

26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

But Moses answered him,

"Are you jealous for my sake?

Would that all the people of the LORD were prophets!" (Nm 11:29)

Psalm:

The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart. (Ps 19)

Second Reading:

The cries of the harvesters

have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. (Jas 5:4b)

Gospel:

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him ?

For whoever is not against us is for us." (Mk 9:39a, 40)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of September 30, 2018

Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 [9a]/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

Monday: Jb 1:6-22/Ps 17:1bcd, 2-3, 6-7 [6]/Lk 9:46-50

Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23/Ps 88:2-3, 4-5, 6, 7-8 [3]/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16/Ps 88:10bc-11, 12-13, 14-15 [3]/Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27/Ps 27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14 [13]/Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5/Ps 139:1-3, 7-8, 9-10, 13-14ab [24b]/Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17/Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 [135]/ Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [cf. 5]/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

Observances for the Week of September 30, 2018

Sunday: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin & Doctor of the Church

Tuesday: The Holy Guardian Angels

Wednesday: - - -

Thursday: St. Francis of Assisi

Friday: Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest

Saturday: St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Next Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

September 30, 2018 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we go about our days, we necessarily label, classify, and prioritize. What's "in" and what's "out" on our priority list? Because humans are social beings, we tend to do the same thing with people. We can only invite six people to the dinner party. Our young child wants to invite certain friends to her birthday, but we're keenly aware of who the parents are, and the prospect of spending several hours with them is enough to give us pause.

In today's Gospel, Jesus' disciples face a classification problem. They've seen another person driving out demons in the name of Jesus. They recognize him, a non-Apostle, as clearly "out." And yet "Jesus replied, 'Do not prevent him ? whoever is not against us is for us.'" Jesus recognizes real faith in the would-be exorcist. In our own lives, Jesus invites us to recognize others' good intentions. They should not be cut off simply because they do not line up with all our personal preferences. What, then, is deserving of such a fate?

"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off ? if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out."

When his listeners blame others, Jesus tends to pivot the conversation to their own lives. In this case, the message is clear. What we really need to cut out is that which keeps us from Jesus. If over-commitment causes us to lose patience with our family, doubt God's providence, and become consumed with self-reliance, cut something out. If certain friendships lead us time after time into gossip and slander, cut it out. In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to live intentionally in our discipleship. Are we ready?

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Whoever is not against us is with us. Is your image of God bigger than the labels and categories into which we often place Him? God has been acting in our world from the beginning of time and has been intimately wedded to creation for thousands of years before the creation of humanity. Did you ever consider that God was present when dinosaurs traveled the earth? God's presence surprises us, but He can be clearly seen when people, regardless of their faith or creed, rise to the occasion and do the right thing. We have seen this countless times throughout history when people have put their differences aside, sacrificing their own security and needs to help others. God is much larger than we make Him out to be. Try to be present and mindful and not miss God working in all moments of life. If we are not attentive, God's presence can go unnoticed.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

My oldest son is named Nathanael. We used the biblical spelling of his first name, and he has spent his entire life of 20 plus years having to correct people who try to spell his name. Those who have not met him before have no idea for sure how to spell his name. Of course, when we named him, we gave him a name that not only his friends would know him by, but by which God would know him.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells Nathanael that he is "a true child of Israel." Nathanael wonders how Jesus knew him. Jesus knows him before he even speaks to him. Jesus knows us and calls us to believe in him. However, do we know him enough to be willing to follow him?

Many of our sons and daughters believe in Jesus. We believe in Jesus. He knows us all better than we know ourselves. But do we truly know him? Do we have a genuine relationship with him? Have we allowed him to transform our lives? I know my son believes in Jesus. I believe in Jesus. I hope and pray we both can grow to know Jesus at least half as much as he knows us.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Today's reading recounts stories of jealousy and envy that occurred under Moses' leadership during Israel's 40 years in the desert. How does your faith community deal with this type of tension among members?

Second Reading

James levels some scathing indictments against the rich in his community. How do James' words evoke an examination of conscience for you?

Gospel Reading

Jesus warns his disciples to avoid ascribing false motives to fellow believers. How do you prevent yourself from falling into this trap?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

Love can accomplish all things. Things that are most impossible become easy where love is at work.

--St. Therese of Lisieux

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

I've heard that we become angels when we die. Is this what the Church teaches?

Answer: As human beings, we are both spiritual and corporeal. We are body and soul. This makes us unique in all creation. No other physical creature -- plant or animal -- possesses an immortal soul made in God's image and likeness. Like the distinction with plants and animals, angels have an entirely different sort of existence. Angels are pure immortal spirit, and they have been so since the moment of their creation. While they may take on an appearance of a body in Biblical history, they are not a body like we are. Angels are neither male nor female, despite the art we often see.

As the result of the Fall, human beings experience death. Our souls are temporarily separated from our bodies. However, we do not become something other than human. Every Sunday in the Creed we profess "I believe in the resurrection of the body." As Jesus was united with his body on the third day, so, too, will we be united with our bodies at the end of time.