

25th
Sunday
in Ordinary Time



THE PARABLE OF THE
WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

“Thus, the last will be first, and the
first will be last.” *Matthew 20:16*

St. Ann's Church

652 Main Street, PO Box 488, North Oxford, MA 01537

Rectory # 508-987-8892

To help us to keep in touch with you please email us at stannsrectory@hotmail.com

Please check out our website for live streamed Masses www.stannschurch.us

Please send prayer requests to StAnnParishPrayerline@hotmail.com

Fr. Michael Lavallee, Pastor

Deacon James Denning (Retired)

Mary Lajoie, Administrative Assistant

Peggy Moynahan, Religious Education Secretary

Dennis O'Brien, Maintenance Director

CONFESSIONS

Fr. Michael is able to hear confessions outdoors in the Chapel in the Woods throughout the season. If weather is inclement, he can also meet you in the parish hall for the Sacrament. To schedule an appointment please call him at the Rectory #508-987-8892. Confessions are available by appointment only during this time.

Saturday, Mass 4:00 pm Live streamed directly to our website www.stannschurch.us

Sunday, Mass 9:00am & 11:00 am

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends in Christ,

This Sunday's Gospel presents us with the themes of the mystery of time and the human response to God's grace. Profoundly, within this passage, God reveals to us His very being.

The setting of the parable is a vineyard. In the Old Testament, this metaphor represented the land of Israel and when Jesus first gave this teaching it is probable that those who heard it would recognize that Jesus was making a reference to this symbol.

In the passage, a vineyard-owner enthusiastically seeks day-laborers to work for him, going out multiple times in the same day for this purpose. The vineyard-owner agrees to give them the expected amount for their work, namely one denarius. This would allow them to feed themselves and their family for that given day.

Day-laborers had no steady job, lacking education and trade skills that would give them better employment. They had to take what was available to them, facing a never-ending cycle of toil and insecurity. By including them in the parable, Jesus showed that God was attentive to their plight.

At the end of the parable, all the laborers received the same amount for their work and those who labored longest "grumbled" about the vineyard-owner's generosity. The vineyard-owner responded that he was not cheating them and that he was free to be generous with his money. If God is like that vineyard-owner, He is profoundly generous to sinners, giving them endless opportunities to receive His grace. He also is just, viewing human life in its fullness and completeness.

We rejoice in the goodness of our God and the generousness of His grace.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael



Handicap Ramp Replacement

Our honey sale continues in the parish. All proceeds are dedicated to the repair and replacement of our handicap ramp. Jars of honey are \$10 each and may be ordered either by calling the Rectory, e-mailing us or speaking to Fr. Michael after all Masses. We are also accepting donations towards the ramp replacement if you'd like to assist us in this way. Our goal is to work on this project before Winter sets in. Thank you for your help with this essential maintenance concern.



- Saturday, Sept. 19** 4:00 pm Elizabeth Gaddis, requested by St. Ann's Parish.
- Sunday, Sept. 20** 9:00 am David P. Ackley, requested by Eileen Amorello & Family.
11:00 am Robert Burke, requested by St. Ann's Parish.
- Monday, Sept. 21** 8:30 am Fr. Robert Brusio, requested by Fr. Michael.
- Tuesday, Sept. 22** 8:30 am Phyllis Mangan, requested by Fr. Michael.
- Wednesday Sept. 23** 8:30 am Mass of Thanksgiving, requested, by Richard & Beverly Buron.
- Thursday, Sept. 24** 8:30 am Joseph Calci, requested, by Barbara & Fr. Michael Lavallee.
- Saturday, Sept. 26** 4:00 pm Jodi Sheridan 3rd Anniversary, requested by Harry & Jody Williams.
- Sunday, Sept. 27** 9:00 am Eulysse Allain, requested by St. Ann's Parish Family.
11:00 am Deceased members of the Topalian Family, requested by the family.

Offertory for Sept. 11 through September 17

Offertory	\$ 2,483.00
Children's offertory	\$ 6.00
Maintenance	\$ 215.00
Online Giving	\$ 215.00
Total	\$2,919.00

SVDP (Mail) \$ 125.00

To donate to SVDP on line please visit our website



Thank you to all who have contributed to our parish financially during this difficult time.

Online giving can be found on our website stannschurch.us

Announcements

- **Office Hours at the Rectory are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-12.**
Fr. Michael will be available to meet with parishioners outdoors at this time.

To request that a sick loved one be remembered at Mass, please send an email to stannsrectory@hotmail.com by **Friday morning** in order for us to include the names on the prayer list for the Masses on the weekend or speak directly to Deacon Jim before Mass.



If you are a parishioner and are in need of assistance, please call #508- 987-8892 and leave a message on the SVDP private line and someone from the SVDP will return your call. Maybe you have lost your job and are behind on your utilities or can't afford to have oil delivered. We can help. We also can point you in the direction of other resources that are available.

ONLINE GIVING NOW AVAILABLE at stannschurch.us

Scripture Readings

Sunday September 20

Is 55:6-9/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

Monday September 21

Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday September 22

Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/4/Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday September 23

Prv 30:5-9/Lk 9:1-6

Thursday September 24

Ecc 1:2-11/Lk 9:7-9

Friday September 25

Ecc 3:1-11/Lk 9:18-22

Saturday September 26

Ecc 11:9—12:8/Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday September 27

Ez 18:25-28/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feast of St. Therese the Little Flower

The parish is invited to celebrate the Feast of St. Therese at a special Mass on Wednesday, September 30th at 7:00 pm. Novena prayers and veneration of a first class relic of St. Therese. Please join us.

Yard Sale

St. Ann's will be holding a one day Yard Sale on Saturday, October 17th, from 7:30am to 2:30 PM. Items generously donated by the family of Jack Flynn and other donations will be sold outside only on the front lawn. We are in need of volunteers to help with this event.

Please come to a planning meeting on Monday, September 21st at 6:00 pm in the parish hall.

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1.....IS 55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM...PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

READING 2.....PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A

Brothers and sisters: Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain. If I go on living in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. And I do not know which I shall choose. I am caught between 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 your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

ALLELUIA.....ACTS 16:14B

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL.....MT 20:1-16A

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.' When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."



ST. PAUL CENTER FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

By Dr. Scott Hahn

First and Last

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

Isaiah 55:6-9

Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Philippians 1:20-24, 27

Matthew 20:1-16

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.

*A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
www.SalvationHistory.com*

CODE - BREAKER!

Crossword solution from
last week



The sentence below is to be found in one of today's readings. Can you break the code and write in the sentence?

Here are two clues:
E = H and B = E.

PBBH QEB ILOA TEFIB EB

JXV YB CLRKA, ZXII EFJ

TEFIB EB FP KBXO.

ANSWER

Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call him while he is near.

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