



27th Sunday of Ordinary Time Sunday, October 4, 2020

Gospel Reflection

The Gospel is more an allegory than a parable. The story Jesus tells is also about an owner planting a vineyard. All the features and characters in the story are accounted for in real life. Jesus is speaking directly to and about the “chief priests and elders of the people.” They would be quite familiar with the image of Israel as a planted vine or vineyard. They are the “tenants” and the “hedge” is the Law of Moses. The “winepress” is the very land given to Israel after the Exodus and forty years in the desert. The “tower” is the sacred place of God’s presence in the temple within Jerusalem. Worship of God in the temple was their celebration of being protected by God.

Keeping the Law, caring for the land, and liturgical purification and worship rites were the good fruits. Prophets, “servants” were sent to announce to the people their failings as well as for instructions about right living. Matthew relies on his listeners’ knowledge of the history of prophets in Israel. They had been stoned, imprisoned, and killed. At last, the owner sends his own son whom the leaders throw outside the vineyard and kill him as well.

Matthew is reminding his listeners that all this is the Lord’s doing and it has been and will be “wonderful in our eyes.” There is no ambiguity in this story. The priests and elders hear that they are considered as rejected leaders of God’s people. It is important to be aware that Jesus, here in Matthew’s Gospel, is not picturing God as rejecting Israel and the Jews: Jesus and the disciples are Israelites themselves. What we are to hear is the deep love that God, the owner, has for the people, and that this love is given so that there will be fruitfulness within the vineyard of God.

When we experience our imperfections, we assume that God, for eternity, will be collecting us in the weed pile. We can be smothered by the locusts of materialistic greed which devour simplicity and gratitude. It is difficult to offer our faces to the warmth of the sun when we are burdened with the discouraging pulls of the earthly gravitational discouragement.

The beauty of the flower and the tastiness of the fruit are rooted in the dirt, which the dirt-owner has embraced so that there would be beauty and life.

~ Larry Gillick, SJ

*The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to those who are searching for his love.*

Lamentations 3:25

Children's Faith Formation

St. Cecilia's Children Faith Formation will begin virtual classes on Sunday, October 18. Program Information and Registration Form will be available the week of October 5. If you have questions, please contact Father Bula at fr.bula@stcecilia.com.

New Bible Sharing Group

As previously announced, the Parish is starting a new monthly Bible Sharing group. The group will meet on the first Wednesday evenings of the month at 7:30 PM. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7th, and will be led by Terence Leung and Father Paul. It will be a one-hour meeting via Zoom. Prior to each meeting, we will select a scripture passage from an upcoming Sunday liturgy. During the meeting, we will read the passage and share perspectives, insights, and feelings. Participants will be emailed a Zoom link before each meeting. All parishioners are welcome to join. To register for this class or for more information, please contact Terence at terence.scp@gmail.com or call the Parish Office and leave a message for Fr. Paul.

MASSES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

ANNUAL BLUE MASS FOR POLICE, FIREFIGHTERS, & FIRST RESPONDERS

Let us pray for blessings upon our police, firefighters, and other first responders at a special Blue Mass presided by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone on the plaza at St. Mary's Cathedral is being on Sunday, October 11 a 9:00 AM.

WHITE MASS & BLESSING FOR CATHOLIC MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone will celebrate the White Mass & Blessing for Medical Professionals on October 16 at 6:00 pm at St Augustine Church 3700 Callan, South San Francisco, CA 94080. This Mass is also available to view online at <https://www.facebook.com/SACC45thYear>.

RETREATS

Come and See - Friday, October 23 & 24:

There is nothing like making a face-to-face visit to help discern whether religious life—and life as a Dominican Sister of Adrian, in particular—is where God is calling you. You are welcome to set an individual or group “come and see.” The visit includes time for prayer and faith sharing, asking questions, a conversation about Dominican life ministry, spirituality, a visit to our historical museum, and social time with the Sisters. [Click to Register and Learn More](#).

Called to Care for the Earth: Come Follow in the Footprints of Jesus!:

On Wednesday, October 14 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM discover how St. Francis' example can show us the way to care for the planet-sized issues of human-caused global warming; scarcity of potable water; lack of access to sufficient food; and our unsustainable energy supply. For more information and to register visit call [Called to Care Event](#).

Christ, Our Model of Prayer:

This one-day virtual retreat will take place on Saturday, October 17 with Father Brian Mullady, OP. Fr. Brian Mullady uses the life of Our Lord as a basis to explain the various characteristics of Christian prayer. To register visit [Christ our Model of Prayer](#).

Give Your Marriage Some “Continuing Education”:

Would you attend a seminar to enhance your job or to increase your salary? Why not give your marriage the same attention? Enhance your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is November 13 – 15 in San Jose. For more information and/or to apply for a Weekend, visit the Worldwide Marriage Encounter website at sanjosewwme.org or contact Ken & Claranne at applications@sanjosewwme.org, 408-782-1413.



The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by fifteenth-century Dominican, Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy. Mary praised him for his valiant fight against the heretics and then gave him the Rosary as a mighty weapon, explained its uses and efficacy, and told him to preach it to others.

"Since the prayers of the Rosary come from such excellent sources — from Our Lord Himself, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church — it is not surprising that the Rosary is so dear to our Blessed Mother and so powerful with heaven.

"If we consider the power of the Rosary as seen in its effects, we find a great abundance of proofs of its wonderful value. Many are the favors granted to private individuals through its devout recitation: there are few devoted users of the Rosary who cannot testify to experiencing its power in their own lives. If we turn to history, we see many great triumphs of the Rosary. Early tradition attributes the defeat of the Albigensians at the Battle of Muret in 1213 to the Rosary. But even those who do not accept this tradition will admit that St. Pius V attributed the great defeat of the Turkish fleet on the first Sunday of October 1571, to the fact that at the same time the Rosary confraternities at Rome and elsewhere were holding their processions. Accordingly, he ordered a commemoration of the Rosary to be made on that day. Two years later, Gregory XIII allowed the celebration of a feast of the Rosary in churches having an altar dedicated to the Rosary. In 1671, Clement X extended the feast to all Spain. A second great victory over the Turks, who once, like the Russians, threatened the ruin of Christian civilization, occurred on August 5, 1716, when Prince Eugene defeated them at Peterwardein in Hungary. Thereupon Clement XI extended the feast of the Rosary to the whole Church.

"Today, when dangers far greater than those of the ancient Turks threaten not only Christianity but all civilization, we are urged by our Blessed Mother to turn again to the Rosary for help. If men in sufficient numbers do this, and at the same time carry out the other conditions that she has laid down, we have the greater reason for confidence that we will be delivered from our dangers."

~ Fr. William G. Most

REQUEST A MASS INTENTION

To request a Mass Intention, please call the Parish Office at 415-664-8481 or email Jessica Montgomery at jessica_montgomery@stcecilia.com or Irma Lavitoria at irmalavitoria@stcecilia.com and provide the following information:

1. Name of the person the Mass Intention is for
2. If the person living or deceased
2. Name of the person offering the Mass
3. Your phone number
4. \$10 per Mass Intention or \$5 to be said at the Priest convenience
5. If you are getting a Mass card please indicate if you would like it mailed to you, by providing your address or if you will be picking it up at the Parish Office. We will contact you when the Mass card is available for you to pick up.

Please send or drop off your donation to:

Jessica Montgomery
St. Cecilia Church
2555 17th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116

Mass Intentions

Monday, October 5

Donald & Reno Tonegato
Michael Mangan
Theresa McFadden

Tuesday, October 6

Mary McQuilan McEntee
Felicitas Apilado Ducusin
Trevor Robert

Wednesday, October 7

Frank Masterson
Lorrie Carlin

Thursday, October 8

Konrad Habelt
Bernice O'Brien
Xavier Echon

Friday, October 9

Juliana Pagaduan

Russell William Sweeney

James & John O'Neill

Saturday, October 10

Marion Kell

Hugh & Olive Doyle

Sunday, October 11

Philip C. & Patricia Quan

Dr. Edward & Anthony Erigero

