

## Readings for the week of June 18, 2023

### Sunday:

Ex 19:2-6a/Ps 100:1-2, 3, 5 (3c)/Rom 5:6-11/Mt 9:36—10:8

### Monday:

2 Cor 6:1-10/Ps 98:1, 2b, 3ab, 3cd-4/Mt 5:38-42

### Tuesday:

2 Cor 8:1-9/Ps 146:2, 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a/Mt 5:43-48

### Wednesday:

2 Cor 9:6-11/Ps 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 9/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

### Thursday:

2 Cor 11:1-11/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mt 6:7-15

### Friday:

2 Cor 11:18, 21-30/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 6:19-23

### Saturday:

*Vigil:* Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab, 15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17  
*Day:* Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

### Next Sunday:

Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35 (14c)/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33



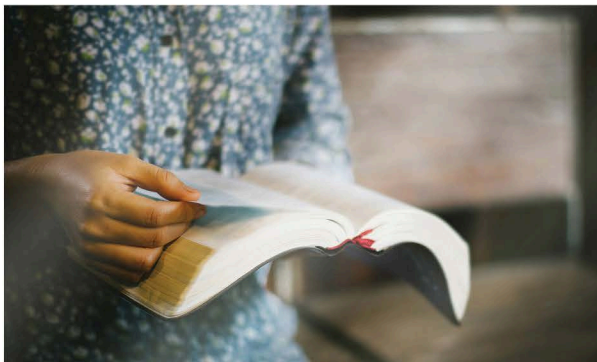
## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

In the backyard of the house where I live with other priests, there is a lemon tree which produces a huge amount of fruit. One evening in the spring I needed some lemons for a chicken dish. I glanced from the kitchen and saw the tree bursting with large, bright, gorgeous lemons, hanging thick on seemingly every branch. Turning to Fr. Bob (I'll change his name to protect the innocent) who sat on the couch, I said, "Father, could you pick a few lemons for me?" He said sure and into the backyard he went. He returned a few minutes later empty-handed. "John, there's no lemons. Sorry." I said, "What are you talking about?" I looked again and saw the grapefruit tree on the other side of the yard, which had recently been picked clean of fruit. He didn't see the abundant fruit because he was looking in the wrong place!

Like Fr. Bob, we sadly don't see the fruit all around us. We think that the culture is spiraling down, young people avoid church, and the future looks bleak. Why go out into the world and work? The world looks like a fruitless tree.

Jesus doesn't see things that way. This week he tells us, "**The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.**" Look again: there is spiritual fruit hanging all around us! The lonely ready to be visited. The sick ready to be healed. The forgotten ready to be remembered. The poor ready to be treated with dignity. The sad ready to be consoled. The young ready for the Gospel. So, let's ask the Lord to send laborers to get to work. And he will. He might send you and me. Just remember to look at the correct trees. — *Father John Muir*



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“Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”

- Mt 10:6-8

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The Lord teaches Moses that Israel is intended to be his “treasured possession among all peoples ... a kingdom of priests, a holy nation.” How would you react when you receive an incredible gift?

### Second Reading

Paul teaches the Christians in Rome that believers are reconciled to God and saved from the final wrath through the death of his Son, Jesus. What do you think we should do with this incredible message of reconciliation and salvation?

### Gospel Reading

Jesus commissioned the twelve disciples to “proclaim the kingdom of heaven is at hand” and “cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons” — in other words, disciples are called to follow Jesus’ lead. How can we modern disciples follow Jesus’ lead?



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“  
IN THE  
TWILIGHT  
OF OUR LIFE,  
WE SHALL  
BE JUDGED  
ACCORDING  
TO LOVE.  
”

YOUNG SAINT

- ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA