

SEPTEMBER 24, 2023
**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

We are recipients of the Lord's abundant mercy and generosity.

The moral of today's Gospel parable seems so blatantly unfair. The workers who put in a whole day's work and sweat receive the same wage as those who were there for only one hour? It makes us want to ask, "Jesus, what's going on here?"

And then we remember that envy and discontentment say everything about us, and nothing about what God is doing here. So what is happening in this parable? First, it's helpful to key in on Jesus' use of the phrase, usual daily wage. This was not a great sum by any stretch of the imagination, but subsistence money. It was just enough to live on.

All of the workers, then, needed that wage in order to supply their families with food for the day. Whether they were fortunate enough to get work first thing in the day or later in the day, the amount of money the hired workers had to earn in a day in order to survive did not change. The last group in today's parable must have thought that God answered their fervent prayers that someone, somewhere, would at least give them work before the day was through. They probably expected to receive only pennies for their labor. What a shock to get a "living wage" with which to return to their families!

The point then, it seems, is not about our sense of fairness or justice, but about the behavior of the landowner. He does not act like most owners; his generosity is ... well, scandalous. He offers a living wage to all who work for him, even the one-hour laborers. He understands what it takes for these workers to be able to subsist: to care for their families, eat, pay taxes, and have the self-respect and dignity of work.

When we understand that the landowner is representative of the kingdom of heaven, it starts to make sense. We get a glimpse of the good Lord who offers salvation. It is salvation available to anyone who enters the vineyard, at any time, and is not diminished for one by its distribution to another. The Lord does not offer "partial" salvation, and it is certainly not salvation that we "deserve."

No, he offers the salvation that he knows we need and desire. We are recipients of the Lord's abundant mercy and generosity. His mercy is so outstanding that we can hope only to know, love, and serve him all the days of our life. And whenever someone wakes up to his offer, they are blessed. We have no cause to be envious of the good fortune of another, for ours is equal in measure and justice. Rather, we can praise God for his continuous mercy to us. After all, serving in his kingdom is not drudgery; it is love and grace – all that we could ever hope for – all the days of our life.



REV. M. J. BERNARD DORÉ, PASTOR
 DEACON FERNANDO BOTELHO, DEACON ASSISTANT
 116A DANIELSON PIKE · FOSTER, RHODE ISLAND 02825
 PHONE (401) 647-3664
 EMAIL: CHURCH@STPAULSFOSTER.ORG
STPAULSFOSTER.ORG

OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	September 23
8:30 AM	Men's Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	September 24
8:00 AM	Mass: Bruce Green (RIP)
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00AM	Mass: Anthony Lena (RIP)
Monday	September 25
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Margaret J. Forrest (RIP)
Wednesday	September 27
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Leon Pelletier (RIP)
Friday	September 29
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Mass: Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Mass: Esther & Tom Belcher (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

2023 Catechism Classes

Registration forms have been mailed home. **Please return them asap.**

Sunday October 1, there will be a **Family Meeting at 9am** to discuss this year's catechism program. Families will receive the class schedule and catechism books. This will be followed by the 10AM Mass in which your young people will take part.

Catechism Registration Sponsor

Thank you to all those who have expressed interest in sponsoring a child in the Catechism program? We truly appreciate your support.

Family Catechesis

*The Gospel
for All Ages*

God Abounds in Love

Did your brother or sister ever get allowance when they did not do their chores? It can feel unfair when someone gets paid when they did not work as hard as you did. Jesus says, "The last will be first, and the first will be last." Jesus is generous. He reminds us there is room for everyone in his Church and in Heaven.

Life Question: When have you received more than you deserve?

Gospel Question: What makes a person first or last in our society? In God's eyes?

Family Prayer:

Dear Jesus, show us how to put others first. Remind us that you love all of us and want us to love each other.

Senior Priest Retirement Fund

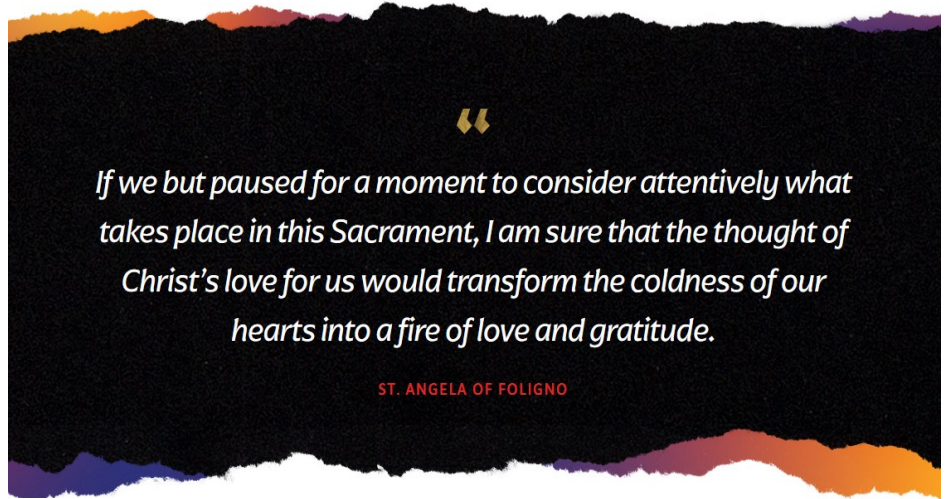
Last week's second collection was for the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. Thank you for your support of this critical effort to provide for senior priests in their retirement years – years many priests continue to spend very active in ministry.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Sept 16/17
\$2,856.00

Sr. Priest Retirement – Sept 16/17
\$1,484.00

Thank you for your support!



ST. ANGELA OF FOLIGNO

It Starts with a SPARK

We believe God wants to do something NEW in the Church. By the power of Jesus in the Eucharist, we believe we stand on the precipice of revival. But revival is not something that WE do. It is a sovereign act of God in response to the prevailing prayers of his people.

Join us in praying for revival with the Spark Series—nine short daily reflections inviting you to open your heart to the renewal God desires.

Get Involved: How Will You Respond?
(eucharisticrevival.org)

First Things FIRST

There are many ways to get involved in this movement, but personal renewal has to come first. These nine days of prayer will ignite your desire for transformation and instill a vision for the healing grace God wants to unleash in our world.

What's in the Spark Series?

Each daily reflection is designed to create time to pause from our busy lives and recall the goodness of God. We encourage you to move slowly through these nine days with openness, cultivating greater awareness of God's presence in your life.

Revival Spark Series

9 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Welcome to the Revival Spark Series! You're about to enter into nine days of prayer focused on preparing your heart for revival. As you walk with the Holy Spirit during this time, be open to how he wants to speak to you about encounter, healing, mission, and mercy, all flowing from a love for the source and summit of our faith: the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

While we recommend praying all nine days in a row, if you miss a day, don't get discouraged and don't give up! Remember that our enemy wants to keep us from prayer, but Jesus is always waiting for us to return to him with open hearts. If at any point you're struggling to pray, tell Jesus about that too! Ask for Mary's intercession, and if possible, try to go to an adoration chapel so you can be with Jesus in person.

Above all, expect God to work in amazing ways in your life as you surrender yourself more deeply to him. We're excited for the spiritual fruits you will experience from this prayer journey!

