

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

27<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

October 4, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Creative and imaginative writing often uses symbols and imagery to describe the beauty and the pain of human relationships. Today's Scripture readings are a good example of this phenomenon. Today's readings use the image of a **vineyard** to describe God's loving relationship with His people. A **vineyard** is an individual's prized possession and that is why God used this image of a **vineyard** to symbolize His constant care, concern and love for His people. We have not been called together to be alone. Rather we are called together to benefit from the direction, the purpose and the meaning that God can give to our lives. God cares for His people by confronting and pursuing them until they bear fruit.

Our first reading from the prophet Isaiah is called the "**Song of the Vineyard**" because it is a ballad and a parable about all the effort a certain friend of Isaiah's puts into his **vineyard**. Isaiah's friend finds the right location and picks the best fertile ground for his **vineyard**. He carefully prepares the soil, selects the best vines and nurtures the crop. The friend is so confident that the vines will produce good grapes that he takes care to protect them from any harm. However, the outcome is very disappointing. In spite of all the hard work the friend put into the **vineyard** the crop failed. With the ballad/parable finished, Isaiah then reveals its true meaning. Isaiah's friend is God. The **vineyard** represents God's people. Israel has been the object of God's special love and God gave the Israelites every advantage to produce good fruit (good works) that represents right judgment and justice. But instead the Israelite's prideful ways lead to oppression, bloodshed, and cries for help. God expected a harvest of peace and justice from His people but instead He received wild grapes of violence, idolatry and abuse of the poor. Ultimately Isaiah's ballad/parable becomes the song of Israel's condemnation and a portrayal of her spiritual failure.

Today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew is also a parable about a **vineyard**. This parable of the wicked tenants is an allegorical version of salvation history. The **vineyard** represents Israel and the tenants are Israel's religious leaders (chief priests, Pharisees, scribes and elders). The servants are Israel's various prophets through history and the son is Jesus.

The setting of the parable of the tenants focuses on a landowner who planted a **vineyard**, put a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it, built a tower and then leased the whole thing out to tenants.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

Sat Oct 3	4:00 p.m.
Sun Oct 4	8:00 a.m.
Sun Oct 4	10:00 a.m.
Sat Oct 10	4:00 p.m.
Sun Oct 11	8:00 a.m.
Sun Oct 11	10:00 a.m.

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,500.00	Loose \$143.00
	Total	\$2,643.00
51 envelopes returned = 24%		



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

## Assignments for October 10 & 11, 2020

**Money Counters:** Deb Goldenetz, Janet Begg  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Greeters:**

**Cantor:**

**Ushers:** Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker

**Lector:** Jason Swartzlander

**E.M.:** Jeanne Parinello

**Servers:** KJ Hohenbrink

**8:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:** Volunteer

**Cantors:**

**Ushers:** Volunteer

**Lector:** Volunteer

**E.M.:** Volunteer

**Server:** Volunteer

**10:00 a.m.**

**Greeters:**

**Cantor:**

**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag

**Lectors:** Anna Schroeder

**E.M.:** Rachel Rader

**Servers:** Ethan Hoffman

## **Readings for October 11, 2020**

**28<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 25:6 – 10

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 4:12 – 14, 19 – 20

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1 – 14

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...Vintage time comes and the landowner sends servants to collect his produce. The tenants refuse to pay and they violently abuse the servants and even kill some of them. This same dynamic happens a second time. Finally, the landowner sends his own son and he too is killed. The question arises: What will happen to those tenants? The answer is they will be replaced by other tenants.

The parable about the tenants is really a story about the incompetent Jewish religious leaders who failed to carry out faithfulness to God's plan. The Hebrew prophets warned them repeatedly to do so but to no avail. Those religious leaders will eventually be replaced by new, competent, faithful leaders. Ultimately these new religious faithful leaders will become the Church.

Our readings reveal God's tremendous love for us. The **vineyard** image shows how important we are to God and how much of an effort God makes in reaching out to us. God keeps coming to us and He is unwilling to give up on us even though we may want to separate or exclude ourselves from Him. God knows that we can bear good fruit with His grace. Have a blessed day.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

P.S. Today as we celebrate Respect Life Sunday let us remember that **all lives matter** and **all lives are valuable**. Let us pray that everyone will realize that humans are created in the image and likeness of God. Every life must be **respected** from conception to natural death. Let us pray for the safeguarding of the sanctity and reverence of human lives and for the protection of the inherent dignity of all human persons.

**Boo your loved one's yard for Halloween!!** The St Mary's youth will come to the yard and hide eggs filled with candy and toys for your youngsters. The cost is:  
\$30 for a basket filled with treats  
\$25 for 25 scattered eggs  
\$40 for 50 scattered eggs  
Please contact Danielle Althaus to sign up and for payment arrangements. 419.306. [REDACTED]

Remember to bring in your Community Market Receipts!

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 in the Parish Office.

Reminder: Registration for Catholic Youth Summer Camp (CYSC) is now open. For more information, please visit their website: [cysc.com](http://cysc.com)

## P.R.E.P

**Children's Liturgy of the Word** is during the 10 a.m Mass

**K-5:** Class will meet this Wednesday, October 7

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Class will meet today from 11 – 12:45

**Jr. High:** Class will meet today from 11 – 12:45

God Squad – High School Youth Group

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