

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard... When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’” - Mt 20:1, 8

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

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

Isaiah urged his fellow Israelites who were in exile to seek the Lord who is near, merciful, and forgiving. When have you sought the Lord’s presence in dark periods of your life?

### Second Reading

Paul writes the letter to the Philippians from prison, facing a spiritual dilemma of feeling “caught between” life and death. Have you ever helped someone going through a spiritual problem?

### Gospel Reading

The parable of the workers in the vineyard speaks to God’s generosity. In what ways do you think God has been generous to you and your family?



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## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### The Invitation to the Vineyard

I have been working since I was 17, and in that time, I've encountered my fair share of bosses who don't like being, well, fair.

There was the retail gig that paid me less than the official minimum wage because I was a minor and scheduled me for long shifts because it meant cheaper labor. There was the restaurant manager who tried to convince me to leave seventh period early so I could waitress on a busy dinner shift (totally illegal, by the way). There was the unpaid internship with the editor who had no sense of work/life balance.

Our resumes are all full of these experiences — it's capitalism, after all. It conditions us to look out for ourselves, because we know no one else will. And it breeds an attitude of suspicion that often blooms into jealousy when we encounter the reckless mercy of God.

Most of us work hard for what we have in this life, and so we make the mistake of thinking we deserve the good things that come our way. That's all right and good when we're talking about a just wage. But sometimes we get our lines blurred and we begin to think we deserve, or have done something to earn, the salvation offered by Christ.

I am not the laborer who has borne the heat of long hours in the sun. I am the straggler, the lost one, the idler at the marketplace as the day draws to a close.

*"As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts." — Isaiah 55:9*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Why are Catholic and Protestant Bibles different?

### Answer:

Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians used a Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. This collection of the texts of the Hebrew Scriptures included 46 books. At the time of the Protestant Reformation in the 1500s, the Protestant reformers began to create their own translations of the Bible (into local languages) and some began to question why the Jewish Scriptures would have included texts that were written in Greek, because, they assumed, the only valid Jewish Scriptures would have been written in Hebrew. And so, they decided to remove seven books from the Old Testament: Baruch, Sirach, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Tobit, Judith and Wisdom (as well as portions of the Books of Daniel and Esther). This means that the Protestant Old Testament only includes 39 books, while Catholic Bibles continue to include those original 46 books. Both Catholic and Protestant Bibles include 27 books and letters in the New Testament.