

Reflections

My Brothers and Sisters,

“Thus, the last will be first and the first will be last.”

Once again, scripture speaks to us in a way reinforcing that, indeed, God’s ways are not human ways. We are reminded – once again – that human logic simply has to be set aside when we are dealing with the God of Surprises.

Today’s Gospel parable is one of those stories, somewhat like the Parable of the Prodigal Son, that can make our blood boil if we are the type of person who has always “kept the rules.” Unless we are able to remember that God’s mercy and love far exceeds anything we can imagine, the point of the parable seems grossly unjust.

The “landowner” in the parable hires workers at the beginning of the day, promising them the “usual daily wage.” Nothing odd about that; everything is as expected so far. But then it starts to get interesting... throughout the day, the landowner continues to send workers to his field – even until practically the end of the day. Then, at the end of the day, the landowner pays all the laborers... starting with those who spent the least time in the field and ending with those who had worked all day. They all received the same “usual daily wage!” Needless to say, the ones who worked longest were peeved – they thought they should be given more. (Isn’t this reminiscent of the elder son in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, who was jealous of his younger brother being received home by their father and given a party... even though the older boy had “kept all the rules” all along?)

My friends, God’s mercy and love is boundless. There are those of us here at St. Theresa who have been good, diligent and practicing Catholics all our lives, never doubting or wavering. What a blessing that is! And then there are those of us who have come to understand God’s way and the path of Christian discipleship later on in life, having led a life somewhat like that of the “prodigal son” or the last worker to go into the field. Is this latter group at a disadvantage? No... we are assured that such a person who sincerely turns to the Lord is no less rewarded than one who has “been with the Lord all along.”

Amazing. God’s grace, God’s love exceeds all that is humanly logical.

May we be blest with welcoming, open minds... always ready to set aside our own brand of logic and to be in awe of how our God interacts with his beloved people!

With love and prayers,



Rev. Charles G. Kieffer, V.F.
Pastor

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Liturgy And Music Notes & Notices

Training For *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* has been set for Monday, September 29th at 6:30PM in the church, and **Training For *Lectors*** has been set for Monday, October 6th at 6:30PM & Wednesday, October 15th (it is a two-part training) at 7:30PM in the church. Please let Jim Sage know if you will attend: jsage@diocesephoenix.org, 602-840-0850 ext. 121.

Choir Rehearsal has resumed its every week schedule, but still in the Parish Conference Room.

Attention All Liturgical Ministers, the new schedule for September & October was emailed and copies are available in the Sacristy. Please review them very carefully, as they have been generated by a new computer program, and the format is different.

If You Are Interested In Serving In A Liturgical Ministry Here At St. Theresa Parish, including becoming a Lector, a Minister of Holy Communion, or an Altar Server, please contact Jim Sage, via email: jsage@diocesephoenix.org or by phone: 602-840-0850, ext. 121. Training sessions will be scheduled depending on interest. We are in need of volunteers for all of these Ministries, serving at all Masses. Please note that even if you have served in these ministries at other parishes, you are still asked to go through our orientation, make sure your *Called to Protect* obligation is current, and be certified with the Diocese of Phoenix through St. Theresa Parish.

Choirs Sing At The 9AM & 11AM and 6PM Masses Weekly All Groups Are Looking For New Members



Please consider joining this ministry which strives to call us to God and lead us in prayerful song. Rehearsal for 9AM & 11AM is held on Wednesdays at 6PM; the choir for 6PM Mass rehearses before the liturgy at 4:30PM on Sundays.

PARISH NEWS

SET Renewal When you volunteer at “St. Theresa Catholic School” you are required to annually participate in SET training. When you volunteer at “St. Theresa Parish” you are required to annually participate in SET training if your ministry serves YOUTH or VULNERABLE ADULTS (Pastoral Care, St Vincent de Paul and Club Crayola) *All other Ministries require semi-annually.* Your first annual compliance requires completing Called to Protect, subsequent years require RENEWAL. St. Theresa has completed all of this years sessions. If you still have not completed your required training you will need to find training at another parish in the diocese. Please register by going to www.safeenvironmenttraining.org. We greatly appreciate your taking this very important program and requirement seriously.



Got Paper? Paper recycling is now offered at St. Theresa Parish. We have a green and yellow Paper Retriever bin located at the southeast corner of the McMahon Center Gym. All proceeds go to support the Student Council-sponsored activities of St. Theresa School. **PLEASE paper only... no shredded paper, cans, glass or trash.** Thanks for helping keep our community "green!"

Arizona Pro-life Documentary To Be Shown At St. Theresa Parish! Please join the St. Theresa Seamless Garment as we host a showing of Arizona Right to Life's new pro-life documentary “Abortion: Inside the Choice.” This documentary provides a compelling account of the reality of abortion and exposes how this so-called “choice” harms women, men, and society. Both sides of the debate make their case as experts such as doctors, scientists, lawyers, counselors and Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted, defend the sanctity of human life. Join us in the LIFE Room on Tuesday, October 7th from 7-8:30PM to watch this amazing film and hear from the film's director about how you can defend human life in a Christ-like, compassionate way. For more information email Trent Horn at trenton.horn@asu.edu

Club Crayola... is a parent run co-op open to all children 1- 4 years of age during the 9 & 11AM Sunday morning Masses. If you are interested in using Club Crayola, please call Shannon Braccio in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850 or stop by Club Crayola on Sunday to speak with Anne Aubuchon, Club Crayola Coordinator. All parents that use Club Crayola are required to take Called to Protect.



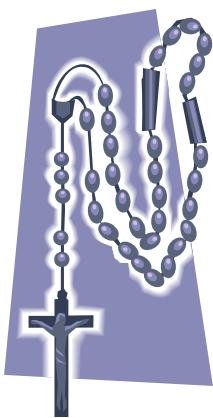


Thinking About Becoming Catholic? Inquiry Meeting, Sunday, 10:30AM
 Have you attended Mass as a non-Catholic and sensed something that interests you? Perhaps you were never baptized, and are now thinking about becoming a Catholic? Or, were you raised Catholic but never received your sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation? If so, then the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) may be just the place for you. We invite you to join us! RCIA Inquiry meetings are held on Sundays at 10:30AM in the Convent Upper Room (west bldg., 2nd floor). For further information, please contact Dee or John Campbell in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850.

Registration Is Continuing For Jeff Cavin's Bible Study At St. Theresa Parish

Part One: *The Great Adventure A Journey Through The Bible* starts Tuesday, September 23rd @ 8:15AM, 1PM & 7PM. **Part Two: *Adventures in Matthew: The King and His Kingdom*** starts Wednesday, September 24th @ 7PM. To register for either of the above series please call the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850. Hurry! Classes start this week.

www.greatadventureonline.org



Rosary Sunday Let's have a full bus of Saint Theresa Parishioners this year for Rosary Sunday on October 12th at the Phoenix Convention Center. For those of you who have attended in the past, you know what an awesome experience it is to pray and celebrate with *thousands* of our fellow Catholic Christians. And if you have never attended Rosary Sunday, ARE YOU IN FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL!!! We will be honoring Our Lady under her

title of Our Lady of Lourdes in this 150th anniversary year of her apparitions. Plans are already underway to have many of our Saint Theresa Catholic School students participate in the blessing procession. So, put the date on your calendar and don't be late for the bus! Call Ellen Bretzke @ 602-952-1208 for more information.

All Bulletin Articles Are Due Monday At 12NOON



If Monday is a holiday then all articles are due the Friday before at 12NOON. Articles will not be accepted after the deadline. For more information call Shannon Braccio in the Parish Office @ 602-840-0850.



PASTORAL CARE



All Aboard! It's not an intergenerational tea party like we had a few years ago, but how about an intergenerational train trip? Join us on a Verde Canyon Railroad Trip Wednesday, October 29th. Mothers,

fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, grandparents and grandchildren. "All Aboard!", for a beautiful trip by rail along this scenic wilderness route in Arizona. A memory in the making and never to be forgotten! This trip includes a top of the line 'American Explorer Motor Coach', a delightful lunch on board the Verde Canyon Train, scenic four-hour rail tour, and a delicious evening meal on your way home. This all day trip is only \$96.50 per person (rates reduced for children). Please contact our Pastoral Care Travel Coordinator 'Bea' for further information @ 480-947-8387. RSVP by October 6th. Make checks out to St. Theresa Pastoral Care. Your check will automatically hold your reservation.

Pastoral Care Ministry Looking... for people who have had experience with home care and would be willing to help parishioners who are homebound. This would be a paid position. Please contact the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429 for further information.

'Hope For Tomorrow' Grief Support Group Monday, October 6th from 4-5:30PM in the Parish Office Conference Room. Grief is hard work! The hardest work you will ever have to go through. If it were the death of a dear friend, a child, a partner... it all comes down to trying to get through the holidays and other special days, dealing with the blues, rebuilding your life, dealing with others expectations, feeling like your losing your mind, working through anger or guilt. For more information call Bobbie Stich @ 602-586-7429.

Going Into The Hospital? Please be certain to let the hospital know that you are Catholic and would like to receive Holy Communion. If you would like to be anointed before you go into the hospital, please call the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Mass Of Remembrance

Monday, November 3rd @ 7PM

We will be sending out invitations to all parishioners who had a funeral for their loved one here at St. Theresa this past year. However, if you have a relative that you would like to have remembered even though their funeral Mass was not here at our Church, we would be honored to add them to our list for this special night of prayer. Contact the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

Thursday Evening Prayer For Our Service

Men & Women In The Convent Chapel 6-7PM

Join us for a beautiful night of prayer for our Service men and women, our Country and our Leaders. God stands by and always hears our prayers. If you have never participated in this prayer service, please come and help us to pray for these very important intentions.



*Adoration
Every Thursday
From 9AM-9PM
In The Convent Chapel
Peaceful, Quiet Time With Jesus*

The Pastoral Care Ministry Needs Help! We are looking for people to bring Holy Communion to the homebound, visit those who are lonely, pick up groceries, make meals and just call and talk. We would deeply appreciate your help! If you can do one of the above please contact Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

For All Pastoral Care Ministers Who Took Called To Protect... and want to take the next required class for the new year, you can take the Renewal Class online at www.diocesephoenix.org. Click on "Safe Environment", then "My Obligations", then "Internet Safety". If you want to take this but do not have a computer, please call the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.



Fall Is Coming Seniors!

And So Are The Return Of Our Luncheons!

Time to find out what you've all been up to this past summer, so mark your calendar with this bit of info:

Wednesday, October 1st in Feeney Hall

Registration @ 11:30AM & Lunch @ 12PM

Come for jokes, wild stories and lots of laughs! Please remember to RSVP early, and no later than Saturday, September 27th to Margie Hubbard @ 602-840-2715. Cost will be \$7.50 per person.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

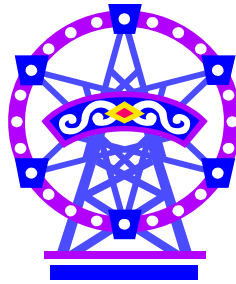
Blood Pressure Screenings... will be provided in the Pope John Paul Room after all morning Masses THIS Sunday, September 21st. There is no cost for this service.

Alzheimer Support Group Our next meeting will be Tuesday, September 30th in the Parish Office Conference Room from 4-5:30PM. Come receive expert guidance from professionals on how to cope and care for loved ones with Alzheimers. For further information please call the Pastoral Care Office @ 602-586-7429.

FAITH FORMATION

Late Registrations... for Stepping Stones 4th & 5th Graders and KN-3rd will be held on Sunday, September 21st at 10:15AM in the Ramada. There are also openings in Lambs (ages 4-5) and Disciples (ages 6-7). For more information call Carmen Smith @ 602-840-0850 ext. 110. All sessions are at 10:30AM.

SCHOOL NEWS



Save The Date!

**St. Theresa School Fall Festival
Sunday, October 19th
From Noon-8PM**

Join the "Coney Island" fun this year at St. Theresa Catholic School's annual Fall Festival. New this year, you can take a turn on the giant Ferris wheel or a fast spin on the Tea Cup ride. You can also win some yummy homemade goodies at this year's Cake Walk. There are lots of other fun rides games as well. Come hungry because the St. Theresa's Dad's Club will be back grilling all your favorites and Artisan Catering will be sponsoring a "Taco Bar Dinner Buffet". Don't forget to sample the Cinnabons, pretzels, hot dogs, snow cones, cotton candy and more, while enjoying the non-stop live entertainment. All in all, plenty to do for the entire family! If you have any questions, would like to help sponsor the event, or volunteer your time and talents please email James Zorn at james.zorn@cox.net.

St. Theresa School Fall Festival Marketplace
Wanted: Anyone who loves to make craft items! We need the following: Baby Gifts, Seasonal/Holiday, Home and Garden, Candles, Bath and Body products, Quilts, and Blankets. Your donated creations will be featured at the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 19th. Please call Nichole Finn @ 602-977-1938 or Cindy Largay @ 602-840-2378.

The Week Ahead!



EDGE CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

All Jr. High Students Welcome!
 September 24) The Trinity
 October 8) Salvation & Grace
 Meeting times are Wednesdays, 6:15-7:45PM

LIFE TEEN PROGRAM

All High School Teens Welcome!



September

- 21) Open LIFE Room
- 28) 2nd Annual Trivial Event

October

- 5) Agent Savior 00 Christ Jesus Christ
- 12) Called To Protect For Youth
- 19) Fall Festival

Weekly Activities

Mass: Sundays @ 6PM
LIFE Teen: Sundays After Mass
Open Life Room: Tuesdays, 5-7PM
Basketball: Tuesdays, 5-7PM
Prayer Meeting: Tuesdays, 7-9PM
Adoration: Thursday 7-9PM in Convent Chapel

www.godtalk.org

Mass Intentions

(SEPTEMBER 22ND – SEPTEMBER 28TH)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND

6:30AM +KAMES J. SMID, SR.-FR. MATHEW

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD

6:30AM +JAMES J. SMID, JR.-FR. MATHEW

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

6:30AM +ANN LADOMATO-FR. MATHEW

8:30AM +SHELLEY M. SMID-FR. CHUCK

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH

6:30AM +JAMES J. SMID, SR.-FR. FRANK

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

6:30AM +JAMES J. SMID, JR.-FR. MATHEW

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH

8:00AM +JOHN MCMORRIS-FR. MATHEW

5:00PM FOR THE PARISHIONERS-FR. FRANK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH

7:30AM +CARMEN J. VIVIANO-FR. MATHEW

9:00AM +SHELLEY M. SMID-FR. CHUCK

11:00AM +ALFRED RYAN-FR. FRANK

6:00PM RAMONA FELIX, SP. INT.-FR. MATHEW

Please Note:

The Priest scheduled to celebrate the Mass is subject to change.

Sunday

8:30AM Blood Pressure Checks (PJP Rm)

10:20AM Scripture Study (Conference Rm)

10:30AM RE (School Classrooms)

7:00PM LIFE Teen (LIFE Rm)

Monday

4:00PM 'Leading The Way' Mtg. (Conference Rm)

6:30PM SVDP Meeting (Conference Rm)

7:00PM Boy Scout Meeting (PJP Rm)

Tuesday

8:15AM Great Adventure (Convent Upper Rm)

1:00PM Great Adventure (Convent Upper Rm)

7:00PM Great Adventure (Feeney Hall)

Wednesday

9:15AM Centering Prayer (Convent Chapel)

6:00PM Choir Practice (Conference Rm)

Initiation (Atrium)

6:15PM Edge (McMahon Gym)

Stepping Stones (School Classrooms)

6:30PM Rosary (Convent Chapel)

7:00PM Adventures In Matthew (Convent Upper Rm)

Thursday

9:00AM Adoration (Convent Chapel)

Friday

Saturday

8:30PM AIAnon (Classroom 16)

Alcoholics Anonymous (Classroom 17)

Readings

Week of September 21, 2008

Sunday Is 55:6-9; Ps 145; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

Monday Prv 3:27-34; Ps 15; Lk 8:16-18

Tuesday Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119; Lk 8:19-21

Wednesday Prv 30:5-9; Ps 119; Lk 9:1-6

Thursday Ecd 1:2-11; Ps 90; Lk 9:7-9

Friday Ecd 3:1-11; Ps 144; Lk 9:18-22

Saturday Ecd 11:9-12:8; Ps 90; Lk 9:43b-45

Sunday Ez 18:25-28; Ps 25; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32