

## Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 20, 2020

Turn to the LORD for mercy;  
o our God, who is generous in forgiving.

— *Isaiah 55:7*

### DIRECTION

Isaiah tells us something that we already know, and yet seem to forget every now and then. He tells us, essentially, that God is God and we are not. When we're confused and troubled and can't figure everything out, it might be wise to recall Isaiah speaking on the Lord's behalf and explaining that God—who is on a much more, well, Godly wavelength than we are—moves in ways we can't even imagine.

Saint Paul, by comparison, has everything figured out. Kind of. At least he understands his calling in life—to magnify Christ in everything he does. That should give all of us the direction we need. Jesus gives us direction, too, explaining to us once again in the parable of the workers in the vineyard that the last will be first, and the first, last.

### WEEKLY OFFERING

BUDGET \$1351.00

SEPT 13h

\$1305.00

B&M

\$40.00

SEPT. 27 2020

LECTOR

JEFF



### St. Regina's Church Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

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### Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello ,  
Emanuel Milligan, Leonard Humble ,  
Martha Jo Neuenschwander , Judy Hendricks  
James and Ann Ferebee , Genevieve Schachle

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Turn to the LORD who is generous in forgiving (Isaiah 55:6-9).

**Psalms** — The Lord is near to all who call upon him (Psalm 145).

**Second Reading** — Live your lives in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ (Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a).

**Gospel** — The last will be first, and the first will be last (Matthew 20:1-16a).

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Over time, the severe form of one-chance penance collapsed under lack of enthusiasm for its burdens and its public nature. As ordinary Christians prayed for the great sinners, it must have occurred to them that they were sinners no less, and they required a form of penance also. The Irish came to the rescue, never having had a public form of penance, but inventing a system called "tariff penance," which was completely private, available to everyone, and wildly popular. After a detailed confession, priest and penitent would lie on the floor before the altar and recite a number of psalms. The priest then pronounced a judgment, a tariff, giving a task or a prayer to complete before reconciliation.

The surviving guidebooks for confessors make for hair-raising reading as the sins of which the Irish people were supposedly capable were catalogued and keyed to penances. Cattle or sheep rustling might require stripping down to sing psalms in an icy brook, for example, or adultery could be the occasion for rolling in a thicket of thorns. All of this might have stayed in Ireland had not the monks had a desire to travel, blazing across Europe with their theology and their rituals, and their sense that Christians needed strong medicine for sin and the assurance of God's forgiveness.

### Decree from the Most Reverend Bishop David Talley:

And so, as of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2020, please know the following:

FIRST of all, please note that the dispensation from the obligation to attend holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation will end on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October. As all know, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate at Mass (canon 1247)". Starting with the weekend liturgies of 10-11 October, I ask all Catholics to renew the spiritual obligation, to join in fellowship at their parish for holy Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation. We need to come back to the Sunday celebration of holy Mass. We need to come back to the strength of each community of faith.

All C.D.C. guidelines for personal hygiene are to be followed (hand washing and sanitizing). Facial coverings (masks) are to be worn while at the parish or mission, through the 15<sup>th</sup> of November.

## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13

Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13;  
Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9;  
Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc;  
Lk 9:7-9

Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4;  
Lk 9:18-22

Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17;

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Matthew

Tuesday: Autumn begins

Wednesday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)

Saturday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian;  
Blessed Virgin Mary