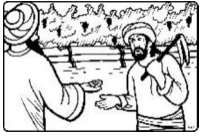


TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



"Are you envious because I am generous?" The landowner in today's Gospel parable surprised everyone. Contrary to standard

practice, he paid all of his laborers the same wage, regardless of how many hours they had worked! Of course this was a very pleasant surprise for those who had begun their job late in the day. And, understandably, it was something of a disappointment for those who had toiled since the morning. From their perspective, they should have gotten more than the others. But in fact, the landowner was not cheating anyone; he was simply being especially generous with the latecomers.

This story would have had a special meaning for the Jewish audience listening to Jesus. They, the Chosen People, were the laborers who had started at dawn. They belonged to the group with a long history of worshipping the true God. Non-Jewish Gentiles, on the other hand, had appeared late in the game. Jesus was making the point that just because he would offer the same salvation and mercy to everyone, there should be no reason for the Jews to complain. They had received their promised Messiah; so what if, in God's mercy, he allowed others who had not waited so long to be saved as well? Divine generosity is not meant to be a cause for jealousy.

Now, we may feel removed from the concerns of those Jews. But the basic lesson remains relevant: that we ought to appreciate God's generosity, even when it reaches to those whom we may not expect God to forgive. Those who have long been faithful, for example, might think they deserve more benefits than sinners who repent late in life. But instead, we should all rejoice to see God's mercy extended to *everyone*, no matter when they joined the fold.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Please Pray For: Shirley Broussard, Reginald Douglas, Sonya Douglas, Leo/Janine Esparza, Rosalind Gardner, Thelma Gardner, Herman Gary, Janet Gary, Kandace Hebert, Florence Johnson, Jeanette Jones, Charles Julian, Mary Jane Julian, Robert Kirkland, Hazel McClinton, Michael Mitchell, Montreal Moore, Cynthia Nolan, Hazel Rem, Sam Roy, John Paul Roy, Stephen E. Roy, Carolyn Softly, Urabell Thomas, Elizabeth Thornton, Mary Ann Willis, Kyle Wright and Bessie Young.

PRAYING THE ROSARY – We pray the Rosary thirty minutes before each Mass. Please join us.

MINISTERS FOR SEPT. 30th & OCT. 1st, 2017 LECTORS

5:00PM *Heartha Boudreaux, Glen Pratt, Reginald Christy*
8:30AM *Rose Reed, Rose Ellis, Wilbert Guidry*
11:00AM *Michael Jackson, Conseulla Broussard, Claire Middleton*

EUCHARIST MINISTERS

5:00PM *Margaret Riley, Ann Terrell, Deborah Thomas*
8:30AM *Tobin Hawkins, McKinley Johnson, Cathy Paul-Steward, Patricia White, Darril Volair, Melina Volair*
11:00AM *Laura Allen, Eranda F. Bassie, Douglas Butler, Maria Jackson, Patrick Ndibe, Randel Sinnette*

ALTAR SERVERS

5:00PM *Carl Cassel, Charleeh Manning, Charleeh Manning, Carleysia Manning, Chamia Manning*
8:30AM *Micah Zimmerman, Ezechukwu Gregory, Brain Stubblefield*
11:00AM *Matthew Edmond*

LIVING FAITH:

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY

Monday: Ezr 1:1-6 * Ps 126:1-6 * Lk 8:16-18
 All their neighbors gave them help in every way...
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12, 14-20 * Ps 122:1-5 * Lk 8:19-21
 They finished the building according to the command of the God of Israel... [and] celebrated the dedication...
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9 * Tb 13:2-4, 7-8 * Lk 9:1-6
 And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them.
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8 * Ps 149:1-6, 9 * Lk 9:7-9
 Herod said, "John I beheaded. Who then is this about whom I hear such things? And he kept trying to see him.
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a * Ps 138:1-5 * Jn 1:47-51
 ...in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise.
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15 * Jr 31:10-13 * Lk 9:43-45
 Pay attention to what I am telling you. The Son of Man is to be handed over the men.
Sunday: Ez 18:25-28 * Ps 25:4-9 * Phil 2:1-11 * Mt 21:28-32
 Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Mon.	7:00 PM	Saturday Choir Practice
Tue.	7:00 PM	Youth Choir Practice
Wed.	1:00PM	Bible Study
	6:30PM	Bible Study
Thurs.	6:30 PM	Bazaar Committee - Cottage
	7:00 PM	11AM Choir Practice
Fri.	8:30AM	School Mass
Sat.		1 st Penance/1 st Communion Day of Reflection

SAVE THE DATE

Ministry Sunday On February 11, 2018. More Information Forthcoming.

Offering for September 16th & 17th, 2017

Regular Offering	\$10,256.08
Mailed in	\$ 260.00
Online Giving	\$ 890.72
Total Offering	\$11,406.80
Capital Improvement	\$ 99.00

Thank you for sharing your blessing!

ONLINE GIVING

@ www.stmaryshouston.net

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND (DSF)

As of 09-21-2017

Parish Goal	\$ 64,000.00
Total Pledged	\$ 21,130.00
Total Paid	\$ 18,038.83
Total Number of Participants	105
Total Number of Households	1065
Paid over (under) Goal	(\$45,961.17)
Pledged over (under) Goal	(\$42,870.00)
Percent Paid	28.19%

My Sincere thanks to those who have answered the call to express God's love and compassion through your commitment to this year's DSF. Please know that you would have made a difference in someone's life by your contribution. Your contribution does matter and I am counting on you to help our parish achieve our goal for the first time ever. I know we can and we must do it because DSF serves many worthy causes. If you haven't responded yet, I urge you to consider offering your support at this time; each gift helps. You may use the envelopes on the tables in the gathering area or you may also pledge and pay online @: www.archgh.org/dsf

Fr. Justin

MASS INTENTIONS

- Sat. 5:00 PM** For our Parishioners
+Vivian Charles by Toni McElroy
Naankwat Riemson - *Happy Birthday*
- Sun. 8:30 AM** +Bennie Morton by Morton, Williams
& Good Family
+Hilda Bergeron by Deacon/Mrs.
Andrew Malveaux
- Sun. 11:00 AM** Hurricane Harvey Victims

DONATE BLOOD, SAVE LIFE

Hurricane Harvey! How can you help? Please sign up to Donate Blood at St Mary's Last Blood Drive for the year; sponsored by the Knights and Ladies of KPC 159 on Sunday, October 8th, 9am - 1:30 pm. You May stop by the table in the Gallery or contact BJ Hawkins @ 832-419-7207 or Angie Spencer @ 713-417-4220 for further details.

HURRICANE HARVEY/ARCHDIOCESE OF GALVESTON-HOUSTON

• Updates from the Archdiocese

For current information about the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston following Harvey, including shelter/donation center info, relief and outreach

opportunities and various other resources, visit www.archgh.org and go to the Harvey update page.

• Archdiocesan Harvey Relief Fund Donations to the Archdiocesan Harvey Relief Fund will support the recovery and rebuilding of Catholic parishes, schools and ministries in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, in addition to helping those in need through our Catholic social service agencies. Visit <http://www.archgh.org/harveyrelief>.

YOUNG ADULT AND CAMPUS MINISTRY

Discovering Love with Clarity:

Knowing One's Soul to Discover One's Soul Mate! Choosing from multiple soul mates is not an easy task for singles, dating or engaged couples. Join other adults of Archdiocese of Galveston/Houston in "Discovering Love with Clarity" series that will change your life and how you understand relationships. September-March at multiple locations: Downtown, North and Sugar Land. More information available @: www.archgh.org/yacm or call 713-741-8778.

NEED PARENTING HELP?

The Office of Family Life Ministry has trained eight professionals around the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston to provide services to parents who are willing and need help raising their children. The program is designed to offer advice, support and formation to parents with common developmental and behavioral problems in children. To obtain more information please contact us at 713-741-8739 or 713-741-8711.

25TH & 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE MASS

The 2017 Wedding Anniversary Jubilee Mass honoring couples celebrating their Silver (25th) Anniversary of marriage in the Catholic Church will be held on Sunday, September 24th, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 3 pm. The 50th Anniversary will be on October 24th, at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at 3pm. For More information and registration please visit online at <http://archgh.cvent.com>.

RCIA

What is RCIA? The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process of preparing and initiating adults and children of Catechetical age into full communion with the Catholic Church through Baptism and/or Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Who Should look into RCIA?

- *Anyone baptized but not as a Catholic.
- *Anyone baptized as a Catholic who did not yet receive First Communion or Confirmation.
- *Any Catholics seeking fuller catechetical knowledge of their Catholic Faith.

Want To Become A Catholic?

You may contact Connie Broussard at 713-747-6080 or you may also call the Parish office for registration and more information.

✠ VOCATION VIEW

Jesus made himself the servant of all.

Am I willing to be a servant for Jesus' people?

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A DIVINE
WORD MISSIONARY OR A
SISTER SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT -
CONTACT 800-553-3321