

It's Not Fair

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our

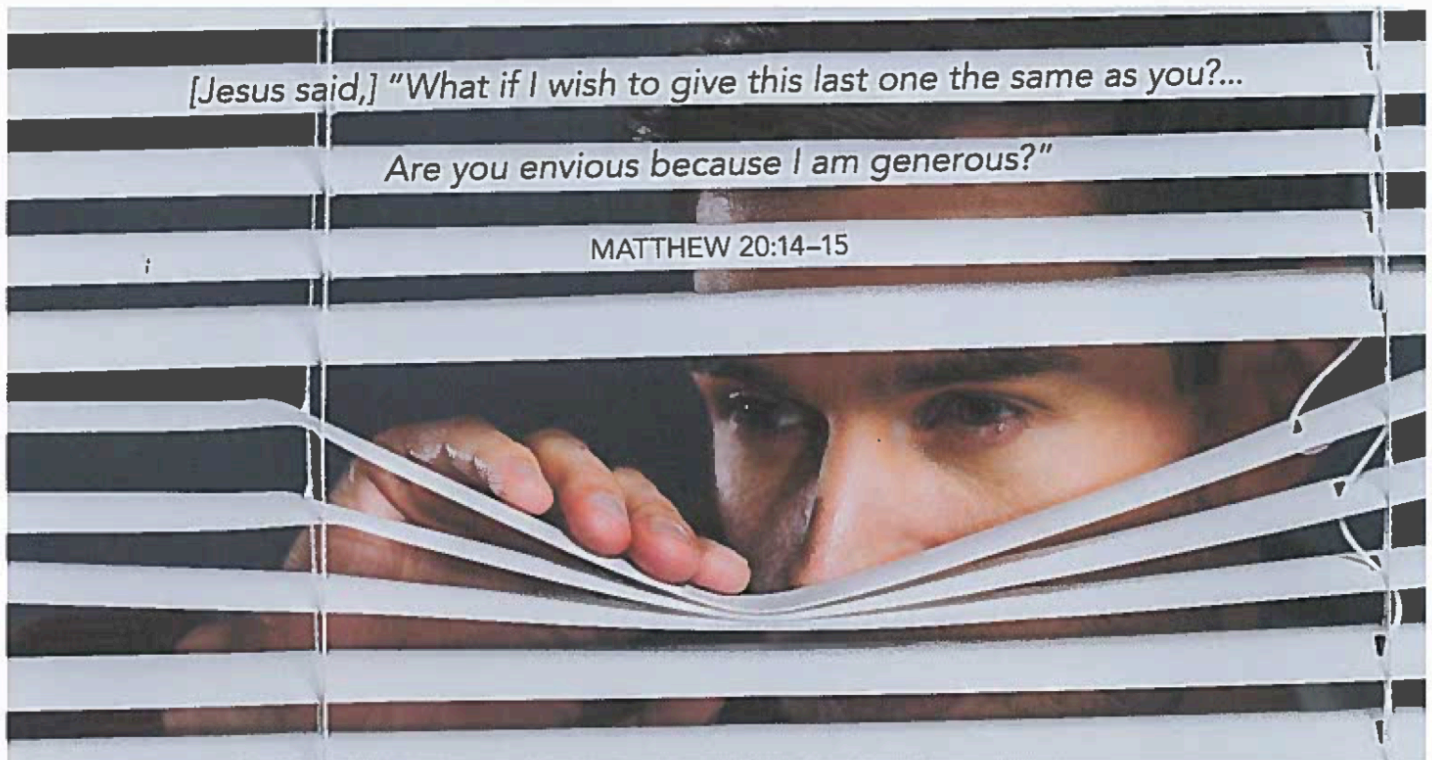
own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The LORD is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Do you resent others who seem to have an easier life? Does this lead you to question God's justice?
- ★ Pray for the insight to realize that we earn nothing; everything is a gift from God.





**St. Martin of Tours
Catholic Community
at Fort Belvoir, Virginia**

Mass Schedule

Monday – Thursday, 1205 at Fairfax Chapel

Saturday, 1700 at Belvoir Chapel

Sunday, 0930 at Belvoir Chapel
1100 at Fairfax Chapel

Pre-Registration is required for weekend Masses.

The link to register is:

[https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/
anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57](https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=563340&k=0767410A7F57)

**The Sunday 0930 Mass is live-streamed
and can be viewed from this link:**

<https://www.facebook.com/FortBelvoirRSO/>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday – 1600-1645 at Belvoir Chapel
or by appointment. Contact Fr. Lindsay directly
to schedule.

For More Information

CH(MAJ) Michael P. Lindsay
Catholic Chaplain
571-266.2086
michael.p.lindsay.mil@mail.mil

Sister Michael Bochnowski,
Director of Religious Education,
703-806-3418
smary.m.bochnowski.civ@mail.mil

Mrs. Louise Oliver,
Catholic Pastoral Life Coordinator
254-449-6417
secondary: FBCCInfo@gmail.com

Website: www.FortBelvoirCatholicCommunity.com

**Facebook Page:
Fort Belvoir St. Martin of Tours Catholic Community**



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Still unsure, watch a video about this
new program by going to:

<https://vimeo.com/451294408>

Catholic Office Space

Because of the ongoing serious mold issues at Woodlawn Chapel, CH(MAJ) Michael Lindsay and Louise Oliver, Catholic Coordinator, have been required to move out of their respective offices.

While we wait to move into our new offices, the best way to contact us is through email.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As our Catholic Community continues to celebrate in-person Masses, the need for ministry volunteers has increased. **Volunteers are needed to serve as:**

- * Eucharistic Ministers
- * Altar Servers
- * Lectors
- * Ushers

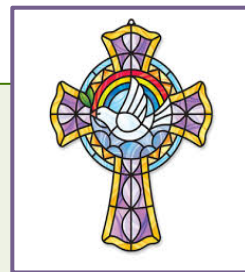
Should you like to volunteer or have questions, please email our new Liturgy Committee email address:
FBCCatholicLiturgy@gmail.com.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will now be offered from 1600-1645, every Saturday, prior to the 1700 Mass at Belvoir Chapel. No reservations are required to go to confession, however, reservations are require to attend Mass.

The confessional is now located in the former cry room. Due to damage at Woodlawn Chapel, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel has also been temporarily moved to that room.

Individual confession is being offered after daily Mass or by appointment. Please contact Fr. Mike directly to schedule an appointment.



Homily Notes

*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 forgiveness.
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.*

(Isaiah 55:6-9)

The immensity and graciousness of God's compassion, mercy and forgiveness is celebrated in today's first reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A quote from Pope Francis in the bulletin challenges each of us to reflect on this generous love that God show his people: "Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us. ('A word from Pope Francis', the Angelus, 24SEP17)

Take some time to read over the Gospel from Matthew 20:1:16. Do we see Jesus reflecting the merciful gaze of God the Father as he looks upon the gathered crowd and teaches them? Do we reflect the loving and compassionate face of God as we look upon our fellow neighbors, friend and others we encounter in our daily lives? Are we truly open to inviting and welcoming them to come and experience the blessing and mercy of God's grace?

Fr. Mike

1st Communion & Mass Registration



Due to COVID-19, religious education classes were cancelled before our children received some of their Sacraments including Reconciliation, 1st Communion, and Confirmation.

Presently, we are scheduling children to receive their 1st Communion during weekend Masses. While this will impact the number of congregants in the Masses, the children and teens, and their families will be able to share the celebrations with our Catholic Community. Thank you for your patience.

Marian Prayer Service
3 October 2020
1800 at Belvoir Chapel



The Knights of Columbus Council 11170 will conduct a Marian Prayer Service to Our Lady of the Rosary after the 1700 Vigil Mass in Belvoir Chapel.

All members of the Catholic Community are welcome to attend either in person or virtually.

The point of contact for more information is Brother Matt Jones

At: M4jr@msn.com.



Dear Padre,

My nephew has a chronic illness. My father is saving money to send to him so he can send it to a faith healer my dad has seen on TV. What can I say to my dad to convince him this is a bad idea?

The Catholic Church teaches that “those who dwell in heaven” regularly intercede with God on our behalf (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 956), and those intercessions include healings.

But living people with the power to instantly heal physical and mental ailments are rare. Some “healers” have accomplices who fake illness or disability and are then “cured” for the sole purpose of getting people to



give money to the “healer.” We should be very skeptical about these claims, because scam artists understand how easy it is to take advantage of people who are desperate for relief of pain or for the cure of a chronic or terminal illness.

One thing is certain: healing ultimately comes from God. Anyone who claims he or she is the healer and not simply God’s instrument is unquestionably a fraud.

Suggest to your dad that he talk to his priest before he sends any

money to the “healer.” The best way for him to help his grandson is to pray for him and donate any money he has saved to an organization that does research into the condition. That way, your father will be helping everyone with the condition—not just your nephew.

—Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.

—ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



Calendar

Monday

SEPTEMBER 21
St. Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13
Mt 9:9–13

Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 22
Weekday
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13
Lk 8:19–21

Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 23
St. Pius of Pietrelcina,
Priest
Prv 30:5–9
Lk 9:1–6

Thursday

SEPTEMBER 24
Weekday
Eccl 1:2–11
Lk 9:7–9

Friday

SEPTEMBER 25
Weekday
Eccl 3:1–11
Lk 9:18–22

Saturday

SEPTEMBER 26
Weekday
Eccl 11:9–12:8
Lk 9:43b–45

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 27
Twenty-sixth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Ez 18:25–28
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5
Mt 21:28–32