

October 1, 2017

**Ordinary Time
Twenty-sixth Sunday**



Turning Our "No" Into "Yes"

Today's gospel, the parable of the two sons is a parable that proclaims God's mercy for sinners. By comparing the responses of the two sons to their father's request, we learn that even if our initial response to God is not what it should be, we can change our minds and submit to God's will for us. We also learn that a verbal "yes" to God without a lived follow-up is no response to God at all.

ALTAR FLOWER BOOKINGS AVAILABLE

October 7/8, 21/22 & 28/29



Do you want to donate flowers for the Altar? You could do this in memory of a loved one, or an anniversary date or for any occasion. To sign up contact Lori

Janecka (Altar Society President) or call the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, October 7
4:30 p.m. Lillie Zimmerhanzel
Sunday, October 8
8:00 a.m. Anton Stryk

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy

Next weekend is *The Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7
Responsorial Psalm: 80
Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-9
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43



Picnic Workers Appreciation Dinner
Saturday, October 7 After Mass

Altar Society Meeting, October 8 After Mass

RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY - OCTOBER 1

Respect Life Sunday is celebrated today. The purpose is to raise consciousness and provide resources on various issues that affect the dignity of human life from conception to natural death.

A THANK YOU NOTE

*Dear Father Gabriel + parishioners,
I was so overwhelmed by the donation from your church. The last two years have been hard. I lost my husband of 40 years and my Mother 2 months ago. To have our house flood and lose all our belongings was one of the hardest things I've ever faced but the outpouring of love + caring in this time of disaster is so uplifting. Thank you so much for helping me. I promise I will never forget your generosity + I will put the money to good use.
God is a caring + loving God + he has a plan for me.*

As stated in last week's Bulletin a Second Collection will not be taken up for the Flood Victims. Parishioners who wish to make a donation to the flood victims may make a check payable to St. Mary's Church indicating Flood Victims.

BREAK TIME

Fr. Gabriel will be away from the Parish for three weekends in this month of October. Visiting priests will preside over the Sunday liturgies as usual. For any pastoral needs do please call the Parish Office in Moulton.

Mass Count: Bishop Cahill has asked that a Mass count be taken up at every weekend Mass during the months of May and October in all parishes of the diocese. Records indicate that on average 225 people attended Mass at St. Mary's on the weekends of October 2016.

REFLECTION

Sustaining A Lifelong Yes To God

Today, the sacred texts invite our serious consideration of the prerogative to say Yes or No.

Ezekiel, in the first reading, was reasoning with his contemporaries in exile who regarded their situation as unfair punishment. The prophet urged them to change themselves, so that they might bear with every circumstance, instead of finding fault with God or casting blame on another. He urged them to say yes to God by turning away from their own wickedness; in that way, they would preserve their lives and find the hope they needed to await their deliverance.

Paul, in his letter to his beloved Philippians, encouraged them to find the strength to say "I do!" to God by following the example of Jesus, who emptied himself to illustrate God's incredible love for sinners. Paul also assured his readers that they would be supported in their good efforts by the love, compassion and mercy they shared with one another in Jesus' name.

In today's Gospel, Jesus addresses the perennial fickleness of the human heart, which often reacts impulsively rather than thoughtfully to God's challenges. An initial "No" can become a "Yes" if grace is allowed to enlighten human reason; a quick, unreasoned "Yes" can become a "No" as it becomes increasingly difficult to sustain a lifelong commitment of faith in God and in service to others. Nevertheless, those who exercise their prerogative to change their "No" to "Yes" or an "I won't" to an "I do" will experience a God who rejoices in their decision instead of reproaching them for their past indecision or poor choices.

As believers in a community of faith, we are aware that our first "I do" came at baptism, whether it was spoken on our own volition or by our godparents on our behalf. This initial "Yes" introduced a series of responses to God's graced calls, which have punctuated our lives with opportunities to love, worship, serve, grow, and witness to the good news of salvation. During every sacramental encounter and with every fervent prayer, our "Yes" to God is made stronger. At our weekly liturgical celebrations, our "Yes" is enlightened by the Word that is proclaimed and nourished by the Bread that is shared.

Certainly, it is right and fitting that our Sundays are "Yes" days. But the challenge for believers is to translate Sunday fervor into a daily habit of agreeing with God in all things. In other words, we are not part-time or weekend disciples. We who belong to God and depend on God for every breath we take are to acknowledge our belonging and use that breath to say "Yes! I do!" to God.

Obviously, the habit of saying "Yes" to God requires lifelong care and constant attention.

OCTOBER - MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY



In October, in a special way, we remember Mary both as Mother of God and as our mother. Let us rejoice that we are children of so great a mother.

The entire month is dedicated to the Rosary. It is a good time to commit to praying the Rosary every day.

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.



Remember to pray for the following intentions:

In Thanksgiving

For Flood Victims

For Justine Velasquez

For Ruben Velasquez

Pray For My Grandkids

For Antbery, ... & Family

Prayers For My Marriage

Pray For Our Family Unity

For David L. To Get Hired on at M2

For Financial Help & For A New House

Pray For My Mom Rita Lechvial (Passed Away 7-23-17)

For Conversion Back to Our Catholic Faith For My Husband, Children & Brothers

– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



October 1 – Richard Niemann

October 2 –Hattie Stryk

October 5 – Brooke Cerny

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



October 1 – Theresa & Dennis Tousek

October 2 – Congratulations Denise & Gary Greive on your 35th Wedding Anniversary

Area Picnics

Today - Sacred Heart Turkey/Dressing Dinner, Flatonia

– **Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival, Hostyn**

– Hungerford, Mentz, Wharton, Bay City

Oct. 8 – Cistern Picnic (Rescheduled)

– Panna Maria, OVL Victoria, East Bernard, Nada