

Reflections on this week's Gospel from Fr. Joe

ABSOLUTELY OVER THE TOP

Anytime I read the parable about the landowner who keeps hiring people throughout the day and then at the end of the day pays them all off with the same amount of money no matter how long or short of a day they put in, I am just puzzled. It is so against fairness and justice!!! What could Jesus possibly mean by this parable? It certainly would contradict the basic Church teaching on justice in labor relations—a person deserves a living wage for the work they have done. It would certainly not motivate a person to work for a full 12 hours if they knew they would be paid the same amount for a few less? So we have to look more deeply to see what makes sense or at least something else that still may be challenging to our human sensitivities and thought patterns.

Beneath the parable is a very real challenge to understanding the message of the Gospel. Jesus invites every person no matter where they are in their lives to turn to him for salvation and forgiveness. That includes those death bed conversions or maybe someone dying in the electric chair for murder. Of course the judgment of God as well as even the conscience of the individual may well still be hidden from our eyes that we do not know the outcome. But there is a God who is offering in Christ such forgiveness and salvation that is part of the message of the Gospel. Those words of the landowner when asked about the incongruity of paying all the same amount starts to make sense in light of this: "Surely I am free to do what I like with my own money? WHY BE JEALOUS BECAUSE I AM GENEROUS?" Of course it is not money that is the question --- salvation and the reward of God's grace.

Of course in the early Church, there was a question that was prompted by the admission of Gentiles to the message of salvation. The Jewish members of the Church started to raise the issue that Jews have had to bear the burden of the Law of Moses and persecution for centuries and they certainly have some type of priority! But the answer is "So the last will be first and first last". Note that the parable begins with acknowledgment that the compensation is the same for being invited into work in the Vineyard of the Lord! God's love is over the top! That is part of the mystery of Christian life! We are not jealous of God's generosity to others who may not be as strict and conscientious as we have been all our lives but yet rejoice that others have discovered this generous love and offer of salvation. Yes our work and sweat is out response to a love that is totally unmerited by us and yet is the result of the redemption of the Cross won for us in Christ's blood. Why be jealous because I am generous?

-- Fr. Joe

The generosity of our Parishioners & Friends has brought St. Barbara Church the following:

Collection for September 12-13 - \$1,550 (49 envelopes)

Maintenance Fund - \$491 (18 envelopes)

Thank you! Dziękuję bardzo!

Prayer List

Please pray for our parishioners who are ill and all who are in need of our prayers:

- Jim Adams, Phillip Adams, Renette Armstrong,
- Ed Barker, Stan Bellar, William Boutell, MaryAnn Boyer,
- Alan Bradny, Iola Natal, Loretta Budzinski, Sarah Burket,
- Shannon Burke, Robbie Camp, Phyllis Cielec,
- Donna Cuevas, Jean Fabian, Mary Jean Farren,
- Dorothy Friedl, Marcy Hill, Joan Kalembe, Paul Karbowski,
- Richard Konarski, Chris Krovich, Maria Kusmierczyk,
- Christopher Lenik, Rosemary Maier, Ed Montgomery,
- Dorothy Noga, Kathleen Patton, Linda Sikora,
- Marek Pietrzycki, Martha Plonski, Martha Vana,
- Mike Prock, Marc Rudolph, Ann Sagar, Robert Orahoske,
- Lindsey Sieniawski, Brandon Hrelja, Włodzimierz Wrobel,
- Sandy Kalembe Worden, Ray Yoder

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory.

HOLY CROSS CEMETERY – Pre-Planning Seminar

The Catholic Cemeteries Association will hold a 1-hour pre-planning seminar on Saturday, October 3, 2020, at 1 p.m. Information will include Catholic burial options, including options for cremated remains. Attendees are required to wear a facial covering and maintain proper social distancing throughout the duration of the seminar. Holy Cross Cemetery, 14609 Brookpark Rd., Brook Park. Please RSVP 216 641-7575 ext. 3.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS COLLECTION: Next Weekend, September 26-27

The collection for the **2020 Catholic Communications Campaign** provides grants to Catholic organizations that share our experience of faith, worship, and witness through social media sites, podcasts, television, radio, and print media. The special second collection is scheduled in our parishes for the weekend of September 26-27.

Due to COVID-19 we ask that you take the bulletin home with you. DO NOT leave the bulletin in the pew.

FACE MASKS are to be worn upon entering the church and during the celebration of the Mass only to be removed momentarily to receive communion. If you or your guest does not have a face mask one will be made available to you. Face masks are on the table near the side entrance.

NOSIC MASKE NA TWARZ

Podczas wchodzenia do kościoła i podczas Mszy Świętej należy nosić maskę na twarz. Tylko na chwilę można usunąć ją przyjac komunię. Jeśli ty lub twój gość nie ma maski, możemy ją dla was zapewnić.