

From the Desk of the Pastor

September 20, 2026

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

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## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus used parables in his teaching for a particular purpose. In our Gospel today, He shows how God continually surprises us and does things quite differently from the way we would ever think of doing. There is always 'a surprise ending', an unexpected twist that required hearers to challenge their way of thinking and doing things in a new way in order to get to the point of the parable. That new way of thinking was meant to startle his audience into entering into a whole new experience of reality, an experience that he calls "the kingdom of heaven".

St. Matthew records the parable of a merciful, generous landowner: He encounters five sets of workers, who are sent to work at five very different times all through the day. The workers hired at dawn are promised the 'usual daily wage'; those sent at nine a.m. are promised a 'just wage'. The landowner apparently promised the same to the rest of the laborers hired later on.

The paradigm in the story startles everyone when the day comes to an end and it is time to pay their wages. He pays all of his workers the same wage, regardless of how little they have worked. That 'surprise ending' did not make sense in the day-laborer economy of Jesus' time, and it would have made the story seem absurd.

But the 'twist', and the point of the story is the shift in perspective from "fair" to "necessary" for the laborers who worked only a few hours. Their families still needed to be fed, no matter how few hours the laborers had worked. It is their need to which the landowner responds with magnanimous generosity, rather than what they have done to deserve their wages.

To suggest that God is like the landowner and that God's reign will be an experience of that kind of compassionate, unconditional grace is truly Good News.

Jesus invites his hearers to enter the kingdom by accepting the "twist" in his parable, that is, by casting their lot with his way of living in a world of gracious mercy and compassionate forgiveness – a world where it is not our paltry contributions that bring us our own salvation, rather it is God's overflowing mercy which simply reaches out to us in our need.

Therefore, the Gospel challenges to us to be as generous as God is - "gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness".

## VIGÉSIMO QUINTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Jesús utilizó parábolas en su predicación para un propósito en particular. En nuestro Evangelio de hoy, Él muestra cómo Dios nos sorprende continuamente y hace las cosas de muy diferente manera a lo que pensaríamos hacer. Siempre hay un final sorpresivo, un giro inesperado que les requiere a los oyentes retar su manera de pensar y hacer las cosas de una manera nueva para llegar al punto de la parábola. Esa nueva forma de pensar era para asustar a su audiencia a entrar en una nueva experiencia de la realidad, una experiencia que Él llama "el Reino de los cielos".

San Mateo registra la parábola de un terrateniente misericordioso, generoso: se tropieza con cinco grupos de trabajadores, que son enviados a trabajar en cinco tiempos muy diferentes durante todo el día. Los trabajadores contratados en la madrugada se les promete el 'salario diario habitual'; aquellos enviados a las 9:00 am se les promete un 'salario justo'. El terrateniente aparentemente le prometió lo mismo al resto de los trabajadores contratados posteriormente.

El paradigma de la historia sorprende a todos cuando el día llega a su fin y es hora de pagar sus salarios. A todos sus trabajadores les paga el mismo sueldo, sin importar que tan poco hayan trabajado. Ese final sorpresivo no tenía sentido en la economía del jornalero del tiempo de Jesús, y habría hecho que la historia apareciera absurda.

Pero el 'giro' y el punto de la historia es el cambio de perspectiva de "justo" a "necesario" para los obreros que trabajaron sólo unas pocas horas. Sus familias todavía necesitaban ser alimentadas, sin importar que tan pocas horas los obreros habían trabajado. Es su necesidad a la que el propietario responde con generosidad magnánima, en lugar de lo que hayan hecho para merecer sus salarios.

De sugerir que Dios es como el terrateniente y que el Reino de Dios será una experiencia de ese tipo de compasión, gracia incondicional es realmente una Buena Nueva.

Jesús invita a sus oyentes entrar al Reino aceptando el "giro" en su parábola, es decir, por emitir su lote con su manera de vivir en un mundo de gracia misericordiosa y perdón compasivo – un mundo donde no es nuestras contribuciones miserables que nos traen nuestra propia salvación, sino que es la misericordia abundante de Dios que simplemente llega a nosotros en nuestra necesidad.

Por lo tanto, el Evangelio nos reta a nosotros a ser tan generosos como es Dios - "clemente y misericordioso, lento para la ira y de gran bondad".

### UPCOMING 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTIONS

September 20: Church of Latin America

September 27: Priests' Retirement

October 4: Reserve Fund

October 11: Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

### A A A 2026 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal

We urge you to help us meet our goal:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Parish Assessment: | \$32,295.00 |
| YTD we paid:       | \$14,780.65 |
| Balance we owe:    | \$17,514.35 |
| Pledges Balance:   | \$ 439.00   |

Thank you for your generosity!

### LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

September 7 — September 13, 2026

Weekday Masses Offerings.....\$ 211.14

Weekend Mass Offerings.....\$1,903.00

Archdiocesan Annual Appeal.....\$1,957.00

San Lorenzo Ruiz 9-day Novena

The Filipino Community is sponsoring a 9-Day Novena in honor of their patron Saint, San Lorenzo Ruiz starting on

Sunday, September 20th and ending on Monday, September 28th.

On weekdays from Monday to Saturday, we'll begin with the morning Mass at 9am, followed by the daily recitation of the Rosary and the Novena Prayers.

On Sundays, the Rosary will begin at 9:15 am, followed by the Novena Prayers before the 10am Mass.

We invite everyone to come, join and sponsor in support of the day-to-day expenses of our Church. The Sponsorship Envelopes will be made available after Mass.

Thank you for your generous donations and care of St. John the Evangelist Church!



Mass Intentions Book for 2027 is Now Open

You are invited to come to the Parish office with your request for Mass Intentions for the year 2027. Please bring a written list with all the names, mass dates and times that you would like to request along with the stipend. The process is on a “first come, first serve basis”.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco has traditionally regulated Mass stipends for announced and unannounced mass intentions. The suggested donation for an announced mass is \$10.00; for an unannounced intention it is \$5.00.

Mass intentions are published in the Parish bulletin with the deadline for printing are on Monday afternoons. The Parish Office is open for business from Monday to Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

El Libro De Las Misas Para El Año Nuevo 2027 Ya Está Abierto

Usted está invitado a venir a la oficina de la parroquia con sus intenciones de Misa para el año 2027. Por favor traiga una lista por escrito con todos los nombres, fechas y horas que desea solicitar junto con su donación. El proceso será más rápido si usted tiene esto listo antes de venir a la oficina.

La Arquidiócesis de San Francisco ha regulado tradicionalmente las donaciones para misas anunciadas y no anunciadas. La donación sugerida para una misa anunciada es de \$10.00; para una intención no anunciada la donación sugerida es \$5.00.

Las intenciones de misa se publican en el boletín parroquial con la fecha límite para imprimir el lunes por la tarde. La oficina parroquial está abierta de lunes a viernes de 8:30am a 5:00pm.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 12 TO SEPTEMBER 19

| SATURDAY                                                    | SUNDAY                                                                                 | MONDAY                                                                         | TUESDAY                                                       | WEDNESDAY                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 19, 2026                                          | September 20, 2026                                                                     | September 21, 2026                                                             | September 22, 2026                                            | September 23, 2026                                             |
| <u>9:00am</u><br>Living Members of<br>Young Mens' Institute | <u>8:00am</u><br>✠ Medino & Eufacio Ermitaño<br>✠ Lisa Carriola<br>✠ Zenaida De Guzman | <u>9:00am</u><br>✠ Ramon Berry<br>Eliana De Guzman ✠<br>Mama Mikaela Cordova ✠ | <u>9:00am</u><br>✠ Candida V. Ramirez ✠<br>✠ Sergio Velasco ✠ | <u>9:00am</u><br>Deceased Members of<br>Young Mens' Institute  |
| <u>4:30pm</u><br>Parish of St. John                         | <u>10:00am</u><br>✠ Mr. & Mrs. Perfecto Hierro, Sr.                                    | THURSDAY                                                                       | FRIDAY                                                        | SATURDAY                                                       |
|                                                             |                                                                                        | September 24, 2026                                                             | September 25, 2026                                            | September 26, 2026                                             |
|                                                             | <u>12:00pm</u><br>✠ Pedro Lepe, Jr.                                                    | <u>9:00am</u><br>Parish of St. John                                            | <u>9:00am</u><br>✠ Steve Leonoudakis                          | <u>9:00am</u><br>✠ Fr. Vincent Hughes, OFM<br>✠ Patrick Murphy |
|                                                             |                                                                                        |                                                                                |                                                               | <u>4:30pm</u><br>✠ Richard Silva ✠                             |

