

## Readings for the week of October 1, 2023

### Sunday:

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/  
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

### Monday:

Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and  
22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10

### Tuesday:

Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/  
Lk 9:51-56

### Wednesday:

Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-62

### Thursday:

Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/  
Lk 10:1-12

### Friday:

Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk 10:13-16

### Saturday:

Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/  
Lk 10:17-24

### Next Sunday:

Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20  
(Isaiah 5:7a)/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for  
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in  
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, “I can’t stand all these converts to the faith. They’re always rocking the boat.” It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of “us” and “them.” The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don’t we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus’ punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn’t get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. **“Which did the will of his father?”** asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won’t do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. *Everyone* is called to do God’s will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let’s reject the convenient but damaging categories of “insiders” and “outsiders.” Instead, let’s embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren’t *them*. They are us. And Jesus wants all of *us* working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

— *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### The Vineyard

The second son never showed up to the vineyard. Did he get lost? Did he get tired? Did he not know where to begin?

When it comes right down to it, good intentions amount to very little. We all know this, don't we? "Show me, don't tell me." "I'll believe it when I see it." It's as true in the workplace and in relationships as it is in the life of the Christian disciple.

It doesn't matter if we *intend* to work in the vineyard. It doesn't matter if we promise to, if we think about it a lot, or if we make grand plans for what we will accomplish there. None of that matters if we don't show up. Before we show up, we have to find the way.

Showing up is the whole point. The work is the point, not the intention.

But all this begs the question: what does the *work* mean for us as baptized Catholics in the modern world? Spending our Saturdays in soup kitchens and homeless shelters? Standing on a street corner shouting out the words of the Gospel?

Our baptismal call is to the vineyard. Where is our vineyard? How do we show up? *We are ready, Lord, we say. We intend to work. But where do we go?*

My vineyard is not your vineyard, and so it's not my place to tell you how to get there. I am glad you want to go, but you'll have to find your own way, just like I will. But I can tell you this: only one voice will lead you there. If you listen to it, you will find your vineyard.

*"Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way." — Psalm 25:8*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Can anyone offer the Anointing of the Sick to a sick or dying person, or is that only something a priest can do?

### Answer:

The Letter of James speaks to us of the ancient tradition of a special anointing and blessing of those who are sick: "Is there anyone sick among you? Let him send for the presbyters of the Church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord ... If he has committed any sins, they will be forgiven him" (5:14, 15b). This passage forms the foundation for the theology of the sacrament that we call "Anointing of the Sick." In keeping with what we read in the Letter of James and the ancient tradition of the Church, the anointing of a person who is sick or dying may only be performed by a priest or bishop.

Although deacons and other members of the Church are not able to celebrate the sacrament with a person who is sick, we can read Sacred Scripture and pray with and for those who are ill. Resources like the Book of Blessings also contain special blessings that can be celebrated by deacons or lay ministers. In the end, we want to be sure that we show a special care and concern for the sick, helping them to always experience God's loving comfort through made tangible through our acts of charity and service.

“When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.”

- Mt 21:32

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The prophet Ezekiel teaches that all people (the just and the wicked) are capable of doing evil as well as repenting. What do you think motivates anyone to repent?

### Second Reading

Paul encourages the believers in Philippi to have the same attitude of humility as Jesus. Is humility one of your strengths?

### Gospel Reading

Jesus criticizes the religious leaders of Jerusalem for lacking self-reflection. How often do you examine your own behavior and choices?



### Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.

