

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 20, 2026



Jesus told his disciples this parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. Going out about nine o'clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.' So they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o'clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o'clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You too go into my 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.' When those who had started about five o'clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day's burden and the heat.' He said to one of them in reply, 'My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last." - Matthew 20:1-16a

God's Astounding and Immeasurable Mercy

This week, as in the last, the Gospel reading focuses on God's forgiveness and mercy. Jesus in the parable of the landowner and the laborers speaks of the completeness of his love that is always given in its entirety and boundless; for perfect love is holy, dynamic and cannot be contained. It is an immeasurable healing torrent, originator of hospitals, orphanages and universities

In my own life I have every reason to be grateful for this torrent of love as I am one of the 5pm stragglers mentioned in today's reading, who came to the faith relatively late. In this position I will always be grateful for our Lord's care in bringing me into his one, holy, catholic/universal and apostolic church as a protestant convert.

Being able to receive the sacraments in their efficacious entirety as intended by my creator is a source of wonder, especially the eucharist. Rather than grape juice passed on a tray in shot glasses in the pews I now understand the wine becomes his precious blood shed for me and God has given this precious gift of calling him down into the eucharist to a special group of men called to be priests. Instead of bread unblest and handed out in pretend remembrance I now have the joy of receiving a consecrated host from a priest who has given himself in covenantal service to God and his church. I also understand that Jesus is present in his entirety in the host I receive for my strengthening in the faith; Jesus body, blood, soul and divinity at the Mass. I used to look at an empty cross but now gaze at a cross with the corpus of Jesus which so deeply speaks to me of sacrificial love and Jesus' presence and understanding in our times of suffering.

I think back on my life and consider with regret how much better it would have been as a catholic...the consolation in trials and sorrows and the blessings bringing me to the heights of joy in gratitude. Many troubles would have been avoided and there would have been more time to work for God's purposes in the world. There was much happiness I missed out on and much wisdom and comfort I might have given to others. However, fortunately God's blessings are no less for those laborers who come to work late in the field. He makes use of poor old donkeys and gives us work to do.

As a child I felt Christianity was right but had many questions. A big one had to do with authority. If Jesus is God and is perfect he would have instated one church, -

Cont...not 40,000, that would have the fulness of truth and his authority. For in looking around in nature I could see that fracturing and division always weakened things and were a sign of decay. Where did the authority in the church come from and in whom was it placed and why? I could see protestant ministers of varying degrees of holiness and I saw that they were hired and fired by local committee who could pressure them to leave if the sermons were not good enough or something was said that an elite community member objected to. Why were there so many "Christian" denominations if Jesus was at the center? If God is perfect why would his teachings and churches be divided and teach different things? It stood to reason that Jesus, as our God, would entrust his authority from the beginning to one church that would hold his authority and teachings intact and unchanged, for God is perfect and the source of truth. He does not evolve or devolve. He is the omnipotent I AM.

By God's grace I discovered God's authority was in the Catholic Church, in the apostolic successor the pope, bishops and his priests. They do not buy their ministry for \$20 online and start their own churches. They are committed to knowing God, doing his loving will and following his perfect and unchangeable teachings in service. This does not mean that catholics, clergy and laity alike, are perfect examples of God's teachings but they are latched onto the source of complete truth and are hanging on for dear life.

As a teacher education has always been an important part of my life. Lo and behold I discovered that the catholic church has always been at the forefront of education. Many of the sciences owe their beginnings to catholics, many who are the founders of their respective disciplines like: Fr. Lemaitre (cosmology- Big Bang), Agnesi (physics and math), Ampere (electromagnetism "Amp"), Bassi (physicist- 1st woman to be professor at university), Coriolis, Galileo, Galvani (bioelectricity), Garrod (Oxford-pioneer of prehistoric archeology), Haüy (father of modern crystallography), Kwolek (chemist and Kevlar inventor) Steno (founding father of study of fossils and of geology), Torricelli (physicist inventor of the barometer) and Mendel (father of genetics) to name but a very few. I had heard of these scientists in my studies but the one vital piece of information left out of the textbooks was the fact that they were *catholic*. For most important is the driving force that led these catholic scientists and continues to lead them... curiosity and wonder, a desire for truth that explains existence and the workings of the universe, to know more about God's creation and through that God himself, to rejoice in its beauty and to help humankind through discovery.

All seven sacraments in their complete states, our brothers and sisters of heroic virtue, the saints, who walk with us and pray for us before the throne of God, the teaching authority of the magisterium, the tradition and protective hierarchy of the church Jesus founded are astounding and beautiful to those of us brought up in good churches but not in the fulness of God's universal church. I liken the experience to being in a two dimensional line drawing and suddenly exploding into a multi-dimensional reality where miracles happen...-A Halliday.

Readings For This Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah: 55:6-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a

Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Ezekiel 18: 25-28

Reading II: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

Saturday, September 19

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Vilma Francesconi St. Joseph Church

Sunday, September 20

7:30 am +Priscilla Spawn St. Joseph Church
9:00 am No Intention Sacred Heart Church
10:30am Mass for the People St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Monday, September 21

12:15 pm +John Moraist St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, September 22

7:30 am + Priscilla Spawn St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, September 23

12:15 pm +Obdulia de Walters St. Bernard Church
6:00 pm Adoration/ Confession
7:00 pm No Intention (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, September 24

7:30 am +Priscilla Spawn St. Joseph Church
11:30 am No Intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, September 25

12:15 pm +Tom Sutton St. Bernard Church
1-2pm Adoration and Confessions St. Bernard Church

Saturday, September 26

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Dianne Luzzi St. Joseph Church

Sunday, September 27

7:30 am +Mariana Olguin St. Joseph Church
9:00 am Mass for the People Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Dianne Luzzi St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm No Intention Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Ken White, Maria Santos, Basil, Bosco, Mario, Pio, and Mariano Mainus, Sylvia Clark, Martin Fosnaugh, Jean DeSimone, Marie Ruchards, Jim Hogue and Family, Kimberly Ennis, Terri, Marian Griffin, Johnny, Janina Dzieciol, Kathi Branum, Orion, Sidney Gabby, Zenssi, Olivia, Hunter, & C., John Johnston, Barbara Hill, Chet Williams, Maria Mendes Da Costa, Catie Biesecker, Stacy Cudney, Josephine Silva, Jo Ann Dellabalma, Ann Marie DeSimone, Bill King, Martin & Claudia Vess, Chris Miller, Mary Alpers, Nancy Allen, David Russell, Sonny, Garrett Anderson, Dottie Barrett, Harvey & Mary Anne Bennett, Mildred Perrone, Massimo Matteoli, and Gary Cormier

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

Glen Schmidt, Helen Saunders, Lena Machado, Obdulia Walters, Derick Wyatt, Fran Hill, Dennis and Gina Costa, Joe Hohmen, Lucy Sokolow, Sandra Cofer, Lena Petty, Fred Emerson, John Gierak, Gloria Allen, Rebecca Bertain, Roseann Cooney, Lorraine Holland, Sandra Lingle, Sarah Mixon, Suanna Rowell, Erling Dellabalma, Paul Windham, Rosealee Schuler, Nick Giannini, Juvenal (John) Regalo, Evo Fannuchi, Dianne Luzzi, Rose Ann Hurst, Tom Long, Joe Thompson, Colleen Cruz, Rodrigo Reyna Sanchez, Mary Antonelli, Mary Ellen Hadley, Camille Regli, and Delores McBroome

St. Bernard Rosary Totals You may place your rosary counts in the collection baskets **Report: 13,711!**
Rosaries prayed last week =62 Cumulative= 13,711

FINANCE

Regular =\$3,144

Building & Maintenance = \$934

Next week's 2nd Collection=Solidarity for Church in Africa
AMA 2026 Goal=\$34,900 Pledges=\$24,294 **Rec'd=\$21,894**

The Italian Catholic Federation of Eureka Branch

#145 is having an Italian Pasta Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday October 11th from 5:00 PM to 6:30PM at St. Bernard's Parish Hall in Eureka. A Dutch raffle with many unique prizes will also be held. Price is \$10 per person; \$5 per child; and \$25 per family. Tickets are available after Mass this weekend and next weekend and by calling: Call Joe Bonino at 707-445-5799 (landline no texting) or fjb504@gmail.com Or Mary Wheeler at 707-599-8110. Proceeds will help fund the ICF Jerry J. Colivas Scholarship Fund. In addition to its support to the St Bernard and Sacred Heart Parishes the ICF in Eureka awards four deserving high school graduates a scholarship each May and organizes the Betty Chinn peanut butter and jelly collection drive in January

Sing A Song To The Lord with musician Jesse Manibusan whose music is included in many parish missalettes, including "Open My Eyes," and "Alleluia! Love is Alive!" Jesse and percussionist Rich Aguon, who has performed with many popular recording artists, will delight us with engaging storytelling and interactive religious and secular songs, as a benefit for Humboldt Redwood Cursillo. The festivities will be held at 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 10th in the St Bernard Parish Hall. Tickets will be sold after some Masses, or by contacting Rene Brown (707-725-5040) or Ann Lynch (707-443-6741).

Interested in Learning More About the Catholic

Faith? Whether you are thinking about becoming Catholic, need to complete your Sacraments, or simply have questions about what Catholics believe, you are warmly invited to join us. OCIA classes began on Tuesday, September 8 and **will continue every Tuesday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Pinochi Room** at Saint Bernard's Church. There is no obligation—just an opportunity to ask questions, learn, and discover where God may be leading you. For more information contact Deacon Dance at 707-407-9298

Now Showing -Heaven In Stone & Glass Cathedrals

Film Sept. 20/23 On Sunday, September 20th at 7:15pm and Wed. Sept 23rd at 4:45pm at the Broadway Cinema there will be a special screening of Bishop Barron's film about the wonder and beauty of the great cathedrals of Europe. Tickets are \$12.25. Just beyond the doors of Europe's Gothic cathedrals, light pours through colored glass, stone soars toward heaven, and something stirs deep within the human soul. Millions of pilgrims and tourists visit cathedrals each year, sensing in rose windows and sacred imagery a transcendent beauty that the secular world cannot explain. Experience the Spirituality of the Gothic Cathedrals with Bishop Barron, journey across France to explore sacred mysteries built into the crown jewels of Gothic architecture: Chartres, Notre-Dame, Reims, Amiens, and Saint-Denis. With clarity and theological depth, Bishop Barron reveals what sacred architecture has proclaimed for centuries: God is not distant but weaves His revelation into the fabric of creation.