

# Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ September 20, 2020

Please pray for the soul of  
Margaret Branigan.  
May she rest in the peace of our Lord.

## Catholic Charities Thanks You

Thank you to everyone who supported Catholic Charities last weekend by either purchasing a raffle ticket or making a donation. Your kindness and generosity enables Catholic Charities to continue its work in assisting the poor and vulnerable in our communities.

## Mary Hunter's New Address

Following is Mary Hunter's current address for cards and notes:

Chenago Memorial Senior Living  
179 North Broad Street, Room 218  
Norwich, NY 13815

## Prayer Requests & Prayer Chain

If you wish to have prayers said for someone, please contact Eileen @ 607. 865. 4154 or e-mail her @ eileen13856@yahoo.com.

If you wish to have your name included on our prayer chain list of pray-ers to be notified of a prayer request, please also contact Eileen.

## St Peter's Project Update

The upstairs Rectory bathroom project has been completed. Your patience and your financial support is appreciated. Thanks to Joe Cantwell and Beveridge Plumbing and Heating.

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted,

His mercies are not spent;  
they are renewed each morning,  
so great is His faithfulness.

Lamentations 3

## First and Last

The house of Israel is the vine of God, who planted and watered it, preparing the Israelites to bear fruits of righteousness (Isaiah 5:7; 27:2-5). Israel failed to yield good fruits and the Lord allowed His vineyard, Israel's kingdom, to be overrun by conquerors (Psalm 80:9-20), but God promised that one day He would replant His vineyard and its shoots would blossom to the ends of the earth (Amos 9:15; Hosea 14:5-10).

This is the biblical backdrop to Jesus' parable of salvation history in the Gospel. The landowner is God. The vineyard is the kingdom. The workers hired at dawn are the Israelites, to whom He first offered His covenant. Those hired later in the day are the Gentiles, the non-Israelites, who, until the coming of Christ, were strangers to the covenants of promise (Ephesians 2:11-13). In the Lord's great generosity, the same wages (the same blessings promised to the first-called, the Israelites) will be paid to those called last, the rest of the nations.

This provokes grumbling in the parable. Doesn't the complaint of those first laborers sound like that of the older brother in Jesus' prodigal son parable (Luke 15:29-30)? God's ways, however, are far from our ways, as we hear in the First Reading, and the readings should caution us against the temptation to resent God's lavish mercy.

Like the Gentiles, many will be allowed to enter the kingdom late- - after having spent most of their days idling in sin. But even these can call upon Him and find Him near, as we sing the Psalm. We should rejoice that God has compassion on all whom He has created. This should console us, too, especially if we have loved ones who remain far from the vineyard.

Our task is to continue laboring in His vineyard. As Paul says in the Epistle, let us conduct ourselves worthily, struggling to bring all men and women to the praise of His name.

Dr. Scott Hahn

Listen, my people, to My teaching,  
Give ear to the words I speak.

Collection Next Week: Catholic University  
Your gift will support Catholic University of America students who go on to serve the nation and transform the world. Catholic University serves dioceses and parishes through innovative research initiatives and training programs.

## Emmaus Zoom Retreat for Grieving Parents

This retreat is for parents who have experienced the death of a child of any age, by any cause, no matter how long ago. Emmaus retreats focus on the spirituality of the grieving process which can help tremendously. Just as He comforted His grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus comforts us, and we comfort each other in this very special ministry.

Saturday, October 24 (preregister by October 1) and  
Saturday, November (preregister by November 7):  
800.919.9332

## Marriage Moments Susan Voigt

September 21 is International Day of Peace. World peace is good but probably feels impossible these days. Yet married couples learn a lot about peacemaking. What's one thing you've learned about resolving an argument? Share it today.

## Celebrating Diversity – Through the Eyes of Spirituality

Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 pm (virtual program via Zoom)  
September 29 - The Experience of a Latina American  
with Sister Ana Gonzalez, OP  
October 6 - The Experience of a Native American  
with Sister Kateri Mitchell, SSA  
October 13 - The Experience of Black American  
with Colette Parker, OPA  
October 20 - The Experience of the LGBTQ Community  
with Stephanie Battaglino  
November 3: The experience of an Asian American  
with Father Linh Hoang, OFM

Cost: \$15 each/\$70 for all five. Register: 518.393.4169.

Dominican Retreat & Conference Center

## Teaching Children How to Pray with Scripture, Part I

The prayers of children can be the most beautiful, heartfelt, and tender prayers expressed. Listening to how children address God, thank him, or ask him for things reminds us of how we should be approaching God - - with childlike simplicity and trust. Whether your child already has an established routine of praying or is just getting starting, adding prayer with Sacred Scripture can be a very fruitful and enriching experience for both their faith lives and yours.

**Become familiar with the story of the Bible:** Children are delightfully curious and want to know all about how the world works and why things are what they are. Perhaps the story of the Bible has become that familiar or routine to you- -you have heard the Gospel stories hundreds of times at Mass or perhaps have even studied the books of the Old Testament. But can you answer a child's favorite question to ask: Why did David kill Goliath? Why was Jonah swallowed by the whale? Why did Jesus have to die?

While you do not have to become a Scripture scholar, it will be helpful for you to have a general idea of the story of salvation history. The best way to measure if you have mastered something is to try to teach it to someone else; so, give it try! But, don't worry if you do not have all the answers or even many of the answers. Use your child's curiosity, and now your own, as an opportunity to spend more time getting to know the richness and beauty of the Bible. If time allows, you may even want to pick up a study Bible or find online materials that can walk you through the ins and outs of the books of the Bible.

## Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Jesus is saying to us: *"Why are you idle? Go into My vineyard."* Family, where "the last will be first" is the vineyard entrusted to us in the Gospel. Successful families are constructed by 'laborers,' who work hard on family relationships, and not by couch potatoes.

Lord Jesus, Hear our pleas, our good shepherd and divine physician. We implore Your mercy in the wake of an outbreak of serious illness and disease. Guide our efforts to prevent contagion and make preparations to care for those most vulnerable. Assist all professionals and volunteers who work to eradicate this epidemic. May our actions be marked by Your steadfast love and selfless service and never by panic or fear. Amen.