

The Work of the People

The Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

What unusual autumn weather we have been enjoying. I am so grateful for the sunshine and calm weather and I am reminded each day of the suffering with which so many are now living because of the multiple natural disasters in our area of the world as well as the ongoing pandemic. More than one person has told me that two feet of snow doesn't seem so bad in comparison to hurricanes and wildfires. Please continue to pray for all whose lives are still affected by these disasters.

Whose way is not fair, God's or ours? This is the question at the heart of the prophetic words from Ezekiel. Turn from wickedness to do what is right and just, the prophet instructs. God's way is fair, because God will save the life of a person who acts in this manner. Following the commandments leads to life, not death. Not following the commandments, which sometimes is our way and was the way of the Israelites, leads to death. Rephrased, the positive question of this reading is: "Whose way is fair?"

Writing from prison, Paul says that our attitude must match the attitude that is in Christ Jesus. Our mind is to be of the same mind as Christ Jesus. This is the essence of Paul's words to the Philippians. In Christ, humility, not selfishness, is our motivation. Christ's humility led to his exultation. So, too, ours will lead us to life in God's glory.

In Matthew's Gospel, the parable of the two sons whom the father asks to work in his vineyard follows immediately after the authorities question Jesus about where his authority for teaching in the temple comes from. In this parable, one son tells his father he will not work, and then does. The other son says he will work, and then does not. Beginning with an "Amen" (Thus it is or so be it), Jesus solemnly teaches that the first son, like the tax collectors and prostitutes, and all those who change their mind, repent, and follow him will share in the kingdom of God. The authorities have yet to change their minds and believe.

The reflection this Sunday is from Elisabeth Meadows, OSB who is a member of the Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman, Alabama.

When it comes to choices, it seems as if we all have two roads, two ways, two voices within us, each making a claim on our will.

When a decision looms, or a call comes, how shall we respond? Standing at the junction of call and response we look at the choices available to us. Often, it boils down to pondering two roads—a hard, narrow path and a broad, easy byway. Two ways, two roads, two voices . . . like a father with two sons who take two separate roads to two different ends.

For the two sons in today's Gospel, perhaps the field work was to be easy that day, with the slight brush of a breeze, grapes sweet and ripe for tasting under a merciful, rose-colored sky.

Yet it may be that the choice between the narrow road and the broad byway had nothing to do with the nature of the request itself. Perhaps the real choice confronting the sons was the road of pride versus humility, obstinacy versus obedience, a broad byway of self-will versus the narrow path of bending one's will into a knee bent in service or an arm outstretched in love.

The narrow way, although a choice of the will, is ultimately a choice of the heart. It is not really a path we follow but a voice that beckons.

The son who eventually made the right choice didn't get it right the first time. And sometimes neither do we. But even if on a wrong path, the one who loves is ultimately able to hear and turn and follow. The path of love is sometimes steep and narrow, but the wild grapes that grow alongside it are sweet and ripe for tasting under a merciful, rose-colored sky.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jb. 1:6-22/Lk. 9:46-50

Tuesday: Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv. 12:7-12a/Jn. 1:47-51

Wednesday: Jb. 9:1-12, 14-16/Lk. 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb. 19:21-27/Lk. 10:1-12

Friday: Jb. 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Mt. 18:1-5, 10

Saturday: Jb. 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Lk. 10:17-24

Sunday: Is. 5:1-7/Phil. 4:6-9/Mt. 21:33-43

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus asked, "What is your opinion?" We sometimes think our opinion is dogma or fact, when an opinion is only how we perceive a situation or how we feel about something. Arguments over opinions often cause great divides in families. Tread lightly on the opinions of others; the heart you break may be your own.

*"Lord,
help me to 'see greater things.'
I want to share
your perspective."*

WORSHIP

Monday, September 28
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Tuesday, September 29
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Wednesday, September 30
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, October 1
 8:00 am + For Souls in Purgatory (Joyce Lyons)
 Friday, October 2
 8:00 am + Dorothy Czajka
 Saturday, October 3
 4:30 pm + Raymond Gallagher
 (Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua)
 Sunday, October 4
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Bob Brunot (Dorothy & Stanley)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 29
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
 Saturday, October 3
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, October 4
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

OPEN HOUSES

Cathedral Prep is holding its annual Open House this year on Sunday, October 18 from 12 pm - 3 pm. Students in attendance will be entered in a drawing for tuition discounts. Cathedral Prep is located at 225 W. 9th St., Erie. Please call 814 453-7737 ext. 3 with questions.

Villa Maria Academy's Open House will be held Sunday, October 25 from 12 pm - 3 pm. Villa Maria Academy is located at 2403 W. 8th St., Erie. If you have any questions please call 814 838-2061 ext. 3239. Students in attendance will be entered in a drawing for discounts on tuition.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$237.00
Candles	9.00
Catholic Education	50.00
Mission	5.00
TOTAL	\$301.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$5,565 Paid: \$5,415

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

From the beginning the Church has made it a priority to help the neediest of our brothers and sisters in the human family. On the weekend of October 3rd and 4th, the Peter's Pence Collection will be taken up in our diocese and throughout the world. Peter's Pence is the name given to the financial support offered by the faithful to the Holy Father as a sign of their sharing in the concern of the Successor of Peter for the many different needs of the Universal Church. This collection is normally taken up at the end of June, but due to the situation brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Pope Francis moved the collection to October 4th. Funds from this collection help victims of war, oppression, and natural disasters, as well as seminaries and religious houses, orphanages, AIDS treatment centers, and other medical facilities in developing nations.

We are all feeling the effects of the pandemic, but I ask you, if possible, to please take this opportunity to support the charitable works of Pope Francis. This is a chance to strengthen the ties that bind us together as the Family of God. Please know of my gratitude and of my continues prayers for you and your families during this trying time.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Columbus Day Spaghetti Dinner will be held at St. Mary of Grace Roman Catholic Church Parish Center on October 11 from 11 am - 5 pm. Take-out preorders **ONLY**. Adults \$10, children \$5 (age 10 and under). To place your order contact the parish office at 814 336-1112. Pre-orders will be taken until September 30th.

*"Lord, teach me how to become
 a servant after your own heart."*

STEWARDSHIP ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$534.00
Maintenance	280.00
Candles	28.00
Latin America	10.00
Assumption	10.00
Missionary Coop	80.00
Catholic Educ.	185.00
CSA	120.00
TOTAL	\$1,247.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$26,346 Paid: \$24,386

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
