

The Work of the People  
*Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

What incredible 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 wars and natural disasters throughout the world. More than one person has told me that two feet of snow doesn't seem so bad in comparison. Please continue to pray for all whose lives are still affected by these disasters - natural and made by humans.

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. Re-phrased, 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 religious 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," 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 religious 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: Zec. 8:1-8/Mt. 18:1-5, 10  
Tuesday: Zec. 8:20-23/Lk. 9:51-56  
Wednesday: Neh. 2:1-8/Lk. 9:57-62  
Thursday: Neh. 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Lk. 10:1-12  
Friday: Bar. 1:15-22/Lk. 10:13-16  
Saturday: Bar. 4:5-12, 27-29/Lk. 10:17-24  
Sunday: Is. 5:1-7/Phi. 4:6-9/Mt. 21:33-43

#### **ROSARY MARCH**

The World Apostolate of Fatima Diocesan Division is sponsoring a 29th Annual Diocesan Rosary March to be held on Oct. 8 from 2-4 pm at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. The Rosary March will begin outside the cathedral and walk approximately one mile around downtown Erie. For those unable to walk outside, the rosary will be prayed inside the cathedral. The Rosary March will conclude with prayer service inside the cathedral from 3-4 pm with Bishop Lawrence Persico presiding, Fr. Scott Jabo as the guest homilist, Fr. Jerry Priscaro leading the Eucharistic adoration and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, contact John Kostrubanic at 814 790-2046 or John Walsh at 814 868-1100.

## WORSHIP

Monday, October 2  
8:00 am + LeRoy & Leola Pluzell  
(Donald & Laura McGovern)

Tuesday, October 3  
8:00 am + Kay Kopanicak & Andy & Sophia Yurcak  
(M/M Andy Yurcak, Jr.)

Wednesday, October 4  
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, October 5  
8:00 am + Robert Wronko (Joan Rembielak)

Friday, October 6 - FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00 am + Joseph Parlak  
(Fredric & Christina Thomas)

Saturday, October 7  
4:30 pm + Emil Semrad (Susan Parkin)

Sunday, October 8  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Richard Baker (Pauline Baker)  
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Living & Deceased Parishioners

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, October 2  
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, October 3  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, October 7  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, October 8  
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Before Mass - Confession  
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
After Mass - Confession  
10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, October 7 - 4:30 pm

Sunday, October - 9:30 am  
Max Marteeny

### ST. BERNADETTE ALTAR/ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

Tuesday, October 3 - 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, November 7 - 1:00 pm  
Tuesday, December 5, 1:00 pm

### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$198.00
Candles	6.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204.00</b>

### 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 theirs; the heart you break may be your own.

### CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS October is Respect Life Month

Our faith calls for us to uphold the value of human life and the dignity of the human person. The protection of children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of the entire Church, including the faithful. The protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults from abuse and other harm is a respect life issue, and we must all do our part to uphold this ideal. Anyone who suspects or knows of abuse should report it immediately. For information on reporting child abuse visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

### SYNOD OF BISHOPS

In a few days, on October 4, the Holy Father will open the first session of the 16th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, "For a Synodal Church, Communion, Participation, Mission."

All of us are called at this time to unite in communion of prayer and insistent invocation of the Holy Spirit to guide us in discerning what the Lord is asking of his Church today.

Please pray that the leaders of our Church listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit during this Synod.

### ANNUAL COLUMBUS DAY SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sunday, October 8  
11:30 am - 5:00 pm

St. Mary of Grace Church  
Meadville, PA

Dine in or carry out  
Cost: Adults - \$12  
Children 5-10 - \$6  
Under 5 - Free

Proceeds benefit the Epiphany of the Lord Parish

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$2,086.00
Maintenance	335.00
Donation	350.00
Catholic Education	95.00
CSA	165.00
Candles	90.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,121.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
Pledged: \$34,622.33    Paid: \$31,358.33

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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