

PRAYER CORNER

Dear Jesus, you are the divine physician, you are the healer of the sick. We come to you in this time of need. Grant us grace and strength to accept the will God has for us. We place this illness under your care and humbly ask that you restore us if it be your will. Amen.

Pray for the needs of Sick/ Shut-In

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Jack Harrison | Cristel Bertand | Julian Elizondo |
| Elizabeth Moreno | Lizeth Carter | Pete Marquez |
| Hector Huerta | Ben Swanson | Ysleta Franklin |
| Agnes Wilson | Tommy Carroll | Amy Novacek |
| Martha Luce | Robert Domingues | Kevin & Juanita Thornton |
| Marcus Rattliff, Jr. | Fr. Anthony Robins | Ursula Paige |
| Ashley Babcock | Sonia Munoz | Blanche Malachi |
| Joe Govea | Amelia Martinez | Erma Platte |
| Larry Breacher | Garciela Gomez | Albert Johnson, Jr. |
| Fr. Tom Wiggington | Paula Vanatta | Trino Sanchez |
| Susan McDonald | Mary Gillespie | |
| Luis Briseno | Francisco Ledegma | And For the Repose of the Souls |
| Adela Aleman | Betty Harris | Julius Savage |
| John Daley | Alberree Haynes | |
| Sylvia Sykes | Baby Andrew Carroll & Mom | |
| | James Will | |
| | Malinda Walker | |
| | Raven Anderson | |

Collection Received: Sept. 17, 2023

Regular Collection	\$2,059.00
Parish Maintenance	\$40.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$30.00
Mass Intentions	\$20.00
St. Anne's—Candles	\$74.50
7 am Weekday Mass	\$401.00
Social Outreach	\$
Catholic University of America	\$30.00
Bulletin Ads	\$180.00
	\$

OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

September 24, 2023



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Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
 1001 E. Terrell Avenue
 Fort Worth, TX 76104
(817) 335-1695
 ommftworth1@gmail.com

Pastoral Staff

Deacon Tom Giovannitti, Pastoral Life Coord
 Lydia Salas, Sec/Safe& Sacred Coordinator
 Jennifer Rattliff, Bookkeeper
 Michael Ussin, Maintenance/Custodial
 Charlotte Mitchell, Bulletin

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 Help Line: 817-768-1950/svdpom@gmail.com

St. Anne's Society: Marie Guidry
 mariaguidry@sbcgloabal.net

Knight St. Peter Claver: Michael Barks
 817-845-1125

Hospitality Ministry: Ianthe Youman

Lector Coordinator:
 Lanette Martinez Vidaurri
 817-228-3338/lanettemartinez@gmail.com

Pastoral Council:
 LaWonda Peoples, Chairperson
 Dorthea Lee
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 Shonta Giovannitti
 Emma Umaniyigena

Financial Council:
 Amanda Flood
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Religious Education:
 Shonta Giovannitti, Director

Office Hours

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Thursday 11:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“It’s not fair,” a parent hears after dividing the cookie or the slices of pizza. “It’s not fair,” the professor hears from the best students when he generously puts the marks on a curve to benefit those who didn’t do well. “It’s not fair,” the flight attendant says when she hears from her supervisor that a first-class passenger lodged a complaint after the attendant moved a coach passenger to an empty seat in first class.

How often have we heard it? How often have we said it? Someone tries to be generous and/or compassionate and they hear it from those who feel they earned what was generously donated to another. Worldly logic says that those who work more should get more. The rules say that it is priority for those who worked in the sun all day. With human wisdom, this employer’s behavior makes little sense to the workers.

We may argue as to which is the most popular parable of Jesus, but most would agree that today’s parable is a top contender for the most unpopular. We need to look more closely at it in order to understand it.

What can we learn from Jesus’ parable? First, as unpleasant as it may be to hear, we are all dependent. We may have the corner office, get tenure, get promoted with a raise, but we are more like the day-hires in the parable than unlike them. None of us is self-sufficient. Let’s face it, nearly everything we have is gift; our personal contributions pale by comparison or build on a foundation provided for us by others (namely, parents, family and friends).

The word “dependent” comes from a Latin word meaning “to hang from.” Like a chandelier, we may be Waterford and sparkling, but we are still utterly dependent on the ceiling that which holds us aloft. The good news is that the one who holds us -

God - can be trusted. When we keep one eye on our dependence, we are less likely to resent god’s provision to another person suspended next to us. Second, our sense of fairness and justice is very subjective. Those first-hired did not feel cheated when they were hired. They would receive a denarius, a day’s wage. It would provide their “daily bread.” We often do not think of a gift given to us as generosity, but as entitlement. For example, have you ever heard someone holding four aces call for a new hand? Do they feel unworthy? Trouble comes when we judge our bounty with a comparative glance at our neighbors’ hands. If their hands are better, envy may rush in and we quickly forget the hand we were dealt. Comparison involves our ego. Ego-involvement means spiritual trouble. Here is a sure-fire formula for misery: decide you are happy only if no one receives more blessing in life than you. There will always be someone richer, more talented, or better looking than you and me. We never find happiness by comparing our lot in life with others who are better off. Comparison happened with the workers in Jesus’ parable. Isn’t that what has happened to professional baseball, basketball, and football players’ salaries? We shake our heads at that foolishness, but we realize that that can happen to you and me at another level.

We need to be simply grateful to our Lord for what we have: our work in the vineyard, our joys in this creative work with our Lord in the further growth of the vineyard, and equality in the kingdom of God. Our inheritance is the same for all.

—From *www.oblates.org*

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Bulletin Reflections:

“Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last”. - Matthew 20:16

You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our sincere gratitude and cheerful generosity will help us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

“Entonces, los últimos serán los primeros, y los primeros serán los últimos.” - Mateo 20:16

Seguramente ha escuchado el dicho “no se trata de dónde empiezas, sino de cómo terminas”. Esto ciertamente se aplica a este pasaje de la Biblia. No solo somos responsables de nuestras vidas, sino también de las vidas de otras personas. Somos llamados a compartir nuestros dones con generosidad, no a acumularlos para nuestro propio uso. Nuestra gratitud sincera y nuestra alegre generosidad nos llevará a vivir una Vida “centrada en Dios” y no una vida “egocéntrica”.

With Prayers and Love

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

Live Stream Support	
10:00 am Mass	Sunday
9/24/2023	Debra Savage
10/1/2023	Lisa Jones
10/8/2023	Howard Rattliff
10/15/2023	Vanessa Nava
10/22/2023	Isabell Garza

Lectors		
9/23-24	Charlotte Mitchell	Debra Savage Hayden Jones

Weekly Mass Schedule

Dates	Times
Monday, September 25	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession After Mass Fr. Richard Flores
Tuesday, September 26	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m. Fr. Bob Strittmatter
Wednesday, September. 27	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Fr. Richard Flores
Thursday, September 28	Confession—6:30 a.m. Mass 7:00 a.m. Fr. Bob Strittmatter
Friday, September 29	Mass 7:00 a.m. Confession after Mass Adoration 8 a.m.—Noon Fr. Richard Flores
Saturday, September 30	Adoration 4:00-5:00 p.m. Confession—4:30 p.m. Mass 5:00 p.m. Fr. Richard Flores
Sunday, October 1	Mass 10:00 a.m. (Livestream) OMM Gospel Choir Fr. Willie Onuh

Rosary is Sunday 9:20 a.m. & M-F @ 6:20 a.m.

Stop judging and you will not be judged. Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

Weekly Readings

9/25—Ezr 1:1-6; Lk 8:16-18
 9/26—Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20; Lk 8:19-21
 9/27—Ezr 9:5-9; Lk 9:1-6
 9/28—Hg 1:1-8; Lk 9:7-9
 9/29—Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a; Jn 1:47-51
 9/30—Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a; Lk 9:43b-45
 10/1—Ez 18:25-28; Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5; Mt 21:28-32

Announcements



Food Pantry Needs
 We need your help stocking the OMM food pantry, which is maintained by St. Vincent de Paul. Please bring donations to the parish life center.



ANNUAL DIOCESAN APPEAL
 CATHOLIC stewardship IN ACTION
Love one another as I have love you.
 Thank you to all the Our Mother of Mercy parishioners who have committed to love one another through the Annual Diocesan Appeal. For those familiar who have not yet made a donation, it is not too late. You can set up a gift online to begin at a later date. There are commitment envelopes located (in the pews, brochure racks, etc.). Your commitment will help our parish reach 100 percent participation. Thank you for helping us reach goal and answer Jesus' commandment to love one another as he loved us.

Priesthood Sunday

Today September 24th is Priesthood Sunday which is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood. Let us reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one. Join us in praying for our priests, praising God for their courage and generosity. Let us show our priests our encouragement and gratitude in thoughts and deeds. God Bless our priests!

Diocesan Marriage Retreats

The Office of Marriage and Family Life has organized a series of marriage retreats in English and Spanish beginning October 2023. Three of the retreats are in English with guest speaker Dana Nygaard, and three are in Spanish with guest speakers Maria de Carmen Uceda and Jesus Gras. More details about the retreats and registration is provided on the diocesan website on the following links: 1) Cana Commandments Marriage Retreat - <https://fwdioc.org/> 2) Sean Uno Retiro de Matrimonios - <https://fwdioc.org/retiros-de-sean-uno>



Desayuno de Magnificat Fort worth en español

Día: 21 de Octubre del 2023
 Dónde: DOUBLE TREE HOTEL (By Holiday Inn)
 100 E. ALTAMESA BLVD.
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76134
 Hora: 9:00 – 12:00pm
 Costo: \$35.00
 Conferencista invitada: Carolina Figueroa
 Para boletos comunicate a los teléfonos: 817-500-3937 Carmen Berrios-Peralta 817-938-9590 Martha Hernández
 Reserva con anticipación no se venderán boletos en la entrada.

Fort Worth Public Library

The Vivian J. Lincoln Library at 8829 McCart Ave, is open! Several events are scheduled in September and October. Events include story time for toddlers, learn Microsoft skills for adults, container gardening. Check for dates and time at fortworthlibrary.org.



Learn how to be the best spouse you can be by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience. The next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend is Oct. 27-29, 2023. To apply go to www.wwme.org. Questions – email applications@dfwme.org. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Español, escriba a mdgallegos06@gmail.com 214-497-0188.

Catholic Charities Special Collection

St. Therese of Lisieux modelled for us that in little acts of holiness, we can make a difference in the world. She showed us the little way. On the weekend of **October 7-8**, join us in supporting Catholic Charities Fort Worth through a special collection that turns little acts into big impact. and to affirm their right to a life of dignity and fulfillment.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

The convention to announce the Benediction of Mankind Award will be held at Our Lady Queen of Peace parish in Wichita Falls, Tx will be on October 25. Deadline has been extended to October 1. Registration is \$30. Forms are in the back of the church. Our Ms. Jennifer Rattliff is a nominee for this year's Mankind Award.

Extraordinary Ministers Needed

Please consider becoming a Eucharist Minister for our church. Training will be provided by Deacon Tom. If you are already certified, please still see Deacon Tom.



Please keep Fr. Willis in your prayers as he had a medical emergency on Sunday, September 17, 10:00 am mass. We apologize to our parishioners who showed up and those that were on the livestream feed. Please continue to pray for a permanent priest for our church and for all vocations.



Come and See Weekend

The next vocations weekend retreat is November 3-5, 2023. This no-cost weekend is for men in high school and college ages 16 and older. Transportation is provided to and from seminary at St. Joseph Seminary College, Covington, LA. Please register no later than October 27, 2023. For those who are or will be 18 years of age at the time of the event, you will be required to register and complete the Safe Environment training. For more information, please email or call the vocations office at 817-945-9321 or vocations@fwdioc.org.

Catholic University Collection

Last Sunday, Sept. 17, at 10:00 a.m. mass, we neglect to collect for Catholic University. Please add and specify on your envelopes Catholic University to the collection on Sunday, Sept. 24.

