

The readings this Sunday speak **USING THE IMAGE VINEYARD**. In fact, each reading has a significantly different focus on the vineyard image. The first reading is focused on the vineyard itself: it is the vineyard that fails, and Prophet Isaiah tells us, “*the Lord’s vineyard is the house of Israel*”. The church reminds us that we –the Church– are the people of God, the vineyard of the Lord, and this invites us to ask ourselves two important questions. First: are we, as persons, yielding an acceptable harvest? Second: are we, as Church, helping to bring about God’s reign?

In the Psalm the focus is on the vineyard’s owner; the psalmist expresses the hurt of feeling abandoned by God the owner, “*why have you abandoned your vineyard?*” Often, we as individual persons, feel also abandoned by God?

The gospel’s parable is focused on the tenants: it is they, who have failed, not the vineyard and not the owner. The owner did care for the vineyard, “*He planted a vineyard, put a hedge around it, dug a wine press in it and built a tower*”. The vineyard itself did yield a harvest that truly belonged to the owner, who was entitled to claim his part of the harvest. But the tenants grew greedy. They knew that, if the owner were to die without an heir, the law would give them the vineyard. So they killed the heir.

The parable is about faithful stewardship and about hardness of heart seen in the tenants. The religious leaders rightly understood it as addressed to them. But let us not forget that it is also addressed to us as stewards of the gifts we have received. Let us not be tempted to be selfish with the gifts of God; let us humbly regard God’s claim on it, be good and responsible administrators.

Fr. Michael



Las lecturas de este domingo hablan **USANDO LA IMAGEN DEL VIÑEDO**. En efecto cada lectura tiene un enfoque diferente y significativo sobre la imagen de la Viña. La primera lectura se enfoca en la Viña misma: es la viña que falla, y el profeta Isaías nos dice, “*La Viña del Señor es la casa de Israel*”. La iglesia nos recuerda que, nosotros – la Iglesia – somos el pueblo de Dios, la viña del Señor, y esto nos invita a preguntarnos dos cosas importantes. Primero, como personas, ¿estamos haciendo una cosecha aceptable? Segundo, como Iglesia, ¿estamos ayudando a construir el reino de Dios?

EL enfoque del Salmo es en el propietario de la viña; el salmista expresa el sentimiento de dolor del abandono de Dios – el propietario, “¿Porque has abandonado tu viña?” Muy a menudo, nosotros como individuos, ¿nos sentimos también abandonados por Dios?

La parábola del Evangelio se enfoca en los que la tienen, los inquilinos, son ellos quienes fallan, no la viña o el propietario. EL dueño cuida de la viña, “*El planto una viña, puso una cerca alrededor, cavo una prensa de vino y construyo una torre*”. La viña misma llevo una cosecha que verdaderamente pertenece al dueño, quien estaba con todo el derecho de reclamar su parte de la cosecha. Pero los inquilinos crecieron ambiciosos. Ellos sabían que, si el propietario se muriera sin heredero, la ley les daría a ellos la viña. Entonces, ellos mataron a su heredero.

La parábola es sobre la fidelidad del administrador, y sobre la dureza de corazón vista en los inquilinos. Los líderes religiosos correctamente lo entendieron así como se dirigieron a ellos. Pero, no olvidemos que, es también dirigido a nosotros como administradores de los dones que hemos recibido. No seamos tentados a ser egoístas con los dones de Dios; humildemente consideremos el reclamo de Dios sobre él, seamos buenos y responsables administradores.

Padre Miguel

~ AREA NEWS ~

IT' TIME FOR HIGH TEA! — Catholic Daughters cordially invites all to enjoy HIGH TEA on Saturday, **October 28th, 2-4:00pm** (doors open at 1:00pm), at St. Mary Parish Center (1062 Charnelton) ... tickets: \$20/Adult, \$15/Senior, \$10/child (12 and under). Come enjoy, and help out our local Catholic Daughters in this fundraiser!



HEALING MASS — Come experience the Lord's healing love! This Healing Mass is on Friday, **October 27**, at St. Mary Catholic Church (Eugene), at 7:00pm. Celebrants will be: Bishop Peter Smith, Fr. Ron Nelson, Fr. Edgar Rivera, & Fr. Bryce McProud. Sponsored by La Esperanza Ministry and St. Mary Charismatic Prayer Group. For info, contact Jacqui at 541-513-2607, or Dave at 541-689-8070.



Youth: Tuesdays
7:00pm @ St. Mark

Kids: Thursdays
6:30pm @ St. Peter

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION AT MASS

AND TO THE **SICK AND HOMEBOUND**

with **Monsignor Gerard O'Connor**

New Director of the OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP for the Archdiocese of Portland

~ ALL ARE WELCOME! ~

Where: St. Alice (1520 E Street / Spfld.)

When: October 28th (Saturday)

9:30am Mass + refreshments after

10:20am Presentation

Please RSVP to St. Mark (541-689-0725) or St. Peter office (541-688-1051)



FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WORKING ON SUNDAYS

Nehemiah was a Jewish layman, devoted to God, who longed to see God's law kept by his people. Through Moses, the Lord had commanded the Israelites to keep holy the Sabbath day—that is, to set aside a particular day each week for worship and rest (Ex 20:8-11). So Nehemiah rebuked them for treating this sacred day like any other, working at their normal business (Neh 13:15-22).

Scripture suggests that a regular day of rest is actually part of the “rhythm” of creation. In the poetic language of Genesis, God, himself, is pictured as “resting” on the 7th day — can we do any less? The Lord also insists that we give the same privilege of rest to family, employees, guests, and even laboring animals (Ex 20:10; 23:12). Today, the Church continues to call us to a weekly Sabbath. But now, in honor of Jesus' resurrection on a Sunday, this 1st day of the week becomes our time for rest and worship, what the early Christians named the “Lord's Day” (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor 16:2; Rv 1:10).

Those who take the Sabbath (in Hebrew, “to cease”) seriously have found it a welcome respite. In a society often driven by a compulsion to work, produce, and succeed, this weekly day to stop all that provides a humbling reminder: We are not the ones who keep the world turning!

What should be avoided on the Sabbath? “On Sundays and other holy days of obligation,” the *Catechism* teaches, “the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body (CIC can. 1247, CCC 2185)”.

Isn't work on Sunday sometimes unavoidable? The *Catechism* continues: “Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest. [But the] faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life and health” (CCC2185).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Ex 31:15-17 • Lv 16:29-31; 23:3,24,26-38 • Dt 5:12-15 • Is 56:2; 58:13-14 • Mt 12:5; 28:1 •

Mk 1:21; 2:27-28; 3:4; 16:1-2 • Lk 24:1 • Jn 7:23; 9:14,16; 20:1 • Acts 2:42-46 • Heb 4:9

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