

The parable of the generous vineyard owner: "Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Matthew 20: 1-16a

The rock of family

A few years ago, writer and poet Mark Nepo was being treated for cancer. In an essay in Spirituality & Health Magazine [May/June 2017], he recalls a transforming moment during that time:

"I was driving north of Monterey on California Highway 1 . . . I was aching and vulnerable, feeling far from home, when, through the harsh onshore wind, I saw a large rock surrounded by the rough, churned-up sea. The rock was covered with all kinds of animals: willets, gulls, cormorants, sea lions, seals, pelicans, otters. All had found refuge from the hammering of the sea: climbing, winging, hauling themselves onto the rock; leaning into each other, lying on each other; finding this rock-oasis of wind and sun; too tired once on the rock to fight or be territorial; each having been wrung out by the pounding of the wet hours.

"I realized this is how we make our way, how we find each other. Every survivor, regardless of what they survive, knows the hammering of the sea, and the rock we find refuge on is an exposed place where we finally accept each other, too tired from swimming to think any longer about territories, too tired to talk except through simple touch.

"The wellness group I attended weekly during my cancer journey was such a rock. The meeting rooms of recovery are such a rock. The thousand quiet rooms of therapy are such a rock . . . For those of us who have been tossed out of the storm, who have hauled themselves into the sun, anything exhausted beside us is family. The hard gift of any storm is that when we're too exhausted to uphold our differences, there's room enough for everyone. When I can accept what we have in common over what sets us apart, somehow my deepest self is mysteriously affirmed and I begin to heal . . .

"We fear the worst we have to offer, when the best is close at hand."

The "rocks" of safety and healing we manage to scramble onto with the help of others contradict the limited perspective of "fairness" of the workers in today's Gospel. Christ calls us to embrace the vision of the generous vineyard owner: to be thankful for the ability to help others find safety during life's storms; to rejoice in the good fortune of others without feeling used or cheated or demanding "Where's mine?"; to be generous and compassionate in making room on our "rock" for those in need of protection. Such a vision frees us from what our yardsticks and actuary tables and market indices determine for us what is "fair," enabling us to realize all that we have received and how much God has blessed us, and compelling us to experience the joy of sharing our treasure with those who have not realized such blessings in their lives.

Sacred Heart Parish

A Stewardship Parish in Love with Christ



Parish Information

Parish Administrator: Monsignor Jim Robertson

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Tues, Thurs 1:00 pm to 5 pm

465 Curling Street
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Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am

Reconciliation: Wednesday after Mass, or by request

Mass During the Week: Tues at 7:00 pm Wed, Thurs, Fri at 10:00 am

Holy Hour of Adoration: Third Sunday of the Month at 2 p.m.

Marriages: Six months' notice is required. A year's notice is recommended.

Baptisms: Celebrated at Weekend Mass after preparation session.

September 24, 2017

25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

RECEIVED WITH THANKS (September 16/17)

Regular Collection	\$ 1674.55
Building Fund	\$ 35.00
Mass Stipends	\$ 50.00
Donations in Memory Cecilia Companion	\$ 160.00
Votive Candles	\$ 59.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Sept 25	No Mass
Sept 26	Jack Neville/Augustus Payne
Sept 27	Molly Brake
Sept 28	Cecilia Companion
Sept 29	Margaret Lacey
Sept 30	Mary (Molly) Brake
Oct 1	Mass for the Community

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
September 30	
Art Hall Linda Tarbett	Joanne Hackett Joan Penney Joanne Connolly
October 1	
Gen Quigley Jen Noseworthy	Elizabeth Carew Brian Sparkes Margaret Dalley
Communion to the Sick	
Joan Penney	

COMMUNION MINISTERS A special meeting of our communion ministers will be held on **Thursday, September 28th at 7:30 pm** in the Church Archives room.

BIBLE STUDY The group will meet in the Church archive room on **Monday, September 25 at 7:00 pm**. We welcome newcomers to join us in 'breaking open the Word.'

PARISH COUNCIL The next meeting takes place on **October 2nd at 7:00 pm** in the Church Archives room.

THANK YOU AND WELCOME

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our members who have finished their 3yr term; Joan Penney and John Noseworthy, their impact on our parish has not gone unfelt. We now wish to give a hearty welcome to our new members; Art Hall and Anna House; and our returning member Brian Sparkes. Welcome!

HUMOUR: TEASING

There was a little boy named Johnny who used to hang out at the local corner market. The owner didn't know what Johnny's problem was, but the boys would constantly tease him. They would always comment that he was two bricks shy of a load, or two pickles short of a barrel. To prove it, sometimes they would offer Johnny his choice between a nickel (5 cents) and a dime (10 cents) and John would always take the nickel — they said, because it was bigger.

One day after John grabbed the nickel, the store owner took him aside and said, "Johnny, those boys are making fun of you. They think you don't know the dime is worth more than the nickel. Are you grabbing the nickel because it's bigger, or what?"

Slowly, Johnny turned toward the store owner and a big grin appeared on his face and Johnny said, "Well, if I took the dime, they'd stop doing it, and so far I have saved \$20 worth of nickels! "

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

In our First Reading from the Book of Isaiah, God reminds us that He does not think in the same way that we do. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts." That is quite clear in our Gospel today from Matthew, which relates the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.

In the Gospel parable, God (who is represented by the landowner) does something which from our human perspective may seem unfair and unjust. What we must keep in mind is that the landowner did not treat anyone unfairly. He may have seemed more generous to some than to others, but again that is from our perspective.

We can be absolutely certain that God will never be unfair to us. The Lord may bestow greater blessings on others, some of whom again from our perspective may seem less deserving. God is a righteous God. Through stewardship we acknowledge that everything comes to us from God. All our blessings may seem to be more or less than we deserve, but if we are grateful for what we have and what we are, we will then recognize God's generosity and His grace.

The important thing to us should not be and cannot be whether we are first or last. What is central is that we are part of the Kingdom of God. That should be sufficient for us. We get into trouble when we conclude that God should think the way we do.

4YOUTH

Do you know what a martyr is? A martyr is a person who was put to death because he or she believed in Jesus Christ. On September 26, the Canadian Catholic Church celebrates the feast day of the Canadian martyrs. Did you know there were Canadian martyrs? Do you know who they are? They were eight Jesuit missionaries, between the ages of nineteen and thirty-nine, who were tortured and killed in the mid-17th century in Canada. Visit www.martyrs-shrine.com and click on "The Story of the Martyrs" to find out a little bit about each of them.

2017 CCCB PLENARY ASSEMBLY

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) will hold its annual Plenary Assembly at the Nav Canada Centre, Cornwall, Ontario, in the Diocese of Alexandria-Cornwall. from September 25-29, 2017. The meeting will be chaired by the Most Reverend Douglas Crosby, O. M. I., Bishop of Hamilton and President of the CCCB, who will finish his term as President at the end of this Plenary. Please pray for Bishop Hundt and his brother Bishops as they embark on these important meetings.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Our Men's Group has rescheduled the erection of our Mount Cecilia Cemetery sign. It will be out in place on **Saturday, September 30th**. Sorry for any inconvenience.

BINGO

Our Ladies Group will be hosting our next bingo on **Sunday, October 1st @ 2pm** in the school cafeteria. Prize donation lists are posted in the rear of the church for last names E-M. We thank you for your support!

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

The monthly SSVP collection will take place next weekend, September 30 - October 1. We are grateful for your continued support.

MARYS KITCHEN

During the month of August, Mary's Kitchen served 149 meals, the meals were served by the Prayer Group with St. Vincent de Paul members volunteering 40 hours time. The cost of running the kitchen in August was \$708.32. During the month of September, the CWL of Sacred Heart Parish has been the host group. Next month it will be Immaculate Heart of Mary School's turn. You are reminded that the Poor Box collection will be taken up at the Masses next weekend.