

Parish Bulletin for
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
And St Jude's

WEB SITE: www.olphsj.org



the LORD is near to all who call upon him.

Special Disaster Envelopes were provided last weekend and are also available in the churches to aid those suffering through the disasters occurring on the west coast. Please support as best you can, the financial gift will be forward to the diocese this coming week.

Please remember in your prayers those among us who are suffering because of the virus ... this includes not only those with the virus, but those suffering depression, anxiety and other maladies due to this stressful time.

There is an old joke about a Protestant being led around heaven by St. Peter. They pass a room and



St. Peter says, "Be quiet around this room." To which the Protestant asks, "Why?" Peter responds, "In that room are the Catholics, and they think they're the only ones here."

Jesus was a master teacher. His parables inspired and they were remembered in part because they were simple stories that conveyed multiple layers of meaning. Each story seems to have a variety of possible entry points, as does today's gospel. Is the landowner truly just when he gives all the workers the same wage? What would unionized workers say about this practice? Why does the landowner distribute wages in the manner he does, with those who worked the longest receiving their pay last? Is he trying to incite a riot, or maybe inspire jealousy and envy?

All of these questions and more may be conjured up by a quick reading of the parable.

Not only was Jesus a master teacher, but we recall that he taught two thousand years ago! One challenge is that some of his stories are set deeply in the milieu of his context. The parable is not in fact making statements about modern labor law or the role of unions or day laborers. Instead, landowners in Jesus' time had incredible power over workers and over their property. Perhaps because there were no labor unions, guest worker programs, or labor laws to protect workers, the landowner was able to act with impunity. This kind of power makes for an apt image of a powerful and unaccountable God!

So Jesus uses the character of the landowner in the parable to say that God gives each his or her due at the very least, and he is generous. It is not up to us to tell God how and in what way he is to be generous with his resources. God gives to each what he will, though not less than what he promised.

In the early church this parable was often interpreted in terms of Jews and Gentiles, with Jews being the early workers and Gentiles being those who came late. God gives each a share of his kingdom. All will likely be surprised by the generosity of God and by who appears at the heavenly banquet. Ideally, no one group will think its members are the only ones to share in God's goodness.

Adoration on Tuesday Evening from 5pm to 9pm at OLPH

2020 09 20

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

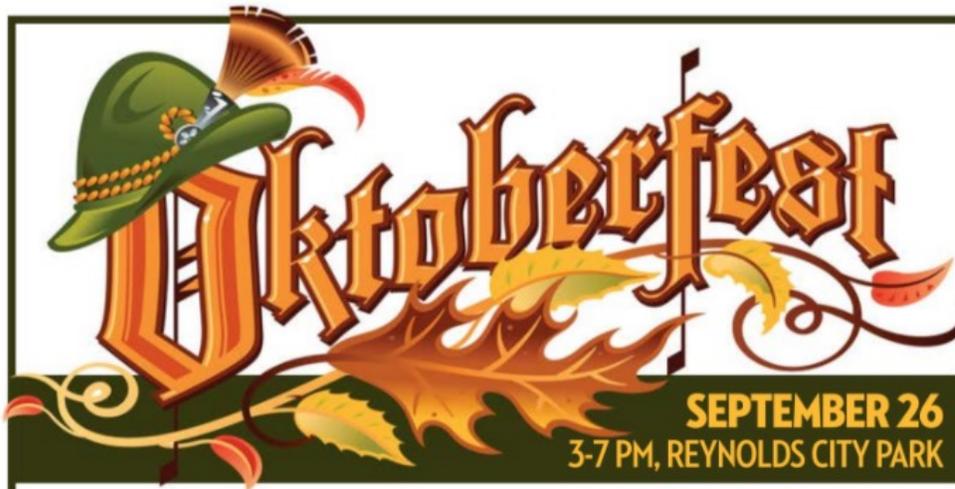
isaiah 55:6-9 - psalm 145:2-3,8-9,17-18 - philippians 1:20-24,27a

matthew 20:1-16a

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Rectory—(701) 847-3096
Rectory Address: POB 68, 421 Sanborn St.
Reynolds ND 58275-0068

St. Jude's
(701) 599-2574
POB 305, 329 Broadway
Thompson ND 58278-0305

Email address: olph.stjude@gmail.com
Website address: www.olphsj.org
jcavanaugh2952@gmail.com or
john.cavanaugh@fargodiocese.org



JOIN US FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY, FUN DAY

LIVE! Accordion Music

Farmer's Market and Bake Sale

Sauerkraut with Pork and Dumplings

Brats, Hot Dogs, Pretzels, Beer, Rootbeer, Ice Cream



Take out orders will be available.

In case of a local COVID-19 breakout, the event will be exclusively take out.

mass intentions

September 2020

- | | |
|----|---|
| 19 | OLPH +Michelle Kuser by L/P Kuser |
| 20 | OLPH Mass for the people
SJ +Avis Majkrzak by her family |
| 22 | OLPH +Dorothy Rakoczy by Bernadette Adams |
| 23 | SJ +Kate Adam by Jim Weber |
| 24 | OLPH +Francis Fetter |
| 25 | SJ +Curtis Bohl by Martha Garman |
| 26 | OLPH +Kate Adam by L/V Knipping |
| 27 | OLPH Mass for the people
SJ +Margaret Meagher by her husband |
| 29 | OLPH +Arnie Krile by F/S Argenziano |
| 30 | SJ +Tom Meagher by his dad |

future events

Sept 27-30—Fall Priest Meeting—CANCELLED

Sept 30—St Jude Religious Education starts

Oct 6—SJ Parish Council

Oct 8—OLPH Parish Council

Jan 12 2021—SJ Parish Council

Jan 14 2021—OLPH Parish Council

March 6 2021—10am—Confirmation at
Larimore

It's probably the case that none of us enjoy being supplicants. We all tend to work for a wage we consider just (if and when possible) and expect to be paid for our labor. When we see acts of generosity, it can be natural to expect that we might receive some of that generosity as well. It sounds strange to hear it said that someone is generous only with one group and not another. And such is the seeming riddle of today's parable.

God is a just and generous giver. When we receive what we have from God, there is no room for complaint, jealousy, or envy. The gifts of God are given to whom he will. Let us die to our own sense of who is just and worthy in God's sight and leave room to be surprised by his generosity. None of us can predict the actions of God.

SEPTEMBER MASS SCHEDULE

5P SAT: OLPH

8:30A SUN: OLPH

10:30A SUN: SJ

The adjective "daily" is found four times in the Gospel of Matthew. Once in the Lord's Prayer (6:11) and three times in today's parable. Perhaps it can be a key to help us discover the secret of God's generosity and justice. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to ask only for "our daily bread." We are not to ask for more than we need, but enough to see us through that day. We are to trust in God's providence to provide again for what we will require tomorrow.

In today's parable, the owner of the vineyard goes out and hires laborers five times throughout the day: dawn, nine o'clock, noon, three o'clock, and five o'clock. Twice we are told what he will pay. To those hired at dawn he promises "the usual daily wage." At nine o'clock he offers to pay "what is just." In Jesus' time it was normal for workers to receive their pay at the end of each day. In the book of Deuteronomy the people are told they must pay their hired servants each day "before the sun goes down, since the servant is poor and is counting on them."

In the end, what the landowner decides is "just" is to pay all the laborers the daily wage needed to support themselves and their families. There is a fullness and abundance in God's mercy and care that will provide what is enough, what is satisfying, for each. As children of the living God, we are to rejoice in his bounty, what is given both to us and to everyone.

Offertory 2020-09-13 OLPH—\$2073.00 Online—\$770.72 / St Jude—\$1267.00 Online—\$1024.20

isaiah 55:6-9 - psalm 145:2-3,8-9,17-18 - philippians 1:20-24,27a

matthew 20:1-16a