

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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Fresno, Ca 93710
Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

September 18, 2022

Readings: Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

You are reading this because someone instructed you in the Catholic Faith. This someone has been a person who dedicated her or his life into sharing what has been handed onto them: the Deposit of Faith.

This Deposit of Faith is the body of the teachings, sayings and miracles of Jesus through which the possibility of salvation is being offered to us. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 84)

Today we honor, offer up prayers and bless our beautiful catechists: the people who, despite their busy schedules, devote time, commitment, effort and treasure to teach the Faith!

Think of your catechist. Think of the person who prepared you for your First Communion, Confirmation, RCIA, and Marriage Preparation. Think also of your parents, grandparents, friends and relatives who have taught you how to pray, how to understand the Faith and how to believe in God through the Church. This is why this weekend we want not only to say "thank you" but we also recognize them for their uncanny ministry.

This weekend we will be blessing our catechists during Masses. We will also present them with a prayer and a wooden cross as a token of our gratitude for being collaborators in the edification of the Kingdom of God.

Pope Francis says it beautifully:

"Nor can we forget the countless lay men and women who directly took part in the spread of the Gospel through catechetical instruction. Men and women of deep faith, authentic witnesses of holiness, who in some cases were also founders of Churches and eventually died as martyrs. In our own day too, many competent and dedicated catechists are community leaders in various parts of the world and carry out a mission invaluable for the transmission and growth of the faith. The long line of blessed, saints and martyrs who were catechists has significantly advanced the Church's mission and deserves to be recognized, for it represents a rich resource not only for catechesis but also for the entire history of Christian spirituality." Apostolic Letter "ANTIQUUM MINISTERIUM" May 10, 2021.

If you can, call, email or write your Catechist. Offer a Mass intention for them if you can. And above all, consider honoring their mission by emulating them in their ministry of catechesis.

Peace,

Fr. Byron Macias, CMF

Mission Statement

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



Peace and Social Justice Update

For the week of September 18-24, 2022

Sunday, September 18: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Catechist Appreciation Weekend

Check out the Pope Video for December, 2021 when he asked the world to pray for all blessed with the vocation and mission to be Catechists:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJpxgGQywX8

September 19 - 26: Climate Action Week

Check here for ways to participate:
<https://www.mse.gov.sg/climate-action-week/>

Monday, September 19: Feast of St. Januarius
On this day in 2015, Pope Francis began his visit to North America. Edgar Guzman was able to see the Holy Father in New York, and Jim Grant saw Pope Francis in Philadelphia!

Tuesday, September 20
Feast of St. Andrew Kim & St. Paul Chong (and Companions) Korean Martyrs who died between 1839-1867.

6:00pm to 7:00pm Faith, Family & Friends

Wednesday, September 21
Feast of St. Matthew

Thursday, September 22
World Car Free Day!
Let's drive as little as possible today!

Friday, September 23
In 1858, Puerto Rico revolts against Spanish rule.

5:30pm to 6:30pm Food Recovery Program (SPCNC Cafeteria)
Contact Jim Grant for more information.

Saturday, September 24
On September 24, 2015, Pope Francis addressed the U.S. Congress and in his message praised Abraham Lincoln.

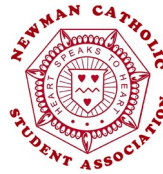
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Thomas Merton, and Dorothy Day for their contributions to the United States. Read his powerful speech here:
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/september/documents/papa-francesco_20150924_usa-us-congress.html

World Youth Day Fundraiser
Saturday 5:00pm to 7:00pm & Sunday 8:00am to 2:00pm

Car Wash in the parking lot under the solar panels. Donations accepted! Support our Youth raise the \$4,000.00 they each need for WYD in Lisbon!

1969: Chicago Eight Trial begins against Bobby Seal and other Black Panthers for conspiracy during riots at the Democratic 1968 National Convention. Except for Seale, they are acquitted.

Jim Grant, Volunteer, Social Justice Advocate,
jjimgantbc@gmail.com



Campus Ministry News!

Week of September 18-25

Skate Night

Don't miss this!

Join us for a Skate Night on Tuesday, September 20 at 6:15pm at United Skates.

Tacos and Theology

Happening Thursday, September 29 starting at 6:30pm inside the student lounge. Come join us for our first Care for Creation session led by Fr. Byron, Edgar Guzman, and other young adults. We'll have tacos!

Young Adult Bible Study:

Every Monday at 6:00pm, join other young adults to reflect and share how the word of God challenges us and is present in our lives. Come join us in the Student Lounge.

Wednesday Student Night

Looking for a community to grow in your faith and meet other college students? Join us this week for mass and a dinner inside the Newman Hall, beginning at 6:00pm. Afterwards, we will have our Student Lounge opened to provide a space for studying or to pick up school materials!

Picture of the Week



Jim Grant speaking at Wednesday Student Night

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com
Fr. Byron Macias, Chaplain: frbyron@csufnewman.com
Karina Tellez, Administrative Assistant:
catholicclub@csufnewman.com

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, September 18 Am 8:4-7; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13

Catholic Charities Truck

Second Collection - SPCNC Stewardship

Catechetical Appreciation Weekend

7:30am Mass for Fellpina Estava Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Maria Alessandri-Cook Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Arturo Nisperos, Baptisms, and RCIA Dismissal Chapel
 7:00pm Mass Chapel

Monday, September 19 Prv 3:27-34; Lk 8:16-18

8:00am Mass Int. of Jean and Brian Nicholson Chapel
 8:30am Men's Morning Scripture Study Library
 5:30pm Liturgy Committee Meeting Cafeteria
 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study St. John XXIII

Tuesday, September 20 Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Lk 8:19-21

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room
 6:00pm Faith, Family & Friends CNH & Main Building

Wednesday, September 21 Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

8:00am Mass Int. of Helma Devos Smulders Chapel
 12:00pm Universal Christ Book Study Cafeteria
 5:30pm Ignatian Retreat for Busy People Community Room
 6:00pm College Night CNH 101
 6:30pm Prayer and Life Workshop CNH 105
 7:00pm RCIA Inquiry Library

Thursday, September 22 Eccl 1:2-11; Lk 9:7-9

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 5:30pm Spirituality of the 12 Steps CNH 103
 6:00pm Mass Int. of Linda Quinn Chapel

Friday, September 23 Eccl 3:1-11; Lk 9:18-22

8:00am Mass Int. of Nancy Lombardi Welch Chapel
 5:30pm Food Recovery Network Cafeteria

Saturday, September 24 Eccl 11:9- 12:8; Lk 9:43b-45

Claretian Youth Car Wash - 5:00pm to 7:00pm CNH Parking Lot
 5:00pm Mass for Patricia Cruz Chapel

Sunday, September 25 Am 6:1a, 4-7; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

Claretian Youth Car Wash - 8:00am to 2:00pm - CNH Parking Lot

Knights Burrito Breakfast - All Morning Masses - Cafeteria

7:30am Mass for Jackie Schurman Chapel
 9:30am Mass for Wesley Gonzalez Chapel
 10:00am HS Confirmation Class CNH
 11:30am Mass for Dolores Monahan & RCIA Dismissal Chapel
 12:45pm Baptisms (Group) Chapel
 3:00pm Igbo Mass Chapel
 7:00pm Mass Chapel

September Contributions

2021		2022	
Sept. 5 ACH	\$26,023.55	Sept. 4	\$23,266.18
Sept. 12	\$15,563.44	Sept. 11 ACH	\$18,343.85
Sept. 19 ACH	\$36,372.30	Sept. 18 ACH	
Sept. 26	\$10,517.01	Sept. 25	
Sept. Total	\$88,476.30	Sept. Total	\$41,610.03

Prayers:

◆ **Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:**

Joan Renner, Margery Toll, Kristal Lowe Limon, Abigail Love, Linda Alvarez, Julissa Mojarras, Estefania Medina, Mary Garr, Kathy Papagni, Michael Vienna, Issac Orozco, Diana Mock, Sandra Barrie, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Dick and Jan White, Sr. Joanne Bauer, Jan Fusselman, Nyla Zender, JoAnn Myers, Monica Baker (Lucido), David Toll, Susan Olson, Mary Yoakum, Maria Coronel, Clara Marrone, Penny Mull, Judy Marchi, Raymond Ram, Nacho Flores, William Rogal, Donna Garcia, Kim Bach, John Cook, John Morgenroth, Walt Whelan, Martin Zapata, Carl Britto, Hannah York, Lisa Pinedo, Lexi Leon, Frances' Parents, Toni Schneider, Zenaida Billena, Ani Lara, Sally Caglia, Maria Sanchez, Camila Carouso, Ramona Egan, Maryjane Abella, Michelle Coyle, Nancy Georgio, Efrain Garza, Jessie Joseph Ruelas, Randy Avila, Jorge Martinez, Dr. Jim Davis, Amy Davis, Barbara Barrows, Carlos Garcia, Marian Martin, Fr. Kevin Bray, Sam Scialabba, Diane Decker, Tommy Estep, Jeri Maxwell, Malachi

To better serve our Faith Family we are updating our list of prayers. **Names for the sick / special intentions will remain in the bulletin for one month then removed from the list unless otherwise notified.** If deceased, names are only published the week they died. If you have someone who is in need of prayers please contact the office at 436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "Prayer Intentions" tab.

Parish Information

Weekend Masses: Saturday Vigil: 5:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am & 7:00pm

Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am

First Tuesday 6:00pm, Thursday at 6:00pm

Communion Services: Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00am

Reconciliation: Thursday 4:00pm to 5:45pm or call the office for an appointment.

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 3:00pm
 CLOSED FRIDAY

Adult Confirmation

Have you been confirmed (received the Sacrament of Confirmation)? If not, then now is the perfect time. The Sacrament of Confirmation is necessary to be a Sponsor or Godparent so if you are planning for Confirmation or a Baptism in the Spring, you can still meet the criteria.

Our Adult Confirmation formation program begins

October 3. If you are 20 years old or older and haven't been confirmed, please sign up now. Registration forms are available on our website or at our front desk. If you have any questions contact Karl.

Creation Care Tips

"No slave can serve two masters... You cannot serve God and wealth." —Luke 16:13

Many in our society serve the god of consumerism, perhaps unconsciously. They live as if there is an infinite supply of raw materials, but that belief is squeezing the planet dry and destroying our ecosystems. Make a commitment this week to refuse to make a purchase (except for groceries or other true essentials like healthcare supplies). Use your extra time, money, or the resources you save to do something positive that serves God instead.

Bishop Joseph V. Brennan's Statement on the California

Concerning Governor's Press Release, Bishop Joseph Brennan of the Diocese of Fresno, takes issue with new state abortion website "I have a heavy heart and am saddened today after reading the Governor's press release. The website that is being launched to give people in and outside of our state, easier access to abortion is egregious. I urge the Governor to have the people's back by protecting life and by offering better and more accessible prenatal care. I urge him to fight for women, children and families in need by offering better options than abortion. Giving life to an unborn baby should be a fundamental right. I urge the faithful today, to pray. Let's come together as brothers and sisters of God, and offer better options to women, children and families in need."

- The Most Reverend Joseph V. Brennan Bishop, Diocese of Fresno

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: The Responsorial Psalm this Sunday is: "Praise the Lord, who lifts up the poor" (Psalm 113). Numerous psalms praise God for caring for the poorest and most vulnerable in our world. They also invite us to be part of God's plan for bringing justice to all. Your challenge this week is to peruse the psalms until you find one which speaks to your family of God's compassion for the poor. (You can also use Psalm 113.) Every day this week, pray at least part of your chosen psalm as a family or household on behalf of a person or community struggling with poverty, hunger, or lack of shelter. Start on Sunday with someone in your neighborhood or local community. Each day stretch your prayer further afield so that you are praying for global needs by the end of the week.



St. Paul Catholic Newman Center

OCTOBER 4
THE FEAST OF
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Blessing of Animals

AT 7:30AM AND 12:00PM
ON THE BARSTOW LAWN

BRING PICTURES OF YOUR
PETS TO BE BLESSED
AT 6:00PM

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The poster features a central illustration of St. Francis holding a cross, surrounded by various animals including a yellow bird, a red cat, a white dog, a brown dog, a black and white dog, and a snail. The background is light orange with a pattern of paw prints.



Amazon Smile

Do you shop on Amazon.com? Amazon will give .5% of your purchase to the Newman Center through Amazon Smile. Just add "St Paul Newman Center" (no

period after St) as your charitable organization on your new or existing account and shop! When you shop be sure to be on smile.amazon.com so that part of your eligible purchase can go to the church. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up. It is an easy way to give back to the church. Last quarter we received \$170.89 from your generous donations.

Family Life Ministries

Joy of Love Moms

The Joy of Love Moms Group invites families to the west playground after 9:30am Mass for an opportunity for children and families to meet, socialize and play together. Please join us!

Men's Scripture Reflection and Discussion Group

This ministry meets on Monday mornings at 8:30am in the Library after our 8:00am morning Mass.

Prayer Ministry

Christian Meditation

This ministry will resume on Tuesday mornings beginning September 20 from 11:00am to noon in the Community Room. Sessions include 20 minutes of silent meditation followed by a brief lesson about this ancient Christian prayer tradition and discussion. The group is a member of the World Community for Christian Meditation. Meetings are facilitated by Benita Lankford. For information email contact John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com.

Grief Support Ministry

The Grief Support Ministry offers spiritual and emotional support to those who are coping with the death of a loved one. There are support group sessions in the fall and spring.

The next series of Grief Support meetings begin on October 17 through November 28. The meetings are held from 5:30pm to 7:00pm on Monday evenings in the Newman Center Community Room. Registration is required.

To Register:

Email John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com or call through the front desk at 436-3434, ext. 107.

Knights of Columbus Burrito Breakfast Claretian Youth Group (World Youth Day)

The Knights of Columbus John Cardinal Newman Council 9445 would like to announce that starting on Sunday, September 25th we will be bring back the Newman Center favorite Breakfast Burritos. We invite you to come out after the 7:30am, 9:30am and 11:30am Mass and enjoy a great bacon or sausage breakfast burrito with your choice of coffee or orange juice. The price will be \$7.00 with a portion of the proceeds going to the Claretian Youth Group to help them attend World Youth Day. You can stay and enjoy the company of your fellow parishioners, or you can take them to go. Have your car washed and eat a burrito all for the youth of the Newman Center.

Second Collection this Weekend

This weekend we will have a second collection for the Newman Center Stewardship Fund. Your generosity helps aid parishioners and those in our community. Thank you for your generosity.

Liturgical Ministries

Anyone with questions about serving as an extraordinary minister of communion, lector, usher, or greeter, please contact our Liturgy Director Karl Gurney for more information.

Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends is the Newman Center's Religious Education and faith formation program for EVERYONE of all ages - Children, HS Youth & Adults. Faith, Family & Friends meets this Tuesday evening, September 20, from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

Individuals and families are invited to gather in the grassy courtyard from 5:00pm to 5:45pm to bring and share a meal together. All are encouraged to gather by 5:45pm to pray before being released to attend classes. All Children's classes meet in Cardinal Newman Hall, Claretian High School Youth Group meets in St. John XXIII, and the Adult Group Sessions will meet in the Main Building.

Adult Sessions:

Catholic Faith Topic: 7 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching
Family Life Topic: Creating a Spiritual Heritage
Scripture Topic: Read, Reflect and Discuss the Up-Coming Sunday Scripture Readings

Food Recovery Network - Friday Dinners

We are happy to announce the restarting of the Parish's Friday Dinner Ministry. We are partnering with the Fresno State University Dining Hall, the Food Recovery Program at Fresno Metro Ministry and the Vineyard Farmers Market. Our intent is to serve 80-90% of the recovered food to needy individuals every Friday evening from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Cafeteria. We are happy to have a core team of about 20 parishioners who have volunteered one Friday per month to prepare and serve a complete and wholesome meal. If you are interested in volunteering, or making a donation to cover the costs of our dinner ministry, please contact Jim Grant at 559-708-3530 or jimgrantbc@gmail.com.

From Fr. Byron Macias, CMF

Jesus Christ in the Gospel today tells a story of a crooked administrator who is “squandering his property”. (Luke 16:1-13) When this administrator (who is advanced in age) learns that his master is going to fire him, he realizes what is really important in life. He knows he is old. He knows he has been crooked. He knows that at this point money will not help him at all. At this point, an honest question emerges from the depths of his soul: “What shall I do?”

On my flight back from Peru I got the chance to read a book (on preaching) by Taciano Ferreira, in which he describes “conversion” as “redirection”. Conversion is what makes us modify the direction of our journey; conversion is what makes us turn around and go in the direction towards what gives meaning in life.

What this crooked administrator experienced at this point was precisely this: conversion. He turned from greed to altruism; from thinking about money only to salvation; from death to life. And it worked!

God does not judge. God is love. God forgives. God gives us second chances. All God wants is that we fill our lives with meaning so that we can truly be authentic human beings. That is what makes us be in the image and likeness of God.

Let us, then, convert. Let us ask God for the strength and the audacity to redirect our lives towards what really matters. It is not easy, but it is totally worth it!

GOOD TO BE BACK

Last week was intense in Peru. All the Claretian Family (Claretians, Claretian Sisters, CordiMarian Sisters, Lay Claretians, Claret Filiation Sisters) gathered to discern God’s will as to the Claretian Youth Ministry for the next six years.

We prayed, we played, we analyzed the reality of our ministry sites and we also dreamed. We dreamed of a more beautiful, effective and comprehensive youth ministry! We have drafted a document that will be presented to the Claretians in the Americas and (if approved), it will be implemented next year.

I was invited to concelebrate the closing Mass and the sending forth ceremony. I was also invited to give a talk and celebrate Mass for the Claretian Seminarians in Lima. Last Monday morning I also was able to visit the tomb of St. Martin de Porres and you all were in my prayer intentions.

Thank you so much for holding me in prayer throughout this time. It was intense, but your prayers sustained me. It is good to be back!

CARWASH

Please help our Claretian Youth attending World Youth Day! We will have a carwash next week after all Masses. Please drive to the solar panel parking lot (next to the Newman Hall) and we will be there to leave your car squeaky clean! Any donations will be appreciated. As our Jacob Linares says: no donation is too big or too small! Hope you can support us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RETREAT

I thank the Knights for allowing me to be their Chaplain. As such, I am thrilled to announce (and to invite our fellow Knights) to our Fall Retreat on Saturday, October 22, 2022 from 7:30am to 1:00pm. I will be leading the retreat (pray for me!) and it will take place at the priests’ apartment.

I also need help with their lunch :). If you can help, please contact me: frbyron@csufnewman.com

CREATION CARE TEAM

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30pm (both Zoom and in person).

HONORING OUR POLICE

We have several parishioners who are part of the Police Department. There will be a BLUE MASS to pray for them on Friday, September 30 at 12:15pm. Mass will take place at St John’s Cathedral. I hope you can make it; otherwise, please keep our good officers in your prayers.

SAINTLY QUOTE

“This is my last hour of life, listen to me attentively: if I have held communication with foreigners, it has been for my religion and for my God. It is for Him that I die. My immortal life is on the point of beginning. Become Christians if you wish to be happy after death.” – St. Andrew Kim Taegon, the first native Korean priest and the first priest to die for the faith in Korea. Feast Day: Sept 20.

HAVE A LAUGH

What did Adam say the day before Christmas?
- It's Christmas, Eve!

Policy for All Parish Communication

The Newman Center's Communication's Committee is in the process of reviewing policy and procedure for all communications (i.e. print, web, social media, etc.) within the Newman Center community. In order to ensure continuity of our mission, Catholic identity, Newman Center brand, grammar, content, standard of quality, etc. it is important to establish some guidelines and best practices. Therefore, once the Committee has determined and organized these protocols, the final draft will be publicized and available for all ministries, organizations and groups to utilize. At this time our most essential requirement of these policies is that all information associated with St. Paul Catholic Newman Center be reviewed by a member of the Communications team prior to being printed, posted, or distributed. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Parish Directory

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Thank You!

The Sergio P Negro Scholarship Endowment Committee would like to extend thanks to all of you who made "Founders Day" a success. The planning and execution of this day takes a "Community", from the selection of the scholars to the clean up after the last reception.

We again congratulate our two scholars for this year, Hector Rodriguez and Cristina Hernandez. They were both honored and thrilled to have been selected. We wish them success in their academic pursuits.

Thank you the community who not only witnessed the presentation to the scholars but who also contributed to the second collection in support of our Scholarship Endowment. We know Sergio, our founder, would be very proud and appreciative of the support you are providing to the scholarship in his name.

Thank you and God Bless You,

The Sergio P. Negro Scholarship Endowment Committee



RCIA Sponsors Needed

God has blessed us with many people wanting to become Catholic. We made a call for sponsors and many responded and are already working but we now have more inquirers. So we need more sponsors. If you are a practicing Catholic and have

received baptism, confirmation and Holy Eucharist, you qualify. If you are interested in serving as a sponsor and share your faith with these new candidates and catechumens, or if you have questions about sponsoring, please contact Charles Arokiasamy at rcia@csufnewman.com or 559-286-6372. Or leave your contact information at the front office and we will follow up with you.

It is a lot of fun being a sponsor and you will find yourself learning many things you did not know about your own faith.

Catholic Charities Truck

The Catholic Charities Donation Truck will be at the Newman Center this weekend (September 17 - 18) to collect donation items after all Sunday morning Masses. Donations brought to the Saturday and Sunday evening Masses can be left in the white bin in the Chapel Courtyard. Thank you for your support.

Congress/Congreso

Diocesan Congress & Youth Day 2022 Congreso Diocesano y Dia Juvenil 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We are proud to once again be able to offer our Diocesan Congress in person this year.

Please share this digital flyer with individuals from your parish that might be interested in attending. They may review the schedule, speakers, and talks through the Congress Website using the accompanying link.

Diocesan Congress, Friday and Saturday, October 7-8 and Youth Day October 9, 2022.



Hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

Estamos orgullosos de poder ofrecer una vez más nuestro Congreso Diocesano en persona este año. Favor de compartir este folleto digital con personas de su parroquia que podrían estar interesados/as en asistir. Pueden revisar el horario, los temistas, y los talleres a través del sitio web del Congreso utilizando el enlace adjunto.

Congreso Diocesano, viernes y sábado, 7 y 8 de octubre y Dia Juvenil 9 de octubre de 2022.

**Congress Information and Registration: [Register Here](#)
Información del Congreso y Inscripción: [Regístrense Aquí](#)**



For more information please contact us at the Office of Formation and Evangelization:
Para mayor información favor de comunicarse con nosotros a la Oficina de Formación y Evangelización: (559) 488-7474

A Puzzling Parable

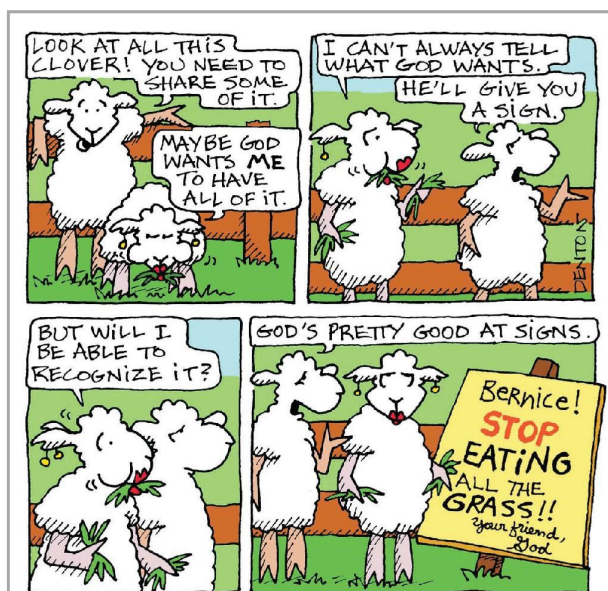
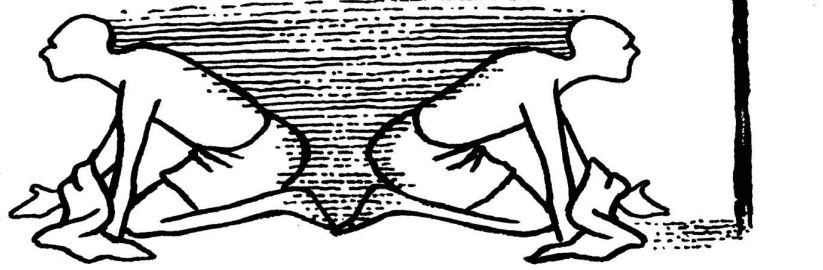
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Amos 8:4-7 - Against greed
- ▶ 1 Timothy 2:1-8 - Conduct of men and women
- ▶ Luke 16:1-13 or 16:10-13 - The dishonest steward

The first reading from the prophet Amos sounds a clear conviction against those who purposefully cheat, extort, and take advantage of the poor, seemingly without remorse. Sadly, that kind of injustice was common back then, as it still is today. Old Testament prophets like Amos regularly named economic injustice when they saw it. In the Gospel reading today, Jesus picks up on the prophetic tradition, preaching about appropriate and inappropriate uses of money. In Luke, more than any other Gospel, Jesus continually hammers home warnings about the seductive power of money.

The first section of today's Gospel, the parable about the dishonest steward, is a hard one to swallow if taken at face value. Biblical scholars still debate Jesus' meaning since it seems unlikely he would have commended the unsavory behavior of the steward who so blatantly cheats his master. (Although it is quite possible the master was extorting his debtors in the first place by charging extremely high interest rates—a common practice even though Jewish law forbid charging interest.) The most common interpretation is that Jesus is calling for his followers to act as *decisively* as the steward did in a time of crisis, not calling them to dishonesty. His call for prudence points out that disciples need to stretch themselves by showing greater dedication and commitment to the life of discipleship than the "children of this world" who invest themselves in making money and pursuing security in any manner possible.

If we let go of puzzling over this strange parable that seems so contradictory to Jesus'



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"Who will trust you with true wealth?"

Sheepish Question:

When—and why—have I thought it was okay to have more than my share?

other parables and step back to look at the overall content of Jesus' message about wealth, we can summarize it with the last line. "You cannot serve both God and mammon." Time after time, Jesus, like the prophets before him, shows how money can too easily get in the way of people doing God's work.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Share an example of someone proving him/herself trustworthy in small matters and graduating to being trustworthy in greater ones.
- 2 How have you seen money/wealth corrupt someone who originally had good intentions? Please share an example.

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FUNDRAISER

For World Youth Day

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center
1572 E. Barstow Ave., Fresno, CA 93710



**Park next to parish hall under solar panels
to have your car washed**

!!DONATIONS ACCEPTED!!

Sat. September 24th

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