



Our Lady of Mercy
Pray for Us



St. John the Baptist
Pray for Us

Collections Last Weekend, September 13

\$1, 639 - Regular Sunday Offerings

Weekday Masses

Wed Sept 23, 11am Mass- For souls in purgatory

Thurs Sept 24, 11am Mass- For peace in the world

Friday Sept 25, 11am Mass- For safety of Covid Frontliners

Weekend Masses

Sunday Sept 27, 9am- Port Severn

Sunday Sept 27, 11am- Honey Harbour - *For the people of the parish*

The Sunday Gospel Matthew 20: 1-16

In today's Gospel, Jesus moves from Galilee to teach in Judea where he is sought out by great crowds and tested by the Pharisees on issues such as marriage and divorce. Jesus also encounters a rich young man who is unable to accept Jesus' demand that he leaves his possessions to follow him. Jesus' response to the rich young man sounds very much like the conclusion we will find in today's Gospel: the first will be last and the last will be first.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who labored in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else?

The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be quantified or partitioned into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways.

Important Links

<https://youtu.be/ds0UYOSMIXA> - Mass for 25th Sunday Ordinary Time.
<https://www.ladyofmercyhoneyharbour.ca> - Our parish website
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/848623575RR0008-our-lady-of-mercy-church/> - Online Donation to Our Lady of Mercy Honey Harbour
www.peterboroughdiocese.org – Diocese of Peterborough

MASS FOR THE 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_Cd0rFPwUxMtMRhS_UtCgx/videos
- The Mass for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time will be celebrated by the Rector, Rev. Fr. Tom Lynch at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains in Peterborough.

Bishop Daniel Michm - THE BROADCAST OF THE SUNDAY MASS FROM OUR CATHEDRAL IS BACK and will appear on our Diocesan You Tube channel. We took a one-week hiatus and transmitted from St. Joseph Parish in Bowmanville last week, while we got the technology in place at the Cathedral of St. Peter-in-Chains. We are still mastering the technology and working out the kinks, but we expect to get better with it each week! As mentioned, you may view the Mass on our YouTube channel, which may be accessed through our Diocesan website.

Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14) - Pope Benedict XVI Reflection on the Cross. “What a great thing it is to possess the Cross! He who possesses it possesses a treasure”. By his Cross we are saved. The instrument of torture which, on Good Friday, manifested God’s judgement on the world, has become a source of life, pardon, mercy, a sign of reconciliation and peace. “In order to be healed from sin, gaze upon Christ crucified!” said Saint Augustine. By raising our eyes towards the Crucified one, we adore him who came to take upon himself the sin of the world and to give us eternal life. And the Church invites us proudly to lift up this glorious Cross so that the world can see the full extent of the love of the Crucified one for mankind, for every man and woman. She invites us to give thanks to God because from a tree which brought death, life has burst out anew. On this wood Jesus reveals to us his sovereign majesty, he reveals to us that he is exalted in glory. Yes, “Come, let us adore him!” In our midst is he who loved us even to giving his life for us, he who invites every human being to draw near to him with trust.

St Sebastian (Saint to Pray During Pandemic) – After his embrace of Christianity in the 3rd century, Sebastian joined the Roman army to help other Christians being persecuted by the Romans. Even as he became an elite member of the Praetorian Guard, under the notorious anti-Christian Emperor Diocletian, Sebastian secretly brought many soldiers into the Church. But as soon as his courageous witness was discovered, Diocletian ordered Sebastian to be executed. Tied to a post, Sebastian was pierced with a band of arrows and left for dead – until a Christian woman, Irene of Rome, found him breathing, astonishingly, and nursed him back to health. Sebastian became a hero to Christians everywhere. Records reveal that St Sebastian was celebrated in Rome (in 680), Milan (1575) and Lisbon (1599) for protecting the faithful against plagues. During the Renaissance, he became a favourite subject of artists, who often depicted the saint movingly with arrows tormenting his body, as he stoically gazed towards heaven. St Sebastian became a symbol for suffering humanity during recurring plagues, and his miraculous recovery gave those afflicted hope and consolation. Abbeys, churches and basilicas were founded in his name; and after the recent outbreak of coronavirus, Sebastian was one of the first saints Catholics were encouraged to pray to.

Pope Francis – “The revelation of God’s love for us seems madness. Every time that we look at the cross, we find this love. The crucifix is truly the great book of God’s love.” “We adore You, O CHRIST, and we bless You. Because, by Your Holy Cross, you have redeemed the world. Contemplating the Cross for us Christians means contemplating both a sign of defeat and a sign of victory.”

Important Reminders During Pandemic

Pray always. Stay at home as much as possible. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly. Observe physical distance. Wear a face mask or face shield when physical distancing is not possible. Connect with others virtually. Say “thank you” to frontline staff and community workers.

Prayer During Pandemic: “O Mary, you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took part in Jesus’ pain, keeping your faith firm. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to feasting after this time of trial. Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father and to do as we are told by Jesus, who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.”