

September 28, 2008

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday



In today's passage from the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus asks his audience to pick the correct fictional role model.

Two sons are sent to work. One fellow talks a good game ("Sure, I'll do it!") but doesn't follow through. The other son doesn't want to go to work and *says* he doesn't want to go to work. But then he changes his mind.

The audience seems to pick the right man (the second one). I wish we knew his name. He could be not only the disciple who actually did his father's will in the story, but also the patron saint of second-guessing ourselves. (Should we admire his honesty too?)



SHUTTERSTOCK

A few verses earlier, we discover Jesus teaching in the temple to an audience filled with chief priests and elders. He is in their faces because these guys saw the repentance of real sinners when John was baptizing, but it didn't shake their own way of doing things or their own view of themselves. Whom do we want to identify with in that part of the story?

Do you ever go around and around, trying to decide what to do? Sometimes the decision isn't clear; sometimes it's just hard to follow through.

Today we also have Saint Paul's words about what

will bring us a sense of peace, a sense of consolation. The Philippians are told, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit" and to "regard others as better than yourselves" (2:3). How did Paul know the Philippians needed to work on that? Well, because we all do.

Deep in Jesus' story, we are getting at the paradox of what he requires of his disciples. We must *lose* ourselves to *find* ourselves. What does it take to do that—to *really* change our minds?

DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



Today's Readings

Ez 18:25–28

Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Mt 21:28–32

Liguori

PUBLICATIONS

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Saturday | September 27 | 6:00 PM | Our Community | <i>Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, priest</i> |
| Sunday | September 28 | 8:00 AM | J. W. Wright, RIP | <i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> |
| | | 10:45 AM | Winnie Jones, RIP | <i>26th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> |
| | | 12:30 PM | La Comunidad | <i>26° Domingo Ordinario</i> |
| Monday | September 29 | 8:45 AM | Lawrence & Edna Wright, RIP | <i>Feast of Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, archangels</i> |
| Tuesday | September 30 | 8:45 AM | Communion Service | <i>St. Jerome, priest and doctor of the church</i> |
| Wednesday | October 1 | 8:45 AM | William Pitino, Birthday | <i>St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the church</i> |
| Thursday | October 2 | 8:45 AM | Margaret Ledbetter | <i>The Guardian Angels</i> |
| Friday | October 3 | 8:45 AM | Kevin McKenna, RIP | <i>Weekday</i> |
| Saturday | October 4 | 6:00 PM | Lee & Mary Perkins | <i>St. Francis of Assisi, religious</i> |
| Sunday | October 5 | 8:00 AM | Lawrence & Edna Wright, RIP | <i>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> |
| | | 10:45 AM | J. W. Wright, RIP | <i>27th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> |
| | | 12:30 PM | La Comunidad | <i>27° Domingo Ordinario</i> |

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria
Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)
Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey
Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)
Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.
Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.
Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

**REGULAR
COLLECTION
September 20-21
\$9,780.44**

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are A Gift From
Benjamin & Beronica Gomez
In Honor of
16th Anniversary Church Wedding*

*Changing Our Hearts
“While we have the opportunity,
let us do good to all.” Galatians 6:10*

The 2008-09 Annual Diocesan Appeal, *Sharing in Ministry*, is more than just another collection. It is the way by which every Catholic shares in the work of our Diocese and the mission of the church. Please give consideration to making your pledge today as this weekend throughout every parish in the Diocese of Fort Worth is conducting Commitment Sunday.

El Cambio en Nuestros Corazones

“Por lo tanto, siempre que tengamos la oportunidad, hagamos bien a todos, y en especial a los de la familia de la fe”. Gálatas 6:10
El llamado anual diocesano 2008-09, *Compartir en Ministerio*, es más que una colecta. Es la manera por la cual cada católico comparte la labor de nuestra diócesis y la misión de la iglesia. Por favor considere hacer una promesa de donativo hoy ya que este fin de semana a través de todas las parroquias de la Diócesis de Fort Worth se lleva a cabo el Domingo del Compromiso.

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00
Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00
Average Monthly Contributions—\$3,500.00



OCTOBER SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Property Purchase—October 4 & 5
World Mission Sunday—October 18-19

WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.

Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Catholic Daughters.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PARISH PANTRY. Thanks to all who support the Parish Pantry. It is well stocked because of you. We served 48 families in our parish this year, and were also able to extend help to 6 families from hurricane Ike. May God Bless You All.

FALL BAZAAR. Due to lack of planning and preparation time, this year's Fall Bazaar has been cancelled. Now is the time to prepare for a Spring Festival. Brenda Reed did a marvelous job in the past but her work takes her out of town. We need a planner for the Spring! Call the office, 817-596-9585.

FIRST COMMUNION PARENTS. Mandatory meeting on **Sunday, September 28 during regular RE class time in room 16.** Contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

PADRES DE NINOS QUE TOMARAN LA PRIMERA COMUNION: Es obligatoria su asistencia a la reunion del Domingo, Septiembre 28 en la Sala 16, durante la hora regular de las Clases de Religion. Si tiene alguna pregunta, contacte a Jeanette Houle al 817-613-8008 o doschicas@att.net.

CALLED TO PROTECT. Keeping Children & Youth Safe, Saturday, October 4 at 2 PM in English; 1 PM in Spanish. All volunteers who work with children in our Parish are required to attend this training. Please RSVP to Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

CLASE:MANTENIENDO A LOS NIÑOS SEGUROS.- Sábado, Octubre 4 de 1:00 a 4:00 pm. Todos los voluntarios que están trabajando con los niños en nuestra Iglesia, se requiere que tomen este entrenamiento. Para mas información comunicarse con Jeanette Houle 817-613-8008 o email a doschicas@att.net.

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 7264 of St. Stephen is having their "**8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament**", **Saturday, October 4, 2008.** It will be held at Split Rail Golf Course, 2151 Old Annetta Road, Aledo, Texas. We need volunteers to assist us in administering this event. If you can spend a few hours with us on Saturday, the day of the tournament, please call Jimmy at 817-596-8443 home, 817-366-5183 mobile or Chuck 817-597-6120 mobile. We sincerely appreciate your support and generosity in helping us have a successful fund-raiser. Jimmy Dixon, Golf Committee Chairman; Chuck Schabow, Grand Knight of Council 7264.

YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY STARTING. A 6-week study of The Eucharist beginning **Monday, October 6, at 6:30 PM.** "Look to deepen your understanding of this sacrament as well as your appreciation of the great gift it is. Through meditation on the gospels and the Old and New Testament, we will learn to cultivate a Eucharistic life of prayer and active commitment in the world." Contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

T-SHIRT SALE will be held the weekends of **October 5 & 12** after all Masses. Proceeds will benefit our Youth 2000 trip in April. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

FUNDRAISER benefiting the St. Stephen Youth Group will be held **Saturday, October 11 at 7 PM.** Come play Texas Hold 'Em! All ages invited. Babysitting provided in nursery – RSVP required for babysitting services. Instruction for novice players will be available. Questions, call Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872.

LADIES ALTAR SOCIETY will have baskets for sale the **1st Sunday in December** between Masses at the breakfast.

Presidential Election Patriotic Rosary. The Patriotic Rosary is in the framework of traditional prayers, accompanied by spiritual reflections of America's forefathers. Prayer service at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton on **Monday, September 29, 7-8 PM.** As our beloved Pope John Paul II reminded us "*Peace is first of all a gift from God and therefore it must always be implored from Divine Mercy, with ceaseless and confident universal and unanimous prayer.*" (Jan 1, 1982) For information call the Ft. Worth Queen of Peace Center; 817-244-7733 or 817-558-9805.

Cursillo: October 2-5 (men) English; October 16-19 (women) English; contact Mary Jean Nagy at 817-226-1110 or Susan Urbaneck at 817-422-7150.

Beginning Experience: October 24-26; contact Catholic Renewal Center at 817-429-2920.

Today...Tomorrow...Forever (for married couples planning to have their marriage, validated or sanated in the church); **November 8;**

Cana-Two: (designed for couples with one or both parties entering into a second marriage); **November 9;** contact www.fwdioc.org, Family Life Office, Marriage preparation or 817-560-3300 ext 304.

TEEN CORNER

Youth Group: We will be having a FUNdraiser playing Texas Hold 'Em on **Saturday, Oct. 11.** Sign up to help at Youth Group Meeting.

All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the **Youth Music Ministry.** Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

Sunday, September 28

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)

Monday, September 29

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Citizenship Classes

Tuesday, September 30

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)

Wednesday, October 1

6:00 PM Youth Group
6:30 PM Choir Practice
6:45 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, October 2

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
7:00 PM English Baptism Instruction
(Copy of Birth Certificate Required)
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Friday, October 3

7:30 PM Adoration of the Sacred Heart

Saturday, October 4

Knights of Columbus Council 7264
8th Annual Charity Golf Tournament"
1:00 PM Clase: Manteniendo a los Niños Seguros
2:00 PM Called to Protect: Keeping Children & Youth Safe
7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—**Bilingual** (Rm. 1 & 2)

dear Padre

Are women more religious than men?



Women seem to be more religious than men. Are they more active in our parishes?

Margaret

Dear Margaret,

According to the National Pastoral Life Center, 82% of lay ministers in the Catholic Church—eucharistic ministers, catechists, musicians, and other ministers—are women. In times past, women might have been freer to volunteer at Church since they were less inclined to work full time outside the home.


Does this mean women are more religious? I hope not. I hope the men in our Church are just as religious and spiritual. But the imbalance in actual participation means the Church needs to go out of its way to do things that will nourish men spiritually. Retreats, Bible studies, social groups, and other activities geared specifically toward men are a great step. The Knights of Columbus have done a wonderful job of spiritually nurturing men and getting them involved in the Church.



W.P. WITTMAN, LIMITED

As a Church, we need to support all ministers by providing education and other training so that everyone, men as well as women, will be active participants in our parish communities.

Patrick Keyes, C.Ss.R.

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| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
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| □ | □ | □ | □ | ■ | □ | ■ |
| September 29 <i>Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael, archangels</i> Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a Jn 1:47-51 | September 30 <i>Saint Jerome, priest and doctor of the Church</i> Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Lk 9:51-56 | October 1 <i>Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus, virgin and doctor of the Church</i> Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 Lk 9:57-62 | October 2 <i>The Guardian Angels</i> Jb 19:21-27 Mt 18:1-5, 10 | October 3 Weekday Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Lk 10:13-16 | October 4 <i>Saint Francis of Assisi, religious</i> Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Lk 10:17-24 | October 5 Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 5:1-7 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43 |