

GOD OWES US NOTHING AND YET HE HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING, PLACING US FOREVER IN HIS DEBT

DEBT

Everyone has a sense of justice – that voice of conscience that tells us what is right and what is wrong. You might feel it’s an injustice at work when someone gets the promotion you felt you earned. In school, the student who studied hard for the test and got a C certainly doesn’t like the one who didn’t prepare at all and got an A. When we see someone we feel to be less deserving walking around with a pocket of blessings, we might ask God, “Why them and not me?”

Would we ask the same question if we saw someone who was dying, paralyzed or who just lost their job? It’s doubtful.

The parable in Matthew’s Gospel is a challenge for all of us. Our first instinct is to take sides with those laborers who sweat it out all day and didn’t make any more money for their efforts than those who just showed up to collect a check at the end of the workday. Insult is added to injury when the last get paid first and those who worked longest and hardest are made to wait. This kind of generosity shocks some and angers others. Our parents raised us to believe in an equal day’s pay for an equal day’s work.

This parable raises more questions than it answers. Why did the landowner keep returning to the square to pick more workers for his vineyard? In Israel at harvest time, it was essential to bring in the crops as fast as possible before the flooding fall rains set in. Why do those men stand around all day? They had no property. No power. It was the luck of the draw. They waited in hopes that someone would employ them so they could afford to feed their families.

God is much like the landowner – generous in forgiving as Isaiah said in today’s first reading. We owe Him a debt we can never repay. The Lord doesn’t charge some more than others. He sent His Son to die for all of us. God owes us nothing, and yet He has given us everything, placing us forever in His debt.

All the men called to work in the vineyard were equals – they all had hungry mouths to feed. The landowner had mercy on all of them, giving them what they needed – not what they earned. This shows us how God has loved us in Christ. We are called upon to be as giving and forgiving of others as God has been to us. God loves all of us equally – the cradle Catholic the same as the convert, the sinner as much as the saint, every person in every pew.

God calls all of us to labor in His vineyard of mercy, and to conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

RCIA

Tuesday, September 26th is the final date to register for RCIA. If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about our Catholic Faith, please come to the RCIA room upstairs in Nativity Sacred Heart Center Tuesday from 6:00 p.m. until 7:15 p.m. Please spread the word and encourage many people to come as this is our final week for registration. We ask for your prayers in sending them to us and in leading them during their faith journey this year. For more information, please call Penny or Greg Payne at 365-6348.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Mon Sep 25** Ezr 1:1-6, Lk 8:16-18
- Tues Sep 26** Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20, Lk 8:19-21
- Wed Sep 27** Ezr 9:5-9, Tb 13:2, 3-4, 7-8, Lk 9:1-6, 1 Cor 1:26-31, Mt 9:35-38
- Thur Sep 28** Hg 1:1-8, Lk 9:7-9
- Fri Sep 29** Dn 7:9-10, 13-14, Jn 1:47-51
- Sat Sep 30** Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a, Jer 31:10-13, Lk 9:43b-45, 2 Tim 3:14-17, Mt 13:47-52
- Sun Oct 01** Ez 18:25-28, Phil 2:1-11, Mt 21:28-32



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	8,246.00
<i>Nativity Maintenance</i>	\$	827.00
<i>Capital Improve.</i>	\$	80.00
<i>Nativity Elem.</i>	\$	86.00
<i>Miscellaneous</i>	\$	732.75
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	9971.75
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING

NATIVITY PARISH RESPONSE TO THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY:

We want to thank our Parishioners for your response to the Emergency Collection for Victims of Hurricane Harvey. The supplies donated were overwhelmingly generous as well as collections that exceeding \$16,000.00. Thank you again for your generosity.

NATIVITY YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth in grades 6-12 are welcomed and encouraged to join! Upcoming schedule: Sunday, September 24: Youth Mass @ 5:30 p.m. followed by a meeting and dinner in the Youth Hall (located on the Northwest corner of the Sacred Heart Center). Saturday, October 7: Overnight Lock-in @ Altitude Trampoline Park, Hwy 49 in Gulfport. 11:30 p.m. - 6:30 a.m. Cost - \$20 per youth (covers jumping fees for the night, pizza @ 1:00 a.m. and Do-nuts @ 6:00 a.m. Sunday, October 22: Youth Mass @ 5:30 p.m. followed by a meeting and dinner in the Youth Hall. If you are interested in joining Youth Ministry or have questions, please contact Kristy Arguelles by phone, 228-324-9934, or email, nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com

THANKSGIVING HOME GIVEAWAY!!!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY. Tickets are now available in the Church and Church rectory. Tickets are \$100.00. This new home is here in Biloxi! Let’s make this a great fundraiser for our St. Vincent de Paul.

WELCOME CHILDREN’S CHOIR

We welcome our Cathedral Children’s Choir this Sunday at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. A particular thanks is extended to the parents for your commitment to their faith development

<p>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS</p> <p>Sep 30 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Helen Languirand 4. Kalin Lloyd 5. Liz Joachim</p> <p>Oct 1 7:00 am 1. Marcia Mayfield 2. Colleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh</p> <p>9:00 am 1. Barry Gilmore 2. Belinda Corley 3. Maggie Landry 4. John Brauchle 5. Bobby Weaver</p> <p>11:00 am 1. Johnny Williams 2. Sondra Williams 3. Susan Toche 4. Judy Steckler 5. Sandy Steckler</p> <p>5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Angela Cannon 3. Teresa Ballinger</p>	<p>LECTORS</p> <p>Sep 30 4:00 pm Michael Bruffey</p> <p>Oct 1 7:00 am Joe Koonce</p> <p>9:00 am Steve theobald</p> <p>11:00 am Rhonda Clark</p> <p>5:30 pm Maggie Landry</p> <p>CANTORS</p> <p>Sep 30 4:00 pm William Endicott</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY MASS 2:00 P.M. Phil Frisby</p> <p>Oct 1 9:00 am Peter Abide</p> <p>11:00 am Rocky Greathouse</p>	<p>ALTAR SERVERS</p> <p>Sep 30 4:00 pm Simon Randall Sofia Carreon</p> <p>Oct 1 7:00 am Makayla Pfarrer McKinzy Mathis</p> <p>9:00 am Trent Fulton Annabelle Tarrant Brennan Tarrant</p> <p>11:00 am Hadyn Hollis Cameron McDonnell Terren McDonnell</p> <p>5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Sydni Wells</p>
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MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Sep 25	Jerry O'Keefe	Leonardine Curry.
Tue	Sept 26	Collins-Sims Fly.	George Krebs
Wed	Sep 27	Louis Germanis	Jeanne Harbison
Thur	Sep 28	Patricia Powell	June O'Gea
Fri	Sep 29	Herbert/Bertha McDonnell	Fr. Dennis Carver (SI)
Sat	Sep 30	<u>8</u> -Dan Williams	<u>4</u> Richard Wells
Sun	Oct 01	<u>7</u> -Dan Williams	<u>9</u> - F. T. P.
		11 C.S.A. (SI)	5:30 Patsy Smolcich

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Hugh Kavanagh, Buddy Pullen, Candy Widener, John Pat Skrmetti, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich, and Karen Skremetta.

DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY MASS

The annual Diocesan Anniversary Mass with Bishop Louis Kihneman officiating will be celebrated next Sunday, October 1st, 2017, at 2:00 PM with a reception following.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Mark your calendars! The annual Blessing of Pets will be held at Nativity School on Wednesday, October 4th at 8:15 a.m. This wonderful celebration, on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, will be held at the school – rain or shine!

*It's not too late! You have nine chances to win! The next drawing for the \$3,000 Nativity School Raffle will be held on Thursday, October 5th. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please contact any Nativity School parent, call the school office (432-2269) or purchase through the school's website (www.nativitybvm.org)

*Nativity School students are fortunate to have many opportunities to experience the Fine Arts: Drama Club (Arts Alive), Music classes with Mr. Terry, Choir (gr. 3-6), Cantor Corps (gr. 3-6), Violin/piano lessons with Dr. Tim Bergman (K-6), band lessons with Mr. Bruce Garner (gr. 4-6) and the Mississippi Fine Arts Grant Artist in Residence (gr 4-6)

*Mark your calendars! The 59th annual Nativity BVM School Carnival will be held on Saturday, October 14th from 1:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on the school grounds.

MUSIC MINISTRY NOTES:

NATIVITY'S CHILDREN'S CHOIR RETURNS:

*CCD Children's/Youth Choir Program begins Wednesday, September 27th – 6:30 p.m. – Academy of Sacred Heart.

*Calling all Singers – the Cathedral's Sanctuary Choir needs YOU!

*The NEW Fine Arts – "Year-Round" Cathedral Concert Series seeks sponsorships. Can you help?!?!

*TERRY D. MADDOX: Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454. E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM HURRICANES

Father, may all the elements of nature obey Your command. Calm the storms that threaten us and turn our fear of Your power into praise of Your goodness. Grant this, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sept 25 Women of Mary at 5:30 p.m.
- Sept. 26 -Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.
RCIA at 6:00 p.m. in the RCIA Room-SHC
- Sept 27 - Cleaning Team "B"
Seashore Oaks Mass, 3:00 p.m.
CCD -5:30 p.m. SHC
- Sept 28 Greenbriar Mass, 10:00 a.m.
Workshop for Lectors, 6:00 p.m. Cathedral

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for September 26th: Brignac (Derek & Christa), Broussard-Widel (Misty Broussard), Burke (Sam & Sarah), Butterfield (Tammy Maderia), Byers (Robert & Jennifer), Callegari (Matthew & Jackie) and Canon (Ryan & Summer). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN	#204
OFFERTORY	#434
COMMUNION	#324
SENDING	#616

CCD!

Our CCD teachers are looking forward to welcoming new and returning students to our program! Please contact Barbara Ziz at 228-918-9778. CCD classes are on Wednesdays, from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center.

WORKSHOP FOR LECTORS!

Father Colten Symmes will oversee the Workshop for the new and current Lectors. The date for this workshop is September 28th, at 6:00 p.m., in the Cathedral.