

# Sunday

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 15, 2019

**T**oday's readings are about God's mercy. Moses begs God for mercy for his "stiff-necked people" and God relents in the punishment he had threatened. The penitential psalm acknowledges our sinfulness and pleads for mercy. In his letter to Timothy, we hear Saint Paul's confession that he was "a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence," but received mercy (1 Tim 1:13).

And then there is the gospel. Jesus is hanging out with sinners and the righteous are irritated by the company he keeps. Jesus tries so hard to tell these righteous ones that they are like the shepherd's ninety-nine sheep or the woman's nine coins. He knows where they are and that they are his. It is the one straying sheep or the one lost coin that he is going after. And to illustrate this quality of mercy even more, he tells the parable of the Prodigal Son, so named because of the prodigal (wasteful) spending of the son, but perhaps misnamed for all these years. Perhaps it should be called the Prodigal Father, because he is so lavish in his love, in his offering of mercy.

Shakespeare wrote perhaps the most beautiful words about mercy in his play, *The Merchant of Venice*: "The quality of mercy is not strained. It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath. It is twice blessed. It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes." In this context, "strained" means forced (or constrained) for mercy must be freely given.

MERCITATION  
Mercy, unlike justice, is by its nature, undeserved. Because it is undeserved, an act of mercy can have enormous effect. Perhaps you've seen the play or movie *Les Misérables*, based on the book by Victor Hugo. Because of one act of mercy the protagonist is humbled and driven to become the most merciful of men. Because of another act of mercy, the hero's enemy is driven to suicide. It is suicide to reject mercy, and yet we are all tempted, like the elder son, to demand justice for our enemies, forgetting that we are all saved by mercy alone.

Paige Byrne Shortal  
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## Notre Dame Parish



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Office Hours: 9-12noon - 1-4pm, Monday to Friday

Telephone: (250)782-3456 Fax: (250)782-7373

Web Site: <https://notredamedc.ca> Email: [nddc@shaw.ca](mailto:nddc@shaw.ca)

Mass Times: Tuesday & Thursday - 12:10pm, Wednesday & Friday - See Bulletin

Saturday - 7:30pm, Sunday - 10:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday - 6:30pm - 7:00pm or by Appointment

### PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Fr. Venerando Sabacan Secretary: Pauline Bates

Office Volunteer: Yvonne Becotte

### SCHOOL STAFF

Principal: Mrs. Terri Haynal Secretary: Gen Cabrera

Phone No: (250) 782-4923

September 15, 2019

Keeping tabs

Few parables are as well known as the prodigal son. We see ourselves in that humbled son who trudges back home to be joyously welcomed. What a glorious reunion it would be. And how indignant we are with the elder brother, when he complains about the welcome feast. What a petty, selfish, *human* reaction.

The elder son isn't evil, he just has a bad case of "keeping tabs." Ever since his younger brother left, the elder has had more responsibilities, more work, more pressure. By now he's got a list of resentments as long as his arm. Every time he felt overwhelmed, he conjured up an image of his younger brother, enjoying a free-wheeling independent life. It wasn't fair. And now when the little brat shows up, empty-handed he gets a *party*? It's a feeling we're all familiar with, if we're honest. But today's gospel reminds us the party is for our Father who found His lost child, not to reward the weaknesses of our brother. As we face the prodigals in our own lives may we remember to celebrate their return with joy, not jealousy.

Mass Intentions for the Week	
Tuesday	Cathie Carver
Wednesday	George Lajeunesse
Thursday	Margaret Lowther
Friday	Violet Thomas
Saturday	Repose of the souls of ND Parish benefactors
Sunday	Intentions of Notre Dame Parish

Ministries – Sept 21, 2019 - 7:30pm	
Ex. Ord. Min Comm	G. Juell
Lectors	G. Apolonio Jr, G. Lagasse
Servers	Y. Becotte, S. Kinnear, C. Depositari
Ushers	K. & D. Blocka, R. Roy
Greeters	
Ministries – Sept 22, 2019 - 10am	
Ex. Ord. Min. Comm	J. Shaw
Lectors	L. Arndt, R. St. Pierre
Servers	L. Norman, T. & M. Williams
Ushers	W. & E. Rath, A. Palfy
Greeters	S. Willich, S. Rodgheiro

**Church Foyer Cleaner: G. Stanek**

**Baptism of children:** Contact the Parish Office (even prior to the birth of your child) about the process for Baptism for parents & godparents.

**Marriage:** Couples wishing to be married in a Catholic Church should contact the Parish Office at least 6 months prior to their wedding date.

**RCIA:** Any persons wishing to join the Catholic faith please contact the Parish Office



- Sept 17** 10:15am CTW Bible Study  
12:10pm Mass  
6:30pm ND School Council
- Sept 18** 10:30am Mass - Rotary Manor  
3:30pm RCIA – For Teens  
3:30pm RCIA - For Adults
- Sept 19** 12:10pm Mass  
3:15pm 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation/1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist Classes  
7:30pm “Symbolon” Part 2 Faith Study
- Sept 20** 10:30am – Seniors’ Mass/Luncheon  
3:15pm Confirmation Classes  
7:00pm Movie-Unplanned
- Sept 21** 10am Rosary/Stations of the Cross  
6:30pm - 7pm Reconciliation  
7:30pm Mass
- Sept 22** 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
10am Mass

**PARISH SICK LIST:** Please pray for....  
Gerry York, Rose Palfy, Carol Dufour, Margaret Lowther, Cathie Carver, George Lajeunesse, Violet Thomas, Bill Thomas, Isabel Ong, Fr. Eric Swearigen, Bernadette Redgate, Jane Spent, Jerome Reschny, Sandra Hoisington, Cheryl McLeod, Daxin Holloway, Jaspar Judge-Dokken, Al Pickering  
(Names will be removed after 1 month unless contacted)

### Food Banks

Please remember that food banks are always in need of donations. There are baskets in the foyer for anyone wishing to drop off their food items to the Food Banks.



### What is courage?

Courage is a sensing  
That in spite of pain and sorrow  
God will see us through today  
And meet our needs tomorrow

**DIOCESAN CONVOCATION** to be held October 3 - 4, 2019 at the Diocesan Pastoral Centre. Founder of Catholic Christian Outreach Andre Regniér, will be the presenter. All members of the diocese are invited and welcome to attend. To register go to: <https://www.pgdiocese.bc.ca/2019-diocesan-convocation/>



The movie “Unplanned” will be shown on Friday, September 20 at 7pm in the church lobby. Admission is by donation.

### FAITH STUDY PROGRAMS

Whether you are looking to grown in your Faith or just learning about the Catholic Church for the first time, *Symbolon* will take you through a journey into the timeless beauty and truths of the Catholic Faith and reveal God’s incredible love for us—the story of our salvation!  
*Symbolon* – part 2 will be starting up again this year. It will be once a month – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:30pm at the church. First meeting is Thursday, Sept. 19.

**BIBLE STUDY – Starting Sunday, Sept. 29, at 3pm in the meeting room of the Church**

**Ministry Appreciation Supper  
September 27 at 6pm  
Make sure you sign up!**

**Camp Emile AGM**  
Sept 21st at 10.30 am  
Camp Emile - Moberly Lake  
Address for Camp Emile,  
6740, Mission Road,  
Moberly Lake, BC



**Seniors Mass & Luncheon**  
Friday, September 20, 2019  
at 10:30 am



If you need a ride, please contact the Parish Office by Thursday, February 19



Knights of Columbus  
“Pancake Breakfast”  
September 22



Breakfast will be served immediately following 10am Mass in the School Gym.

Cost: by donation

All proceeds go towards the KC Bursary and the ND School Bursary.

### Times of Stillness

When the rush of life overtakes me,  
And my soul for quiet seeks,  
When my mind is full of pressures  
That pursue me through the week,  
I have a little haven  
Where I find my heart’s content,  
And the quiet that surrounds me there  
Is truly heaven sent.  
For we all need times of stillness;  
To relax and just unwind,  
And let go of small resentments  
That clutter up our minds.  
So, I seek the soothing quiet  
To my haven, safe I trod,  
And alone there in the silence,  
I feel very close to God!  
Jean E. Moore