

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

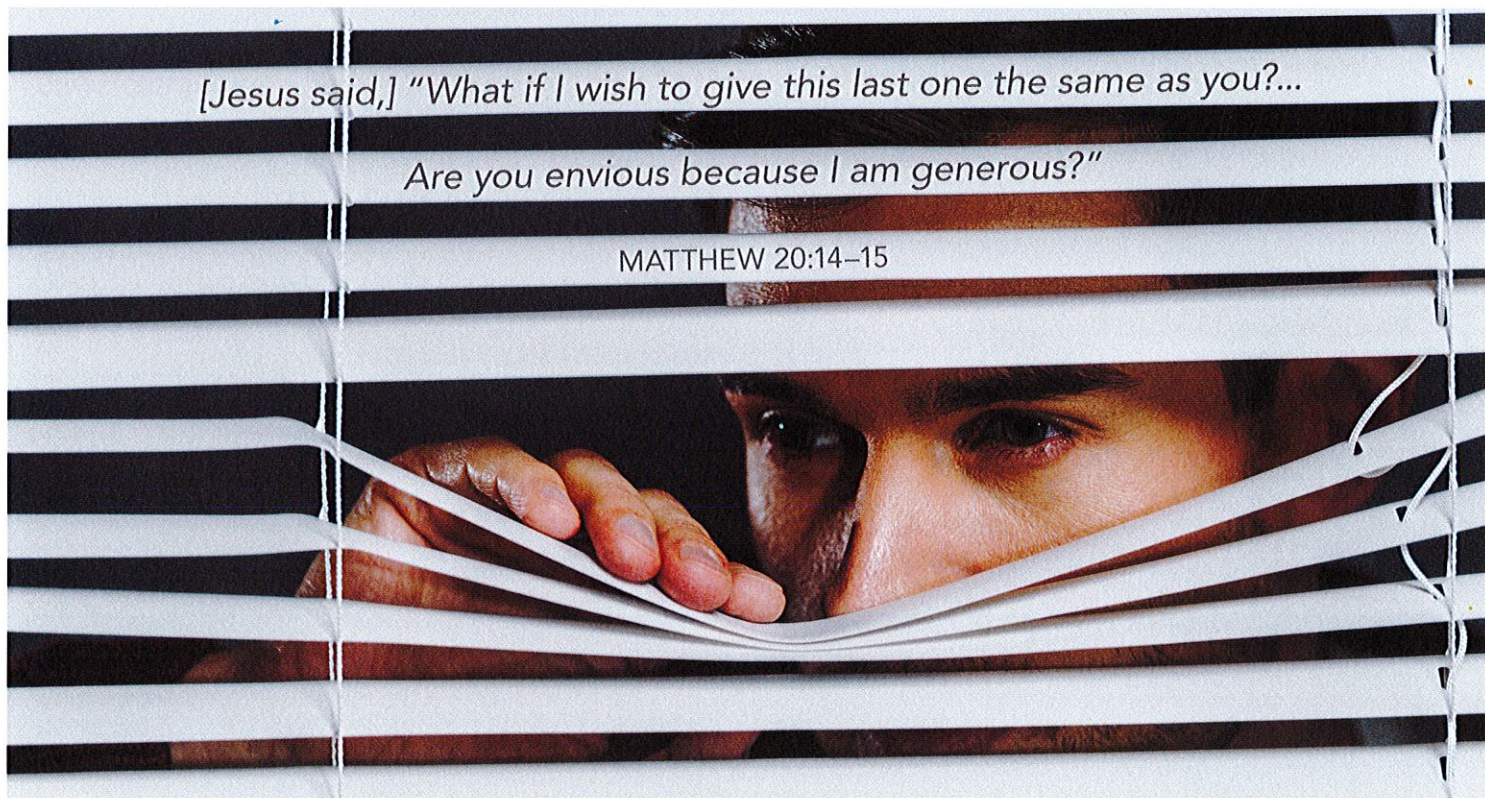
FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ 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.

[Jesus said,] "What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?..."

Are you envious because I am generous?"

MATTHEW 20:14–15



LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

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



ROMOLO TAVANI/SHUTTERSTOCK



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



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



159th YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Austin(Augustine) Okoli, Pastor | e-mail kesisi2@yahoo.com | Deacon Wayne Korte | Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper/Secretary | 573.564.2375 Parish Office

imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm **Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM**

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb- President; Open-Vice-President; Secretary-Open, Dennis Benney, Laura Yelton, Vicik Parker, & Mary Pottebaum

September 20, 2020 - TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

Monday, Sept. 21st	No Mass
Tuesday, Sept. 22nd	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, Sept. 23rd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, Sept. 24th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City +Marian Busken
Friday, Sept. 25th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, Sept. 26th	5:00 PM Mass - Montgomery City +Paula Reiter
Sunday, Sept. 27th	7:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City - Our Parish



Family

(No Mass if there is a funeral or school has been cancelled.)

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Church/School Financial Report:	Income	Expenses	Difference
August 2020	\$56,148.11	\$ 37,784.70	\$18,363.41
Fiscal Year July - Aug. 2020-21	\$113,624.01	\$ 91,049.68	\$22,574.33
Needed Weekly	\$ 11,835.50		
September 6 -	\$ 11,957.77		
September 13 -	\$ 6,864.74		
September 20 -	\$		
September 27 -	\$		

Last Week's Envelopes: 46 of 179

With God all things are possible

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30 to 4:50 PM Saturday or call for an appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Celebrated during Mass or at another arranged time. Call the parish office to set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Austin.

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exit in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

Liturgical Ministers for September 26th and September 27th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 11:00 AM
Lector	<u>No ministries will be assigned at this time.</u>	
Children's Liturgy		
Communion Ministers		
Ministers of Hospitality		
Servers		
Gift Bearers		
Money Counters		

Bishop McKnight's September prayer intention for our Local Church is:

For children deprived of a safe and healthy home, that they experience the love of God through the care and concern shown by Catholics.

Weekly Mass Schedule

Monday, September 21st	No Mass
Tuesday, September 22nd	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, September 23rd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, September 24th	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, September 25th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, September 26th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City - Introduction of Confirmation Students
Sunday, September 27th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City - Introduction of Confirmations Students

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, September 21st	
Tuesday, September 22nd	6:15 PM - School Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 23rd	6:00 PM - Administration/Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 24th	
Friday, September 25th	11 AM to 1PM & 4:30 PM to when food runs out - Harvest BBQ
Saturday, September 26th	
Sunday, September 27th	6:00 PM - Confirmation Class



Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

Lowell & Katherine Owen - 5years of marriage on Sept. 19th
Bob & Kim Dryden - 33 years of marriage on Sept. 19th
Ty & Courtney Cothren - 17 years of marriage on Sept. 20th
Ritchie & Gayla See - 16 years of marriage on Sept. 24th
Mike & Jenidean Readey - 39 years of marriage on Sept. 25th

Additional Financial Information

Capital Improvement	\$ 10.00
Capital Campaign (Cornerstone)	\$ 50.00
Special Collections:	
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 0.00
Catholic Missourian	\$ 0.00
Donations	\$ 0.00

Harvest BBQ



Our Parish Harvest BBQ will be here before we know it! By now parish families should have received their letter with raffle tickets enclosed.

Tickets sold may be turned in at the parish office in the message box or any of the committee members. If you are willing to help that day, especially during the day, please contact Dianne Talley at (573) 564-2359 or (573) 590-3158. "We are better together!"

NO PARKING



Please do not park in the street facing the MFA gravel lot anytime during harvest season. Trucks hauling grain need room to maneuver on and off the scales.

Parish School of Religion (PSR) Classes

An informational meeting for students in 1st-6th grades AND their parents will be Sunday, September 13th. The meeting will be at the church at 9:15 a.m. and will discuss class schedule, class curriculum, registration forms, etc. A letter was sent to all parents last week with additional information. Questions: call Dottie Brueggen at (573) 564-2183

There will be choir/chimes practice Monday, September 21st, 6:30 p.m. at the church.

Worship & Spiritual Development Meeting Overview

- September 19-20 - Catechetical Sunday observed - recognize Catechists.
- Book of Beloved Dead - names to be added during October. Book to be displayed in November.
- Prayers of the Faithful - Names of who died since November 1, 2019.
- November 2nd - Feast of All Souls - a "Parish Event" at St. Mary's Cemetery.
- Discussion on when/if singing will resume at weekend Masses.
- Discussion on Prayers of Faithful.

Capital Campaign Committee Update



The Capital Campaign wants to share that they hope to see the new roof going on the church by sometime next week! Our total in collections and pledges is \$196,316. We appreciate your prayerful consideration in our process.

Thought for the day

Happiness comes from within

Immaculate Conception School News



MUMS for Sale!! It is that time of year to decorate your home with an abundance of colorful mums. Mums are for sale thru September 30th. The cost is \$9.50 per plant and \$5.00 per mum will be donated back to

IC School. They are in one gallon containers and you may choose from an assortment of colors. You may purchase tickets at the school.

Friday, September 18, 2020 early dismissal at noon for professional development.

Home and School Meeting Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. at the KC Hall.

ECLC Happenings

There are currently openings in the ECLC and Pre-school. If you are interested or know of anyone who may want to enroll their child, please contact Mrs. Peggy Brower at (573) 564-2679.



IC Scrip Program - IC Scrip Program - Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another. There are a few ways to obtain the cards. **You may go on line to www.ShopWithScrip.com Enrollment code: 676419AC74L7, purchase them at the school office or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. If you have any questions, you may call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**



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40 Days for Life begins Sept. 23

From Sept. 23 – Nov. 1, you're invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You're also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside Columbia Planned Parenthood, 711 N Providence Rd, and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. If you'd like more information – and especially if you'd like to volunteer to help with your on site time, talent or treasure, please contact Kathy Forck 573-821-5130 or visit www.40daysforlife.com/columbiamo.

FERTILITY CARE - Instruction continues to be offered by Zoom. The Introductory Session is always complimentary. This class is of interest for marriage preparation, infertility, medical applications from adolescence to menopause, regular or irregular cycles, breastfeeding and fertility appreciation for all ages. Contact FertilityCare Services of Columbia, Phyllis A. White, CFCE 816-550-8789 or FertilityCare.CoMo@gmail.com

Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

Fall Festival - Sunday, September 27, 2020, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Our Lady, Help of Christians parish, Frankenstein, MO. For more information see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.

Octoberfest - Sunday, October 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Parish Grounds in Martinsburg, MO. For more information see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the vestibule.



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New Procedures for Visiting the Chancery Office

If you intend to come to the Chancery office in person, you must have an appointment in advance with the person you intend to meet. Please note the Chancery will be screening all guests with a health questionnaire and temperature check. This is for the safety of all.

Employment Opportunity

St. Joseph in Fayette is hiring a part time **DRE (Director of Religious Education) and community/campus outreach person**. This person will be responsible to run our PSR, confirmation, and adult education programs. You will also need to have the skills to develop our electronic footprint (web page and social media), with a special focus on Central Methodist University students. All applicants must be Catholic and in good standing with the church. This position is 20 hours a week with starting pay \$13.50 to \$15.00 an hour, depending on qualifications. Contact Fr. Bill Peckman 573-338-0061.

Taize Prayer Sept. 30 in Lake Ozark

Taize Prayer will take place at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church, 2411 Bagnell Dam Blvd, Lake Ozark, on **Wednesday, Sept. 30, 5-6 p.m.** You may enter through the front doors of the church. We kindly ask that you wear a mask. For more information, please contact the Music Office at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church at 573-365-2241.

Please keep in your prayers the following people:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Susan Ryan.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Nick Schneider, John Goodwin, Marlene Cunningham, Mackenzie Hagemeier, Julie Thielmeier, Don Benney, Susan Schipper, Valerie Readey Neudecker, Angela Witthaus Keller, Karen Clark, Gina Smith, Virginia Cochran, Jo Scott, Bobby Cochran, Mary Hertel, Joshua Cochran, Anita Jones, Jim Cochran, Jr., Jim Cochran, Sr., and Lynn Cunningham Duncan.



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Travis Thebeau, Jacob Merz, Daniel Lohmann, Jared Korman, Tom Kraust, Tim O'Fallon, Brandon Benney, Gary Frey, John Burce, Chris Burce, Jacob Jones, Matt Veder, Michel James, Michael Adams, and John Martin.



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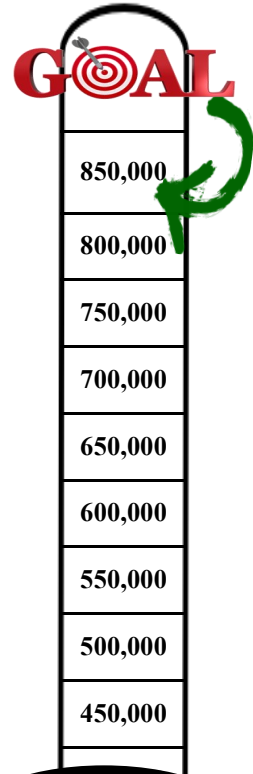
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