

The Work of the People

The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hasn't our world and some of the people in it seemed to be way out of balance? Not only do we experience natural disasters but increasingly tragic human caused disasters. I find this a call to double down on treating one another with dignity and respect no matter how much we may disagree. Let us pray for all who have been impacted by events such as the Coronavirus, wildfires, hurricanes, and violence of all kinds. Let us work for peace, understanding, and justice in our world and live the virtues found in Paul's letter to the Philippians today..

The song of the Vineyard in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah is today's First Reading. The friend who has a vineyard is the God and the God's vineyard is Israel. God had done much for Israel, yet her people at times chose to distance themselves from God. Their fruit was wild grapes, not the crop of grapes the friend desired. Now the house of Israel faces God's punishment.

In the Second Reading, Paul encourages the Philippians to make their requests known to God in prayer. Since they are able to petition God, the Philippians need to have no anxiety. God's peace in Christ Jesus will safeguard them. In addition, Paul lists the virtues to which Christ Jesus calls the Philippians: truth, honor, justice, purity, love, and graciousness. Whatever is praiseworthy is their calling. To live in this manner is to know the peace of God residing within us.

This Sunday's Gospel reading is another parable and a continuous reading from where the parable of last Sunday's Gospel left off. The landowner and the vineyard in the parable provide obvious parallels with the First Reading; the servants the landowner sends represent the prophets whose message people often did not heed. The son whom the tenants killed foreshadows Jesus' death at the hands of the authorities. Jesus' citation of Psalm 118 reveals that his Death is not the end. Through his Resurrection Jesus lays the cornerstone for the Kingdom of God, a kingdom for those disciples willing to produce its fruit.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Mary Stommes who is editor of *Give Us This Day*.

"When Jesus told stories, he really didn't mean for us to take them seriously." This from an adult Christian in an interfaith dialogue session. Seriously.

Imagine a scene immediately following today's parable. An oblivious listener unwittingly tells Jesus, "Whew! So glad that was just a story, and you really didn't mean it." And then comes . . .

"Let me tell you about the story I just told you. It is a true story of what the world looks like when you turn from the love of God entrusted to you. So,

you don't beat or murder or kill? You haven't stoned anyone in your entire life? This is still your story. It often starts with just a smidgen of selfishness, a measure of misunderstanding, a casual disregard for the least among you. All those less-than-noble human inclinations that, left unchecked, produce fruit more fitting for the compost pile than the Kingdom of God."

Okay, so composting was a different thing back then. But the point of the parable endures. If it all sounds so harsh, notice that Jesus tells only the beginning of the story. The roughest rhetoric about wretched people being put to a wretched death—don't blame that on Jesus. His listeners draw their own logical conclusion: if you disrespect the Son of God and neglect the Kingdom of love he entrusts to you, it's seriously serious.

Maybe this parable matters not a whit, but I wouldn't bet on it.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gal. 1:6-12/Lk. 10:25-37
 Tuesday: Gal. 1:13-24/Lk. 10:38-42
 Wednesday: Gal. 2:1-2, 7-14/Lk. 11:1-4
 Thursday: Gal. 3:1-5/Lk. 11:5-13
 Friday: Gal. 3:7-14/Lk. 11:15-26
 Saturday: Gal. 3:22-29/Lk. 11:27-28
 Sunday: Is. 25:6-10a/Phil. 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt. 22:1-14
 or 22:1-10

Father, we seek Your wisdom daily. Be with people making decisions that affect the lives and futures of our families, communities, countries, and the wider world. We pray that they communicate clearly, truthfully, and calmly - with each other and with the public - and that their messages are received and heeded. May truth and empathy be the touchstones of people setting policies for our protection.

ROSARY MARCH

Fatima's 103 year anniversary sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima, Rosary March will be Sunday, October 11 at 3:00 pm. Speaker will be Bishop Lawrence Persico. Due to Covid-19 all services will be held inside St. Jude the Apostle Church in Erie. The services will be love-streamed on St. Jude's website: www.stjudeapos.org. For more information call John Walsh 868-1100.

WORSHIP

Monday, October 5
 8:00 am + John Auer
 Tuesday, October 6
 8:00 am + Katie VanDyke (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Wednesday, October 7
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, October 8
 8:00 am + Carl, Angeline, Henrietta Rembielak
 (Joan Rembielak)
 Friday, October 9
 8:00 am + Alice Undereiner
 (Burdick Family and Pat Watson)
 Saturday, October 10
 4:30 pm + Eugene & Eleanor Szymkiewicz
 (M/M Joseph Murphy)
 Sunday, October 11 - AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 8:00 am + For the Intention of the Brunot Family
 (Louise Brunot)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

*God of wisdom and might,
 we praise you for the wonder of our being,
 for mind, body and spirit.
 Be with our children as they begin a new school
 year.
 Bless them and their teachers and staff.
 Give them strength and grace as their bodies grow;
 wisdom and knowledge to their minds
 as they search for understanding;
 and peace and zeal to their hearts.
 We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 Amen*

- The Catholic Catalog

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 6
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, October 10
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, October 11
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Every family is visited by difficult times which can unite or divide. These hardships, which we would quickly reject, hold the potential to be the unifying "cornerstone" where we drop our pettiness and defenses and pull together, linked by a common bond and love for one another.

ROAST BEEF DINNER

St. Lawrence Parish of Albion will be holding their annual Fall Dinner on Sunday, October 18. It will be DRIVE THRU, TAKE OUT ONLY, at the St. Lawrence Center, enter from State St., exit to Pearl St. Serving time from 11 am until 3 pm. Price is \$10/meal.

FALL FISH FRY

St. Teresa Parish, Third Ave., Union City, PA will have a Fall Fish Fry on Wednesdays in October, 9th, 16th and 23rd, from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm. TAKE OUT ONLY, masks must be worn. Price is \$10/dinner. To order call 814 438-2783.

*"Finally, all of you,
 live in harmony with one another;
 be sympathetic,
 love as brothers,
 be compassionate
 and humble."*

1 Peter 3:8

STEWARDSHIP ST. BERNADETTE MISSION	
Offertory	\$417.00
Candles	<u>111.00</u>
TOTAL	\$528.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,565.00	Paid: \$5,415.00

STEWARDSHIP ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA	
Offertory	\$989.00
Maintenance	224.00
Candles	20.00
Catholic Educ.	51.00
CSA	120.00
Latin Mass	<u>350.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,754.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,496.00	Paid: \$24,566.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
