of action, but an equally important component is prayer. Don't try to overcome your obstacles on your own, instead ask God for help through prayer. All it takes is talking with Him and trusting Him. Today, spend at least ten minutes, either alone or with someone, praying and asking God for specific help with your obstacles.

Thursday

Some obstacles are not easy to overcome. They can take time and a lot of work. In order to overcome our obstacles, we need to be patient – patient with ourselves, other people, and with God. Today, look back at how much you have grown in your life and then ask God to help you to be patient as you slowly overcome your current obstacles.

Friday

We don't have to overcome our obstacles on our own. We are never alone! In addition to God's help we are part of a large community that can support us and that we can rely on. We can also support other people in overcoming their obstacles. Today, talk with someone close to you offering your help to them and asking them for their help.

Saturday

Essential in overcoming all of our obstacles is fortitude, which is the strength to do what is right and avoid what is wrong. How much fortitude do you have? Who can help you to grow stronger and grow in strength? Today, grow stronger in fortitude by challenging yourself in every small way that you can – be more loving, exercising more, or watching less TV.

FROM THE CATECHISM...

Following St. Paul, the Church has always taught that the overwhelming misery which oppresses man and their inclination toward evil and death cannot be understood apart from their connection with Adam's sin and the face that he has transmitted to us a sin with which we are all born afflicted, a sin which is the 'death of the soul.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 403



The *greater*
the obstacle,
the more glory in
overcoming it.

- Moliere

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Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalm 23:1-3a,3b-4,5,6 Philippians 4:12-14,19-20 Matthew 22:1-14

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynnatholic.org