



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 2 // ISSUE 2 // SEPT 21, 2023

25th
Sunday in
Ordinary Time

In the Beginning...

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Have you checked out St. Jude's NEW website? If not, please do!! We have a lot of great content and updated information. When you visit, please take time to click the link to take the parish survey. We are looking for feedback from parishioners like you! It's the same URL: stjudes.net

If your child is in second grade and is preparing for First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation, our new website has a page for you! Please [click here](#) to find a monthly schedule of recommended videos for both parents and children. You'll need a login for FORMED (which is free because the parish has paid for your subscription!). [Click here](#) to sign up if you haven't already. Just enter zip code 49525, choose St. Jude and then follow the instructions. There is a lot of great content you'll want to explore!

St. Jude will begin having Eucharistic Adoration on the 4th Tuesday of the month in celebration of the Eucharistic Revival! Our first date is September 26. We need adorers who will commit to being present for one hour during the day. Adoration will be from 9:00am to 7:00pm. Please prayerfully consider this important calling. [Sign up here](#).

Finally, our Book Club is starting up again on October 3. We'll be reading "The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise" by Cardinal Sarah. We'll meet at 7:30pm on Tuesdays in the Thaddeus Center. Contact me with any questions. We hope to see you there!

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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

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Tuesday: 8:30AM
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SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Isaiah 55:6-9](#)

[Psalm 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18](#)

[Philippians 1:20-24, 27](#)

[Matthew 20:1-16](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (see [Isaiah 5:7](#); [27:2-5](#)).

Israel failed to yield good fruits, and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (see [Psalm 80:9-20](#)). But God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (see [Amos 9:15](#); [Hosea 14:5-10](#)).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in today's Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (see [Ephesians 2:11-13](#)). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages, the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites, will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in today's parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (see [Luke 15:29-30](#))? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in today's First Reading. And today's readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late—after having spent most of their days idling in sin. But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing in today's Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in today's Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. 2 After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. 3 And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place; 4 and to them he said, 'You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.' So they went. 5 Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. 6 And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing; and he said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' 7 They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You go into the vineyard too.'

MATTHEW 20:1-7

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)

The Gospel at Home

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20:1-16 In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

Background on the Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leave his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

Family Connection

The workers in this parable sound very much like squabbling children, comparing what they have each been given and making complaints to the parent. Among children there is a tendency to equate love with gifts and material things. This tendency can devolve into a spirit of entitlement, which runs counter to the spirit of gratitude. Any effort we make to overcome this tendency, to keep love from being entwined with gifts and possessions, will enable our children to accept completely the love that God gives freely and generously.

Observe together any tendency within your family to make comparisons. Are children sometimes heard saying that another child received a greater portion of a favorite food at dinner or dessert? Does one person complain that a parent spends more time with one child over another? Ask if such comparisons are helpful. Discuss together why such comparisons are made. Then read together today's Gospel, Matthew 20:1-16. Consider these questions: Why do the workers grumble? Is the landowner's assessment accurate? Unfortunately, we are sometimes like these workers when we make the comparisons we discussed earlier.

Conclude in prayer together remembering that love cannot and ought not to be measured. Sit quietly together acknowledging God's great love for each person as individuals and for your family. Pray together today's psalm, Psalm 145, or the Lord's Prayer.

“8 And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the householder, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you, and go; I choose to give to this last as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.”

MATTHEW 20:8-16

Did You Know?

Children Belong at Mass!

“...but Jesus said,
‘Let the children
come to me, and
do not prevent
them; for the
kingdom of
heaven belongs
to such as
these.’”

Matthew 19:14

The number of young children at our Masses has been increasing recently. Thanks be to God! It's been said that if there's no crying, your church is dying. When I first started attending St. Jude over a decade ago, I noticed the pews seemed particularly gray (I'm talking about hair color). These days, while our overall attendance at Mass is down, the number of children is up. I don't think I'd want it the other way around. Children are the future of our Church. That leads to the inevitable question.

Do they belong in Mass? Protestant churches are very good at having Sunday Schools for the children. When I was a child (and Protestant), my siblings and I would get dumped off at Sunday School while my parents went to the main service. I really didn't like it. I went to school five days a week. I thought Sunday was supposed to be a day of rest. But there I was at school again. I would have rather sat in the church and listened to whatever the guy who marched back and forth across the stage had to say. Maybe that was just me.

At St. Jude we have Children's Liturgy of the Word. It's not Sunday School. It's a great program for kids to hear the readings and receive a reflection (like a homily) at their level. The program is meant for kids roughly aged 5 to fifth grade. Children come back to Mass for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this way, the Mass brings the family together in communion with the Lord and in communion with the congregation.

Those children who might not yet be old enough to go for Children's Liturgy of the Word stay in the church. They may squirm, they may cry and sometimes they may escape the pew. What a wonderful sound and sight! As a parent, I can relate to all the feelings that those parents may be having. I spent my fair share of time with a child in the hallway, the narthex or even outside. Eventually, the children learn how to behave. “This too shall pass” as they say.

As a parish family, it's our responsibility to support and welcome everyone to Mass, especially young children and their parents. Parents are already somewhat paranoid about their children's behavior. Scolding them is not charitable and does no good for anyone involved. In fact, it can drive souls from the church. And while your pew may be quieter next week, someone's eternal soul may suffer as a result. “...but Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, September 23:

2:00pm - Reconciliation (until 3:30pm)

4:00pm - Mass

Sunday, September 24:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass (with Children's Liturgy of the Word)

11:30am - RCIA in the Kelly Conference Room

5:30pm - Faith Formation Classes for Grades 1-8

Monday, September 25:

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center - The study will be on "Salvation" and will last 10 weeks. We would love to have you join us. If interested or would like more information, please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

Tuesday, September 26:

8:30am - Mass

9:00am - Eucharistic Adoration until 7:00pm in the church. We need adorers who will commit to being present for one hour during the day. Adoration will be from 9:00am to 7:00pm. Please prayerfully consider this important calling. [Sign up here.](#)

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room

Wednesday, September 27:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center

Thursday, September 28:

8:30am - Mass

Friday, September 29:

8:30am - Mass

Antioch Retreat

All high schoolers are invited to a great weekend of fun, friends, and, of course, faith on September 29-October 1! The Antioch retreat is a dynamic experience for first-time retreaters or retreat addicts! Scan the QR code to get more info or to register. You won't regret it!



"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

Confession

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A Full Day's Wages

Today in the Gospel, Jesus tells a story of several men who were hired to work at a vineyard. The owner of the vineyard went out at different times to find men to work. At the end of the day, he gave each man a whole day's wages, even though some had only worked for a little while!

THAT'S NOT FAIR- THEY GOT A WHOLE DAY'S PAY!



Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of Heaven is like this too: some people spend their whole lives working for God, and some people only turn to Him at the last minute. God opens Heaven to all the people who choose to love Him.

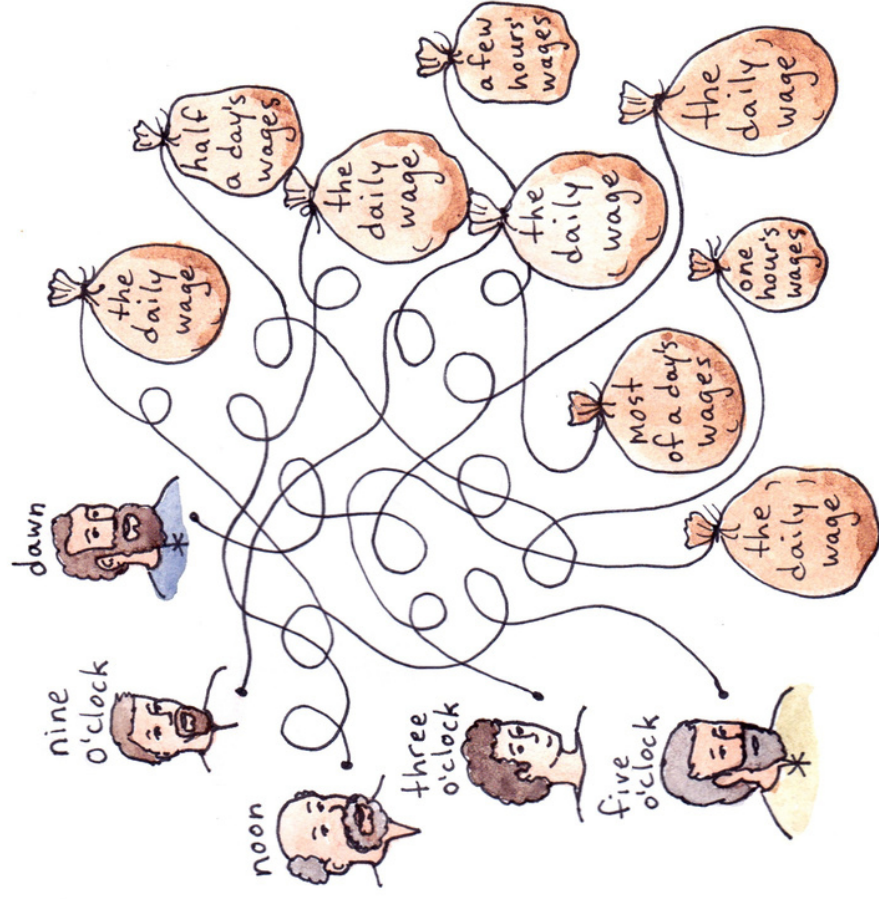
At first this doesn't seem fair. After all, some people give their whole lives to God and some give hardly any! But here is why it is fair: the only reason that any of us turns to God **I PAID YOU** is because He gave us that grace. **AS MUCH AS I SAID I WOULD.** Some people have to live their whole lives without God's grace until the very end, but some of us have been given grace all our lives.

Wow! HE PAID US A FULL DAY'S WAGE!



The Kids' Bulletin

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 24th, 2023



In the parable in today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the story of a man with a vineyard who went out to hire men at different times of the day.

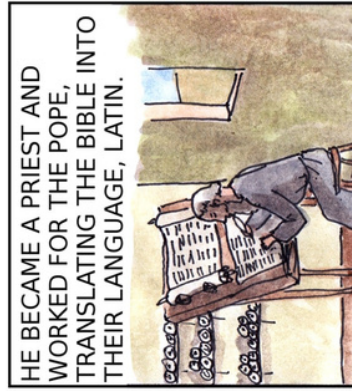
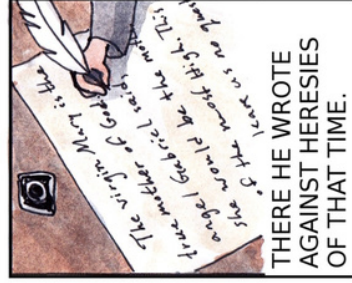
*At the end of the day,
how much did each man get paid?
Follow the wiggly lines to see!*

Answers: front page- all received the full day's wage.
Inside page- Christ.

www.thekidsbulletin.com

Saint Jerome

September 30



SAINT JEROME DIED AS AN OLD MAN. HE IS CONSIDERED A DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH BECAUSE HE DID SO MUCH TO HELP PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD. WE CAN LEARN FROM ST. JEROME THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE. TRY TO READ A BIT OF THE BIBLE EVERY DAY.

Fill in the blanks:

Saint Paul tries to decide if it is better to live or die!

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks, and then put the letters from the boxes into the spaces at the bottom.



Brothers and ⁵_____, Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and ²____ is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means ⁴_____ labour for me. And I do not know which I shall ¹_____. I am caught ⁶_____ the two. I long to depart this life and be with Christ, for that is far better. Yet that I remain in the flesh is more necessary for ³_____ benefit.

between
death
sisters
your
fruitful
choose

Like Saint Paul, we
should be ready to
either live or die for

_____ 1 2 3 4 5 6