



23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time Sunday, September 6, 2020

Gospel Reflection

As if particularly sensitive to the demands of Christian community life, the readings from the Lectionary's Cycle A this month provide contrasting sets of virtues and vices, ones that foster and destroy relationships. Willingness to communicate and forgive enhances a common life of faith. Jealousy and envy, as we will see in subsequent weeks, rip communities apart.

Community life, whether in a family, intentional grouping, religious congregation, or the church itself, is the great testing ground of faith. St. Teresa of Avila thought that relationships in community were often a greater indication of one's relationship to God than the heights of mystical prayer.

An activist like Dorothy Day was wise enough to see that injustice and exploitation were as present in small service communities as in political empires.

Paul reminds his Roman audience that love, tested in immediate relationship with our neighbor, is the fulfillment of all laws. Even dramatic sins of adultery, murder, and stealing are variations of the more domestic betrayals of deception, manipulation, and egotism.

In each case, it is a lack of love, a harming of the neighbor, that occurs. This is why our one duty, our sole "debt," is to love one another.

Today's Gospel provides a practical scenario on community relations: "If your brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out his fault, but keep it between the two of you. ... If he does not listen, summon another, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses." Only after these careful encounters is the conflict to be referred to the entire church. Then, if recalcitrance persists, there is separation. Sounds simple enough. The problem is, it depends upon behaviors that do not come easily. We don't often enjoy directly confronting another person, especially someone with whom we are having difficulties.

Some families will go years before addressing a problem. Grudges or resentments within a community more often die with those who hold them rather than come to a resolution in quiet conversation. Misdeeds of friends or relatives are usually discussed with anyone but the accused.

Encountering the truth with another person daunts us because it makes us face another being who cannot be reduced to our own desires or projections. We may try to make others a function of our egos, but it fails. Rather than enter the struggle, we ignore it.

If, however, we seriously love another person as an "other," and not a mere instrument of our wills, we experience the kind of self-transcendence that is required in our relationship to God.

Is it any wonder, then, that what we bind and loose on earth is somehow bound and loosed eternally? Our human relationships mirror our relationship with God. Whenever we encounter each other—not only in prayer—Jesus is in our midst.

~ John Kavanaugh, SJ



A Prayer for Labor Day

*Lord on this Labor Day,
we thank You for the blessing of work.
We ask for the strength to complete each day.
We ask for rest when we are weary.
We ask for Your guidance
for everyone seeking employment,
and we ask that
You are with those whose faces
we might never see
but who tirelessly work each day
for the good of us all.
Amen
~ Our Sunday Visitor*

Dear Lord, we pray for the men and women whose jobs have been impacted by the Coronavirus, the California wildfires, and the hurricanes. We pray for their continued perseverance and determination as they continue to seek ways to participate in God's creative work. Amen.

PARISH & MASS SCHEDULE UPDATE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1ST

- As directed by the Archdiocese of San Francisco and the County Health Department, St. Cecilia Parish remains unable to offer indoor PUBLIC MASSES UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, due to the COVID-19 health crisis. Also, as we are obligated to abide by the more stringent July 20th workplace regulations decreed by the County of San Francisco, our Parish Office remains closed until further notice. However, important developments may be forthcoming soon, if the local infection rate improves in the near future. We will keep you updated on any changes.
 - See the [parish website](#) or leave a voicemail message with the Parish Office for updates regarding when we will resume PUBLIC masses and reopen the Parish Office. We will check the Parish Office messages and return calls throughout the week.
 - The church will be open for visitation and personal prayer from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Monday through Saturday, thanks to the dedicated service of the Knights of St. Cecilia.
 - In the interim, please join us for our daily 9:00 AM mass, live-streamed seven days a week via the parish website at <https://www.stcecilia.com/78>.
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RESOURCES

The priests and staff of St. Cecilia continue to pray for the health and safety of our parishioners and their families. While we are conducting the activities of our parish by live-streaming the daily Mass, not being able to celebrate the sacraments in our usual fashion is challenging and is only one of many examples of the impact of COVID-19 on our global community. While we go about the daily life of the parish as best we can, we wanted to update you on a few important matters and resources:

MASS SCHEDULE

As the shelter-in-place continues, we wanted to make sure you are aware of the LIVESTREAMING of the daily Mass at 9:00 AM on our website at stcecilia.com. Click on the link "Live Video of Mass" on the right-hand column to watch daily live-streamed Mass at 9:00 AM.

CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT

Please call our office if you would like to schedule a confession. You do not need to necessarily leave your name or any other identifying information but we do need a way to contact you in order to schedule a time for the appointment. At a minimum, please leave a phone number, and one of the priests on staff will return your call. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the current health crisis.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If someone is critically ill and in danger of death or has died, please call our emergency contact phone number anytime, day or night, at 415-722-9059, and priest will return your call.

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 and provide the following information:

1. Name of the person the Mass Intention is for and whether the person is living or deceased.
2. Your name or the name of the person offering the Mass Intention.
3. Your phone number and whether you would like a Mass card.
4. Suggested \$10 offering per Mass Intention or \$5 offering for an unannounced Mass Intention. Checks are to be made payable to St. Cecilia Church. Please send or drop off your donation to:

St. Cecilia Church

Attn: Jessica Montgomery

2555 17th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94116

PARISH FINANCES

Recently the Archbishop convened a meeting with all pastors to discuss the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the parishes of the Archdiocese. Several parishes find themselves financially challenged and funds will be made available to assist them through these difficult times. I am happy to report to you that, through the generosity of parishioners and the careful stewardship of our finances, St. Cecilia Parish and School currently remain financially stable. We do understand that this pandemic event has had a major financial impact on many of our parishioners and we are grateful for anything that you can continue to give. ONLINE GIVING (stcecilia.com/83) is utilized by many parishioners and if you require assistance please feel free to reach out to the Rectory Office.

BUDDY PHONE CHAIN

Do you live alone or are you in a circumstance that tends to isolate you? Think... Corona Virus isolation. If so, you may want to consider joining our "Buddy Phone Chain," a lively group of parishioners who regularly receive a reassuring phone call, and then make a call to a buddy in the phone chain. This a quick, non-intrusive way to feel safer and to check-in with someone you know. Your peace of mind costs nothing and only takes a few minutes each week. If interested, please call our "Buddy Phone Chain" coordinator, Diane Wienkauf at (650) 416-4741 or Fr. Paul at (415) 664-8481 to sign up or for more information.

SPIRITUAL RESOURCES

As a member of the Parish, you can avail yourself of www.formed.org. Our parish access code: RZDPQZ. This resource will provide you with access to thousands of movies, programs, and other materials that we believe will be of spiritual comfort and guidance during this time.

Online Fundraiser for Good Shepherd Gracenter

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd invite you to an online Imaginative Luncheon, “2020 VISION – Focusing on Recovery,” in support of the brave women at Good Shepherd Gracenter (<https://gsgracenter.org/>) who are determined to break free of drug and/or alcohol addiction and create a better future for themselves and others. You can make a difference from the comfort of your home. Just register at the website <https://e.givesmart.com/events/hiV/> between September 4 and 20. For more information, contact Sr. Marguerite at Sr.Marguerite@gsgracenter.org or 628-224-2050.

Just for Men - Healing After Abortion Retreat



NEW! For men only – a one-day retreat for healing after abortion, on September 19, in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. Led by Contemplatives of St. Joseph Father Vito Perrone. For more information or to sign up <https://sfarch.org/healing-for-men> or projectrachel@sfarch.org or call 415-614-5567.

We pray for the repose of the souls of **Sr. Catherine Nessi, SNJM, Fr. Dennis Steik, SM, Thomas D. Harvey, Jr., Therese Eldredge, Ivan "John" Cikes** who have recently gone before us and offer our sympathy to their family and friends. May they rest in peace.

Mass Intentions

Monday, September 7

Mary O'Connor

Tuesday, September 8

Anthony & Michelina Dito
Pauline Susanto
Father Eric Freed

Wednesday, September 9

Maureen Pool

Thursday, September 10

George & Bernice O'Brien

Friday, September 11

Anne McEntee Darcy
Dennis Dennis D. McMahon
James & John O'Neill

Saturday, September 12

Sr. Mary Herbert
Robert F. Welch

Sunday, September 13

Michael Brophy

Giulia Fanini



Proverbs 16:9

"The heart of man plans his way,
but the Lord establishes his steps."