

## The Work of the People

### *The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

This past week brought a new phase in the pastoral service that I can provide at the State Correctional Institution here in Cambridge Springs. I haven't been able to celebrate mass with the inmates since March 15. Even when we began having Mass in person once again on June 1, there was a need to keep groups of inmates apart from one another so as not to spread the virus. I will begin Mass once again but for smaller groups of Catholics this Saturday, September 19. Please continue to pray for all the women at the prison.

For this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time we turn once again to the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. These verses from Isaiah are proclaimed as part of the fifth Old Testament reading at the Easter Vigil. Seek the Lord is Isaiah's invitation. The prophet invites even the scoundrel and the wicked to turn to God because Isaiah knows in God is forgiveness so generous and so abundant that one will never turn back to one's old way of life. God's thoughts are so infinitely high, like the heavens, that we find our hope for mercy in God.

Paul established the first Christian community at Philippi and he now writes to them from prison. He understands the core of his faith to be life in Christ. Whether he lives or dies, he knows that he glorifies Christ in his body. His dilemma is that if he went on living, he would still serve the Philippians and continue the work of spreading the Gospel. If Paul were to die, he would be with Christ. In the midst of his own suffering, he exhorts the Philippians to behavior befitting those who proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we move ahead from the conclusion in Matthew 18 and Jesus' teaching on forgiveness to the beginning of chapter 20, where Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the landowner and his workers. The landowner hires workers at varying times during the day, but pays them each the customary daily wage. Those laborers who worked more hours understandably exhibit frustration. The landowner's generosity turns the workers' worldview upside down. Such is the way it will be in the Kingdom of Heaven, where the last will be first in the first, last. This is God's new paradigm.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Deacon Greg Kandra who serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. He is a broadcast journalist and maintains *The Deacon's Bench* blog.

The Presbyterian preacher and writer M. Craig Barnes once wrote: "God is always present, but not always apparent."

I think part of our job is to change that—to help others see God's work in the world.

St. Paul touches on a similar idea today in his letter to the Philippians, declaring, "Christ will be magnified in my body." A magnifying glass enlarges what is small, making it clear. Paul wanted to bring that kind of clarity, the clarity of Christ, to others. And he exhorted his readers, the people of Philippi, to do likewise: "Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ."

That is one tall order. And it challenges us to ask ourselves: Is it an order I can carry out?

Do I live in a way "worthy of the Gospel of Christ"?

Do others see reflected in my life and my choices the teachings of Christ?

Do I magnify the Lord? Do I enlarge him, proclaiming him in a way that is clear and unmistakable, with tenderness and mercy and generosity and hope? Or do I keep him inscrutable, illegible, small?

Part of our call is to serve as magnifying glasses for the Gospel.

We need to remember that God is always present—but strive to live in a way that also makes God apparent.

### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt. 9:9-13  
 Tuesday: Prv. 21:1-6, 10-13/Lk. 8:19-21  
 Wednesday: Prv. 30:5-9/Lk. 9:1-6  
 Thursday: Eccl. 1:2-11/Lk. 9:7-9  
 Friday: Eccl. 3:1-11/Lk. 9:18-22  
 Saturday: Eccl. 11:9; 12:8/Lk. 9:43b-45  
 Sunday: Ez. 18:25-28/Phil. 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt. 21:28-33

### **ROSARY MARCH**

The annual Rosary March, celebrating the anniversary of the Blessed Mother's appearance at Fatima will be held October 11 at 3:00 pm at St. Jude the Apostle Church, 2801 W. 6th St., Erie. Rosary, homily and Benediction will be held inside the church, but also will be live-streamed at [www.stjudeapos.org](http://www.stjudeapos.org). The World Apostolate of Fatima is sponsoring the event. For more information, contact John Walsh at 814 868-1100.

*"Lord,  
 thank you for making me  
 part of your family!"*

## WORSHIP

Monday, September 21  
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, September 22  
8:00 am + Dec. Members of Brown/Parkin Families  
(Susan Parkin)

Wednesday, September 23  
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, September 24  
8:00 am + Dorothy Czajka

Friday, September 25  
8:00 am + Ancestors of Rembielak Family  
(Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)

Saturday, September 26  
4:30 pm + Cliff Porter  
(Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua)

Sunday, September 27  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Fred Weagraff (John & Kay Weagraff)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Living & Deceased Parishioners

11:30 am + LATIN MASS—AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Louis Balmartner (Alan Wolfe)

### MISSION CO-OP

Last weekend was the Mission Co-Op collection. Many parishioners responded to this collection. Thank you! If you missed last week's collection, you can still send it through this weekend. Please use the envelope in your envelope box. Again thank you.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today Jesus is saying to us: "Why are you idle? Go into my vineyard." Our family is the vineyard entrusted to us found in today's gospel. Successful families are constructed by "laborers," who work hard on family relationships, and not by spectators who only watch from a distance.

### DIVORCED?

The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide (CDSG) 12-week group will be held online beginning this October 14. The 12 weeks will be split for winter holidays running on Wednesdays from October 14, 2020 to November 18, 2020 and finishing on Wednesdays from January 13 - February 17. All sessions will take place from 6:30 - 8:00 pm. A link to join the online video conference will be sent to participants when they register. Cost of \$20 per person includes "Personal Survival Guide" and all materials for 12 weeks. Find comfort and counsel consistent with Catholic teachings. Call the Family Life Office 814 824-1265, email [familylife@eriercd.org](mailto:familylife@eriercd.org), or visit [www.eriercd.org/cdsg.htm](http://www.eriercd.org/cdsg.htm) for more information or to register.

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 22  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, September 26  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, September 27  
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

### MARRIAGE MOMENT

September 21 is International Day of Peace. World peace is good but probably feels impossible these days. Yet married couples learn a lot about peacemaking. What's one thing you've learned about resolving an argument? Share it with someone today.

*"Lord,  
thank you for being my stronghold  
during life's ups and downs."*

### - STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

|               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Offertory     | \$735.00        |
| Mission Co-Op | <u>50.00</u>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$785.00</b> |

**CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**  
Pledged: \$5,565 Paid: \$5,315

### STEWARDSHIP ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory        | \$649.50          |
| Maintenance      | 288.50            |
| Candles          | 25.00             |
| Missionary Co-Op | 213.00            |
| CSA              | <u>95.00</u>      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>\$1,271.00</b> |

**Catholic Services Appeal**  
Pledged: \$26,346 Paid: \$24,366

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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