

St. Mary's Catholic Church

25th Ordinary Sunday

September 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

The task of caring for an elderly parent falls upon you on a daily basis as your sisters and brothers live a great distance away. They call periodically to see how mom or dad is doing but they never offer to help you or pay for the day-to-day caring of mom/dad. Your parent eventually dies and they show up grieving uncontrollably at the funeral. Your parent's estate is divided equally among you and your siblings because "mom/dad loved all their children the same;" even though you spent your whole life caring for your parent and bearing the costs connected with their care. Though you would never say anything to your siblings, you seethe: "It is **not fair**." And guess what - you are right!



Today's scripture readings can be puzzling and perhaps difficult for us to comprehend and accept. This can happen when we hear about God's sense of love, fairness, mercy, generosity, justice, and forgiveness. God's thoughts and ways are not like ours since His are far more extravagant than ours. Human ways and thoughts are limited; less than ideal due to pride and sin. Humans find it difficult to forgive and forget as we are preoccupied with thoughts of anger, retaliation, and retribution. Humans plot revenge while God generously extends His mercy and forgiveness to us. God's divine, unconditional love and His limitless mercy and forgiveness are beyond our comprehension and human imagination.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah centers on the generous ways of God. The famous quote: "my thoughts are not your thoughts nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" is found in today's passage. Isaiah presents a description of God doing what no one would ever expect. God chooses to show mercy on the wicked even though they do not deserve it. In today's passage the wicked refer to the children of Israel. The mercy that God shows Israel is the dramatic and unexpected end of their exile in Babylonian captivity. What is difficult for us to comprehend is not that God forgives the Israelites for their past sinfulness and disobedience but rather that God chooses to be with them, guiding them back to the Promised Land and remaining with them forever. Isaiah is also telling **us** that God chooses to be with us and that nothing we do (even our refusal to accept God's ways) can hinder His choice. God's way of loving us may be difficult for us to comprehend and accept but nonetheless God is **always** with us!

Several Jesus parables are referred to as "hard" because their interpretation is difficult and can be disturbing to many.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Sep 19	4:00 p.m.	Diane Dietering
Sun Sep 20	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Sep 20	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman, Jan Schulte
Sat Sep 26	4:00 p.m.	In thanksgiving
Sun Sep 27	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Sep 27	10:00 a.m.	Urban Selhorst

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$3,020.00	Loose \$161.00
	Total	\$3,181.00
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for September 26 & 27, 2020

**Money Counters: Barb Galvan, Chad Wolford
4:00 p.m.**

Cantor:
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Adelyn Althaus

8:00 a.m.

Cantors:
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor:
Ushers: Cindy Bandish and Roger Brodman
Lectors: Lisa Welch
E.M.: Michelle Risner
Servers: Izzy and Ally Stechschulte

Readings for September 27, 2020 26th Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25 – 28
2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1 – 11, 27
Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28 – 32

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...These parables offer several possibilities of meaning but none seem to be satisfactory.

Today's Gospel parable, "The Workers in the Vineyard" is considered to be a "hard" parable. The parable deals with landowners and workers, wages and profits, and fair and unfair labor practices. However, what should be noted is that the focus of Jesus' parable is to offer an insight into God's generosity. This parable gives us a picture of a God whose generosity and concern for our welfare does not depend on what we do for Him but rather on what God **wills to do** for us. This parable also gives us a picture of God's sense of fairness and justice in dealing with His people.

The parable of "The Workers in the Vineyard" is disturbing to those people who are constantly agonizing over whether or not they are being treated fairly, whether or not they are getting everything they have coming (whether it is money, recognition, power, or fame.) It is disturbing to those who constantly measure what they have against what others have, to those persons who consider it a tragedy if someone else comes out ahead of them. On the other hand, this parable makes great sense to those who realize that whatever they have is a gift and blessing from God and they understand that being a Christian means one is willing to give far more of themselves than what they feel others deserve.

Today's readings encourage us to change our perspective in how we see God and live our lives. God offers His grace to us and everyone. Our response should be recognition of God's gracious generosity toward us. God chooses to be with us. We may not fully understand why, but we should rejoice that He does. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

BLESSING of ANIMALS

In honor of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of God's creatures, we will have a blessing of animals prayer service on **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd at 2:30 pm** in the Church Parking Lot. I ask all those who are participating (person + their animals) to "social distance" and keep all pets with you and on a leash or in a cage to eliminate chaos. In case your animal has a (potty) accident I ask that you be prepared to "clean-up" after your pet. Thank you, Fr. John



Mass Intentions Weekday Mass will be celebrated on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you would want a Mass celebrated for your personal intention, please contact Rachel in the office. Thanks, Fr. John

Each Wednesday for the rest of the month, we will have a Holy Hour from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. to pray for vocations and God's blessings upon our country

If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist or a Proclaimer of the Word (Lector), please contact the office. We will be setting up a workshop soon for training on all the ministries. Please let Fr. John know if you are interested!



Are you a Young Adult between the ages of 19-35 (single or married) and would like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and strengthen your Catholic faith? Would you like to meet and pray with other Young Adults in our St. Mary's Community? Would you like to come ask questions about our Catholic Church today? If so, then I invite you to join our Young Adult Ministry Group. If you would like to join, please contact Fr. John or Rachel in the Parish Office.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word will begin next Sunday, September 27, at the 10 a.m. Mass

K-5: Class will meet this Wednesday, September 23, from 6:30 – 7:30

6th Grade: Class will begin today from 11 – 12:45

Jr High: Classes begin today from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will begin today following the 10 a.m. Mass until 12:45

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Prayer for Vocations:

Send forth your spirit, Lord, into the hearts of your faithful people, that we may be conscious of our vocation to holiness and service to others. Grant that many of us may dedicate ourselves to you through the priesthood, religious life, and lay ministries.

We pray for the needs of our parish and diocese. Grant that we may always have sufficient good and holy priests and deacons, dedicated sisters and brothers, and committed lay ministers to serve our community.

We pray too for the Redemptorists, that generous men may join them to become zealous missionaries, preaching the gospel in word and action to the most abandoned, especially the poor.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.

RCIA is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults into the Catholic faith. RCIA is for anyone who:

- Is a non-baptized adult
- Baptized in another Christian church and is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church, with or without the intention of becoming a member
- A baptized Catholic who never received Reconciliation, Eucharist, or Confirmation



RCIA will be starting in September. If you have any questions, please call Fr. John in the parish office at (419) 358 – 8631

A very generous donor has donated the Formed.org subscriptions to all the parishes in the Toledo Diocese. This is a great opportunity to watch video programs that explain the Catholic faith, explore the deepest meaning of marriage, receive Bible studies on a variety of topics and includes inspiring audio talks. To register, go to: <https://signup.formed.org/> and type in St. Mary or use our zip code, 45817, and click on our parish. Enter your name and email, and then check your email for a link to begin using FORMED. It's that easy!

Missals will be available for families to take home. This offer is for families who want the option to refer to the book during Mass. We ask that you do not leave the book at church, but rather you bring it from home and return it to home each week. Copies will be available in each entrance.

The next time you find yourself having difficulty in forgiving someone, or when forgiveness seems to be impossible, perhaps you can ask God for the grace of forgiveness by offering up the following prayer:

O Lord, remember not only those of goodwill, but also those of ill will. But do not remember all the suffering they have inflicted upon us; instead, remember all the fruits we have born because of this suffering – our fellowship, our loyalty to one another, our humility, our courage, our generosity, the greatness of heart that has grown from this trouble. When our persecutors come to be judged by You, let all of these fruits that we have borne be their forgiveness. Amen!

Prayer found in the pocket of a deceased child in Ravensbruck Concentration Camp

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September – Pray for Holy Disciples

We invite you to join in the diocesan-wide initiative to reconnect with our faith and one another during the months of September, October, and November.

How to participate:

Set aside 10 minutes a day

Pray for the intention of holy disciples, particularly that the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo will become holier disciples.

Make a Holy Hour

Every Wednesday from 5 – 6 p.m. we will have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Learn the Diocesan Prayer

Heavenly Father, with the redeeming cross of Christ Jesus your son, and the gifts of your Holy Spirit, renew and strengthen us, so that by our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we may foster Holy Disciples, Holy Families, and Holy Vocations, so as to become a more Holy Diocese of Toledo. We turn to Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, for her intercession and never failing prayers. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Read a Catholic Book

“Forming Intentional Disciples” by Sherry Weddell or
“Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Mission” by John Wood.

Go to ReconnectToledo.org/September

You'll find a collection of videos about discipleship

Sign up for [FORMED.org](https://Formed.org)

We have a subscription to Formed.org thanks to a very generous donor in the Diocese! You can find resources to strengthen your faith through movies, children's programs, bible studies, sacramental preparation, and more.

What does it mean to be a holy disciple?

Being a holy disciple simply means loving God with all of our heart and striving to grow closer to Him every day. This love for God overflows into everything that we do in life and illuminates our desires and priorities. Being a holy disciple ultimately brings peace and joy even in the midst of great suffering, because we continually learn how to offer the difficulties that we face to God in union with Christ. May God continually make Himself known to us in the midst of all of the circumstances of our lives, and may we always respond with ever more love for Him.