



## THE UNBEARABLE JUSTICE OF GOD

Did it ever occur to you that the vineyard owner in today's Gospel-parable (Mt. 20:1-16a) could have saved a lot of hard feelings had he simply paid the longest-working laborers first? After 12 hours of toil, they probably wouldn't have hung around to see what the others were going to get paid. But, then Jesus wouldn't have had a maddening story. So, we should probably ask what he wanted to teach us. The set up Jesus created leads us to two questions: "What kind of a landowner is God, and who would be happy to work in his vineyard?"

The landowner Jesus depicts is persistent. He himself goes out at dawn to find people who need the work he has to offer. He returns to the labor market four more times. It seems, as if, the primary focus of his day is on finding workers: he goes looking before and after breakfast, before and after lunch, and finally just before supper time. Finding his workers seemed to be more important than eating! By early afternoon, any observer would have been catching on to the fact that this master had a great deal more interest in employing the people than in the amount of work they could accomplish.

The owner who kept going out must have understood that, with each successive trip, he was apt to find less and less desirable workers. His dawn-hires were probably the men who appeared to be the strongest, the ones who got up extra early and could well have been hired by others, if not by him. As the day wore on, the workers still waiting were the consistently unchosen. Perhaps, they had been from market to market hoping to be found, but to no avail. Everything points to the fact that for this master, the workers mattered more than the work.

The early birds had no complaints at the moment of their hire. The situation was uninspiringly normal. They went to the labor market that day and got a job right away "for the usual daily wage." Unlike the late hires, they didn't have to endure hours of worry speculating where they should go next, wondering whether or not they would get a job today? tomorrow? Each time the owner returned to the market, the people he encountered were a little more anxious, and therefore, a little more grateful when he hired them. Those who had waited the longest were surely the most thrilled at finally being chosen.

The parable doesn't canonize any of the workers, although it surely suggests that some ended up far more grateful to the owner and far more willing to work for him again. What's the parable really about? Just what Isaiah said, "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above ours." We all hope for justice. The question: from whose perspective do we understand it?

### PRAYER REQUESTS

We are asked to remember in our prayers:

Janine Hoffman, Adrienne D'Amato,  
P. Snead, Lori Lesutis,  
William Denny, Carol Luty,  
Michael and Andrew McCaughey.

Please call the Parish Office (610-525-0147) if you would like to request yourself or a family member be put on our prayer list for the next 4 weeks. You can also make a request that the prayers of the community be renewed for another 4-week period as often as needed or desired.

**Baptisms:** We welcome to our faith community Rory Anthony Callahan, son of Joseph and Jennifer, who was baptized in our Church recently.

**Deceased:** We pray for the happy repose of the souls of John Suria and Teresa Sullivan and for the consolation of their families.

### H.O.P.E

If you need a trip to the doctor, shopping, etc., call Carol Way at 610-525-5817 or S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234.

### SENIOR COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The Senior Members of our Parish will gather on the afternoon of **Friday, September 29 at 12 noon** in the Social Center of the school building. If you plan to join us for a relaxing and community-building afternoon, please bring your usual lunch nourishment. Beverages and desserts will be provided by the members who have already volunteered to do so. If you are not among the volunteers this month, please come and enjoy time with others.





### COMMUNAL ANOINTING MASS

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on **Saturday evening, October 7 at the 5:00 p.m. Mass.** The name of the Sacrament, Anointing of the Sick, tells us that the sacrament is for those who are sick, not just for the dying. It is a sacrament of healing, and the Church wants us to ask for this sacrament before we are at the point of death. It instructs all those who minister to the sick that great care and concern should be taken to see that those of the faithful whose health is impaired by sickness or old age receive this sacrament.

Please come to church in plenty of time to be registered for the sacrament and helped to be seated in special places for the priests to anoint you. People will be on hand by 4:30 p.m. to welcome you to this special celebration.



### MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVER

We are grateful to all those who have participated over the years in the ministry of Altar Server. Several of our Altar Servers have recently moved away from the parish because of their work or their going to school out of the area. We are now in need for more volunteers to become Altar Servers. It is a great opportunity for people to be able to offer their service in the Liturgy, especially young people. This ministry is open to all people who are at least in the fourth grade or older, all adults included.

If you would like to volunteer as an Altar Server, please contact Fr. John Deary at 610-525-0147, ext. 252.

### PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT

If there is anything you would like to bring to the attention of the Council by way of ideas, suggestions or concerns, please call Colette or Steve Sutton [colettesutton309@yahoo.com](mailto:colettesutton309@yahoo.com) or 610-520-2501.

### STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE for September 16, 2017

In today's Gospel, the vineyard owner says, "I am free to do as I please with my money, am I not?" We are likewise free. Is a generous return to God in thanksgiving for God's many blessings among the choices we have made?

Envelope Contributions .....	\$5,702.00
Loose Contributions.....	\$1,888.00
Mailed in .....	\$360.00
Total Offertory Collection .....	\$7,950.00
Offering this time last year .....	\$5,219.00

**Thank you for your Stewardship to your Parish. Please remember the Church in your will.**

### FIRST SUNDAY LITURGY October 1, 2017

On **Sunday, October 1**, our parish will celebrate our first First Sunday Mass and lunch of the new school year. Please join us at the 11:15 Mass followed by a potluck lunch. This is open to **ALL PARISHIONERS!!!** Please use the following link to bring something to share. [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-october1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-october1). Any questions, please contact Karen Carey at 610-525-0147.

### PREPARATION HYMN

Our preparation hymn this week, "Called to Labor in God's Vineyard," by James Chepponis, is based upon this Sunday's Gospel, and speaks well of our call to stewardship.

In verse one, we are called to be "eager to accept the task, using every skill and talent, doing all that God would ask." Verse two reminds us that we do not work "alone, but joined as one...whether hired at dawn or sunset, not expecting greater pay," and finally, verse three enjoins us to call one another to "labor in God's vineyard, and send more workers called by you" as we give ourselves completely to the work that is at hand."

May we be especially mindful this weekend not only of our own dedication to God's service, but to pray for others to come as well. As our ministries receive a special blessing this weekend, Fr. Liam will be calling for more volunteers to serve Our Mother of Good Counsel in all her Liturgical Ministries. "May our work bear fruit eternal, and our fervor never cease.

Jo-Ann Stigliano, Director of Music Ministries



## PREP NOTES

**October 1:** Students report regular time for class. Students will then move over to church for the 11:15 Mass. Following Mass, all are invited to join us for a pot luck lunch. To sign up to bring a dish, Please use the following link: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-october1](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/5080D4EA5AE22A57-october1).

**October 8:** Class as usual.

## PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY COLLECTION

The Religious Education Program, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia schools and PREP Programs, will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly to be donated to local food banks. Our donations will go to the Patrician Society which feeds hundreds of families right in our own backyard in Norristown. Please bring your donations to church the **weekends of September 24 and October 1**. Thank you for helping those in need.

## YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS

**ALL 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students**, no matter where you go to school, are invited to join us on **Sunday, September 24 from 6:30-8:00pm** for our Youth Opening and Welcoming of our newest students. At this time, we will also be taking sign-ups for working at the Fall Festival. Any students interested in participating in the Haunt or working the games must attend this meeting. There is limited space available in the Haunt so please mark your calendars!

**October 1** – Please join us at 10:00 am to help set up the gym for First Sunday Liturgy. Stay for the 11:15 Mass with us, and then join us for lunch and clean up!

## SPIRITUAL READING GROUP

The Spiritual Reading group will meet again on **Friday, October 6 at 10:00 am** in the Parish Center/Church Office building. We begin our reading of the book “Corita Kent: Gentle Revolutionary of the Heart.” This group meets on a monthly basis, usually the first Friday of each month. If you are interested in joining us as we begin anew, please call S. Anne at 610-525-0147, ext. 234 or email: [awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net](mailto:awoodeshick@omgcp parish.net).

## OMGC AND STV ADVOCATES FOR THE POOR AND HUNGRY

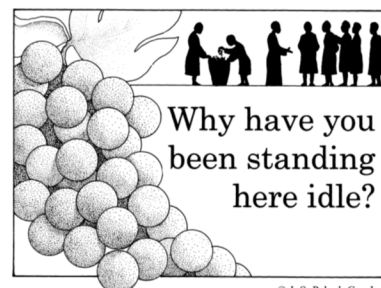
A group of OMGC and STV Parishioners have joined together as Advocates for the Poor and Hungry. We work with Bread for the World (BFW) a non-partisan Christian organization that researches the causes for hunger in the world. Based on that research BFW lobbies the US Administration and Congressional leaders for changes in policies, programs, and systems that allow hunger to persist in the US and the rest of the world. Congress is back at work on a 2018 budget proposal that would drastically cut funding for many key US programs that have helped to cut the incidence of hunger in half over the last 25 years. The cuts would directly increase hunger and poverty. Want to help? Join this group of Advocates in contacting our Senators and Representatives urging them to retain current levels of funding. You can contact Bill Jones (OMGC) at [conbill4@msn.com](mailto:conbill4@msn.com) or Ann Rafferty (STV) at [raffertyannah@gmail.com](mailto:raffertyannah@gmail.com) to find out how.

## RECYCLE YOUR HOLIDAY AND HOME DECORATIONS

Do you have holiday décor that hasn't made it out of your storage container for several holiday seasons or other household décor that simply needs a new home? Donate it to OMGC! We are accepting donations of new or gently used indoor or outdoor holiday décor for any occasion from Halloween through Easter. This includes Christmas decorations. We will also collect everyday home décor. Donations will be available for sale at OMGC Fall Fest, **October 13-15<sup>th</sup>**. All proceeds will benefit OMGC's religious education and youth group programs. Please drop off donations in the back of church BEFORE Mass on one of the following weekends:

**September 23-24; September 30–October 1**

No items will be taken after October 1. For large item drop-offs or questions, contact Colette Sutton at [colettesutton309@yahoo.com](mailto:colettesutton309@yahoo.com) or 610-517-0158.



## DISCERNING GOD'S VOICE WITHIN

If you are a single woman, age 18 to 40, join the Sisters of Mercy for a weekend retreat on **October 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>**. The retreat will be held at the Franciscan Spiritual Center at Clare House, 608B Legion Road in Aston, PA. The retreat will begin on Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, arriving any time after 4:00pm – Dinner at 6:00pm – ending on Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm.

Please RSVP by October 25<sup>th</sup> to: Sister Theresa Saetta, RSM at 484-562-1524 or [tsaetta@mercymidatlantic.org](mailto:tsaetta@mercymidatlantic.org).

## CYO BASKETBALL

### Fall Open Gym Sessions

Open gym sessions will take place this Fall for boys and girls, grades 5 through 8, who are interested in trying out for CYO basketball. Open gym sessions will start the week of September 4th and run through the week of October 23rd. Fall open gym is an opportunity to come work on your skills through group drills and playing games.

**Boys open gym: Friday evenings,  
5:30-7:00pm at OMGC gym;**

**Girls open gym: Thursday evenings,  
7:00-8:30pm at OMGC gym.**

Please email Matt Hutelmyer with any questions: [mhutelmyer@gmail.com](mailto:mhutelmyer@gmail.com).

## YOU ARE INVITED

### to a Brown Bag Lunch

We all know someone who might have one or perhaps all of the following diagnosis: Anxiety-Depression – Dementia. The chances for developing one of these conditions increases as we get older. The better informed we are – the better prepared we will be to help someone who may be experiencing some of the symptoms. Join us on:

**Monday, September 25 at 12:45  
at St. Thomas' Rosemont Auditorium**

Speaker: Mary Ellen Herbert, R.N.

Nurse Care Manager at

Surrey Services for Seniors

*Bring your lunch –*

*Drinks and Desserts will be provided.*

## ST. RAPHAELA CENTER

St. Raphaela Center offers retreats for an extended time of prayer and silence, accompanied by a Spiritual Director. **Weekend Dates:** December 8 – 10; **Weeklong Dates:** December 8 – 15. Contact St. Raphaela Center in Haverford at 610-642-5715 or [www.straphaelacenter.org](http://www.straphaelacenter.org).

## WINE

### National Catholic Women's Conference

Join women from the greater Philadelphia area and across the country for the first-ever National Catholic Women's Conference hosted by WINE: Women In the New Evangelization! Dynamic Catholic speakers Kelly Wahlquist, Teresa Tomeo, Kitty Cleveland and Sarah Christmyer will inspire you and musician Amanda Vernon will rejuvenate your spirit. The day will include time for Mass, Confession, prayer, rest, socializing and shopping. **Saturday, October 21 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm** at the National Shrine of our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA. Special group rate available, so bring your friends! For more information or to register, visit [www.wineconference.org](http://www.wineconference.org).

## SCHOOLS' INVITATIONS

**Waldron Mercy Academy:** A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, located in Merion Station, is a Catholic, co-educational, independent Preschool through Grade 8 and is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. This school provides a nurturing and enriching environment for children. A challenging and well-rounded curriculum offers opportunities to develop the whole child academically, athletically and artistically. To learn more about WMA, please call Sr. Joellen at 610-664-9847, ext. 113 or [www.waldronmercy.org](http://www.waldronmercy.org).

**Merion Mercy Academy:** Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students and their families are welcome to join us at Merion Mercy Academy's **Open House** to be held on **Sunday, October 8**. The day will begin at 11:00 am with Mass followed by a welcome and overview and tours. The **Scholarship and Entrance Exam** will be given on **Saturday, October 28 from 9:00a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** The make-up date is November 4. The Application/Test Registration can be completed online at [www.merion-mercy.com](http://www.merion-mercy.com).

**IHM CONFERENCE/RETREAT CENTER OFFERINGS**

**Tuesday, October 3 – 9:30am – 2:30pm**  
 “Jessica Powers: Poet, Mystic and Mentor”  
 Sr. Catherine Kaporch, IHM

\$40 (includes continental breakfast, lunch and Mass)

**Wednesday, October 18 – 10:00am – 1:00pm**  
 Movie With Meaning: “Freedom Writers”  
 Cost: \$15 (includes lunch)

**MALVERN RETREAT HOUSE Offering**

On **Thursday, October 5 from 6pm to 9pm** Malvern Retreat House will host an evening retreat that will focus on how to overcome negative thinking and believe in God’s promises. During the retreat, Catholic speaker, author and radio host, Gary Zimak, will offer simple and practical steps for moving away from negativity and moving closer to Christ. This retreat evening includes dinner. For more information or to register for this retreat, please visit [www.malvernretreat.com](http://www.malvernretreat.com) or call 610-644-0400.

**FLAME OF LOVE MOVEMENT Celebrates the Miracle of the Sun**

Attend this evening of reflection on the miracle of Fatima on **Friday evening, October 13** at St. Charles Seminary, 100 E. Wynnewood Rd. in Wynnewood from **6:00 pm to 9:00 pm**. A Holy Hour will be provided beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by the Fatima Narrative at 7:00pm and Mass at 7:30pm. Presider and Homilist is Fr. Chris Walsh, Pastor of St. Raymond of Penafort Parish. Fr. Walsh is a dynamic preacher who has researched the Fatima visions. His homily will capture the Fatima graces and plant them in your heart.

*No Registration is Necessary.*

**IMPORTANT REQUEST Allergies**

Please do not bring food that contains peanuts, nuts, peanut products or nut products inside the church. Someone sitting near you may have a serious allergy. Thank you.

**Saints Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael, Archangels**



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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**

- 7:30 DR. RUTH PATRICK HODGE VAN DUSEN (4TH ANNIVERSARY)
- 9:30 VINCENT MC NALLY
- 11:15 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25**

- 6:30
- 8:00 KATHLEEN M. O'DOHERTY

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**

- 6:30
- 8:00 SEAN KING (BIRTHDAY)

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27**

- 6:30
- 8:00 ANNA FARRELLY

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**

- 6:30
- 8:00 ELIZABETH CLARKE

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29**

- 6:30
- 8:00 DOMENICO CONICELLA

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

- 8:00 FRANCIS AND MIRIAM QUINN

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1**

- 7:30 OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL PARISHIONERS
- 9:30 FR. JOHN DENNY, OSA
- 11:15 MARY RUFFINI BARONE (7TH ANNIVERSARY)

**God's ways are above**



**our ways**

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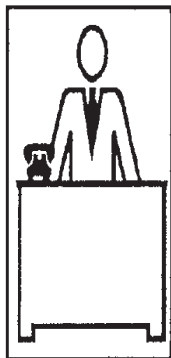
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