

The Bells of St. Mary's The Church of the Immaculate Conception

Twenty – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 29 2019

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

THE RICH, THE POOR

"The love of money, Saint Paul wrote to Timothy, "is the root of all evils." (1 Timothy 6:10). This quote resonates powerfully with today's first reading and the Gospel. It is better to say immediately that Jesus and Amos are not against money or wealth. God knows we need money, and some have plenty of it, but the point for our reflection is the warning against greed and the danger of it - it can enslave or blind us from being sensitive to the need and care of the poor and the weak around us.

One of the powerful words of prophet Amos today is "Woe." "Woe to the complacent in Zion!" (Amos 6:1b). Amos was disgusted with rich and the influential of the Society who oppress the weak and the poor, and he lamented in his days when Northern Israel was enjoying political, economic, and military strength. He prophesied that when the nations collapse "they shall be the first to go into exile and their wanton revelry shall be done away with." (Amos 6:7). He even pronounced God's judgment on those who derive joy and comfort from the miseries of the poor and the weak. Why? They made a mockery of their God and their sinful disdain for the poor and the weak who are also God's children.

In the Gospel, Jesus continues His warning to the Pharisees whom He knows to be lovers of money. He demonstrates with a beautiful contrast the life of a rich man and the poor man, Lazarus who lives in the shadow of the rich man and his wealth. As you know, one of the major themes in the Gospel of Saint Luke is the importance of the care of the poor in the life of discipleship. The punch line of the parable for us today is at the end - where the rich man asks that Lazarus would go to his brothers to warn them so that they would not also go to the place of torment.

Where do I stand in all this? Is it my real trust in God or in money or in wealth?

While Saint Paul advises Timothy, he, first of all, calls him, "Man of God," pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. (1 Timothy 6:11). St Paul tells (the rich) to do good, to be generous, ready to share" (1 Timothy 6:18), Jesus is giving us a "wake-up call" before it is too late so that we do not suffer the same fate as the rich man. Perhaps, we need to examine ourselves thoroughly, especially our attitude to money and power. For the danger of money and wealth are great. So, He challenges us against our tendency towards self-centeredness or individualism, complacency, and indifference to the care of the poor. When we are completely engrossed in our selfish concerns and enjoyment; be it a country, a church or local community, or even individuals, we fail to see the needs of our brothers and sisters. Note, the rich man whose name is not mentioned here in the parable was not wicked or vicious; instead, he was so absorbed in his comfortable life. He did not notice the poor beggar laying in such a need at his door. The real sin of the rich man was that he did nothing about the desperate situation of the poor man at his door. Though he was blessed with wealth here on earth, he did not act like a good steward with his riches as part of his purpose in life.

St. Oscar Romero, (canonized October 14, 2018), saw his people, especially the poor in El Salvador, as human beings, created in the image and likeness of God and strove so hard as their advocate and a voice to liberate them - that they treat them with dignity. His words to the would-be assassins: "If am killed, I shall arise again in the Salvadoran people" is a powerful one for our reflection. Therefore, if we do not put our trust in God, then no amount of wealth can save us or substitute for God.

Stewardship

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday, 09/22/19 our Offering was \$4,056.00 * Today's Second Collection is for Church Property Insurance.

Food Collection: Next Sunday October 6, we have our monthly food collection for the needy in our community and as always thank you for your generosity in helping those less fortunate than ourselves.

Would you like to be an

Altar Server, or part of the Choir, or an Extra Ordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist, or a Lector, or Sacristan, or an Usher, etc.? Call our Parish Office and find out how you can help serve in the Mass.

Requirements to be a Godparents or a Sponsor for Sacrament of Confirmation

- A Catholic over 18 years of age
- Possess a mature catholic faith and knows, understands and participates in the Catholic Church Community
- Not the parents or Step-parents
- Fully interested, Baptized and Confirmed in the Catholic Church and celebrates the Eucharist at least weekly.
- He or She must be in good standing with the Church. If married, marriage is recognized by the Church.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: Amos 6: 1a, 4-7 p. 40 Amos, God prophet, rejected the individualist, consumerist values of lazy, greedy and unjust people who ignore the rights of the poor. Their life of ease will be ended.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146: 7, 8-9, 9-10 p. 41 Praise the Lord my soul!

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-8 p. 41 Paul exhorted Timothy to "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness."

Gospel: Luke 16: 19-31 p. 42 Jesus told the story about the rich man and Lazarus so that his listeners would repent and put their faith in God. Then they, too, like Lazarus, will rest in the bosom of Abraham.

Religious Education

October

10/5/19 No Religious Education Classes

10/12/19 Religious Education Classes

10/19/19 Religious Education Classes

10/19/19 Holy Communion 1st meeting in the school cafeteria 11:30am

10/26/19 Religious Education Classes **November:**

11/02/19 Religious Education Classes * Confirmation 1st meeting in the school cafeteria 11:30am

11/09/19 Religious Education Classes

11/16/19 Religious Education Family Catechesis Day Families and Children 9:30am to 1:00pm

11/23/19 Religious Education Classes

11/30/19 No Religious Education Classes **HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

~ Marriage Preparation ~

Step 1: Meet with your priest

Beginning in October 2017, the Archdiocese of New York requires that your priest guides you to take one of the following online premarital inventories. Your priest is your leading source for information about the preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Step 2: Register

After meeting with your priest, please register for the Archdiocesan marriage preparation program online at marriageprep.nyfamilylife.org.

The cost is \$150 per couple. Please note that class size is limited and fills up quickly.

Step 3: Complete your online Premarital Inventory.

It is ideal to complete your online premarital inventory before attending your Pre-Cana Day. Premarital inventories help couples discover their relationship strengths, which are what enables couples to enjoy and continue developing a healthy relationship. They will also help identify issues that are threatening the vitality of their relationship.

Step 4: Complete the Online Components and Attend the Pre-Can Day

This marriage preparation is a set of integrated components including online learning modules and a one-day, in-person experience of faith, witness, and community.

** Pre-Cana Day

The in-person Pre-Cana days are on Saturdays, and retreat centers throughout the Archdiocese of New York. You can participate in a Pre-Cana Day 3-12 months before your wedding date.

Built around short, high-quality video modules and engaging facilitators, the Pre-Cana day provides practical advice and assistance or engaged couples on topics including self-awareness, communication, conflict resolution, commitment, and decision-making. The days designed to help couples understand and embrace a Catholic vision of married love by offering insights into the "whys" behind the "what's" of Catholic teaching. It proclaims the beauty of God's plan for marriage and the joys of living it, and it meant to help couples grow in love and be open to God's grace so they can have happy and fulfilling marriages. Online Modules

Step 5: Follow-up meeting (s) with the priest

Ask the priest during your initial meeting, how often and when these follow up sessions will happen.

Step 6: Take a Natural Family Planning (NFP) class (strongly recommended)

Visit Natural Family Planning information: <https://nyfamilylife.org/natural-family-planning/> or contact (646)794-3188

Select your liturgy readings for the wedding.

**Mass Schedule for the week of
September 28, to October 6, 2019
Special Intentions for this week**

Saturday, September 28, 2019:

12:00 pm - Emilia Ribeiro+ * Husband & Children

5:00pm - Joanne Kunny + * Kunny Family 7:30pm - Oscar Flores Chavez + *Rosa Flores

Sunday, September 29, 2019:

7:30 am For the Parishioners

9:00 am Guadalupe Reyes+* Cesar & Guadalupe Cuadra

11:00 am Patrick J. Murphy Jr.+ * Jennifer Murphy

Monday, September 30, 2019:

8:15am - Jonathan Michael Vega + Jacqueline Jerrero

12:05 pm - Carla & Vee Motta + * Son George Motta

Tuesday October 1, 2019

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm - Joseph Siminsky + * Alice Seiminsky & Family

Wednesday, October 2, 2019

8:15am - Joanne Kunny + Rose Anne Jones

12:05 pm - Soul in Purgatory +* John Kinney

Thursday, October 3, 2019:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Kathleen Fusco + * Friend

7:00 pm - Efren Garcia * Julio & Martha Salazar

Friday, October 4, 2019:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

7:00 pm - Sagrado Corazon De Jesus

Saturday, October 5, 2019:

12:00 pm - Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Anna Prato + * John Prato & Family 7:30pm - Legion of Mary

Sunday, October 6, 2019:

7:30 am - For the Parishioners

9:00 am - Accion de Gracia * Francisca Garcia

11:00 am - Christine Rovelo Birthday Blessing + * Mr & Mrs Rovelo

+Indicates deceased * Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN

We are still working on the Guidelines for the use and rental of our Parish Hall.

Please, call our Parish Office for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

“Ignorance of the Scripture is Ignorance of Christ!”

- St Jerome, 5th Century

Please join us in our new Bible studies every Monday night at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Studies will begin on October 7th in both Spanish and English language.