

St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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Fresno, Ca 93710
Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

September 25, 2022

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

In the Hebrew Scriptures, Israel is given a special charge to take care of three specific groups of people: widows, orphans, and strangers. Together, they comprise the "poor" of the Old and New Testament, whose treatment prompts reflection from the biblical prophets as well as the Apostles of Jesus. In the Hebrew Bible, each of these groups figure into the great cycles of Israel's rise and fall. They are named as privileged in this weekend's Responsorial Psalm, ripe of encouragement because their deliverance comes at the hand of God Almighty. But the Psalm also speaks a note of prophetic wisdom in line with the First Reading from the Prophet Amos, as well as the Second Reading from St. Paul. In each case, the position of these downtrodden people is a kind of litmus test for the community that surrounds them.

As Amos writes, those found complacent in the midst of the oppressed will suffer the first stings of exile. Indeed, the Northern Tribes of Israel suffered such a fate after the invasion of a foreign Assyrian army. But this also serves as a warning to we who might otherwise ask, "what does their suffering have to do with me?"

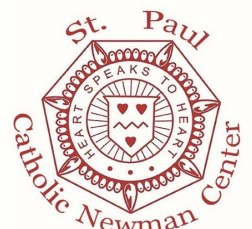
I do not consider myself among the richest of the rich, and I often excuse myself from the judgments that Prophets like Amos level against their society. At the same time, I live in the richest society in world history to date, and can't help but notice that the stream of houseless neighbors grows in my neighborhood, the heat that farmworkers endure intensifies, and many young people in my generation and the one following mine struggle to pay off debt. In other words, I am more often reminded of the hardships of this land than its blessings.

Do we also notice the downtrodden in our midst? It's not a stretch to say that they are here even in a "rich" parish like ours, we can make God's generosity known in the way we hold lightly to our blessings in the name of Christ. As St. Paul writes, we should "compete well for the faith." This is such a refreshing invitation in a world where competition usually means more suffering for more people. Instead of rugged individualism we can build solidarity. Instead of scarcity we can reveal the abundance of God's Reign. And instead of inequality, we can find ourselves truly equal in dignity and station at the Table of the Lord.

Karl Gurney
Director of Liturgy

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 25 - October 1, 2022

Sunday, September 25, 2022

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year C

Amos: 6:1 Woe to the complacent in Zion!...

What would Amos say about us? The U.S.?

Luke 16:19-31 The Rich Man and Lazarus

Who are the "Lazaruses" in our world today?

Where do we see, or not see them?

What are we doing with them?

Knights of Columbus Burrito Breakfast!

Claretian Youth Car Wash Fundraiser for
World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon!

September 25

Jewish New Year begins today!

To learn more about Temple Beth Israel Fresno

Visit <https://tbifresno.shulcloud.com>

Learn more about Rosh Ha Shanah here:

www.Hebcal.com

September 25

World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Watch the Feb 2017
Pope Video here:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBU4kj51rxQ

and November 2016 here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTDgNZfjMyw>

September 27

St. Vincent de Paul (1581-1660)

Founder of the Congregation of the Mission
(Vincentians) and inspiration for the global
organization of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

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

Topic: Newman Center Social Justice Ministries!

Visit CSUFnewman.com/ministries and scroll down
to "Peace and Social Justice" for so much more!

Thursday, September 29

Archangels Michael, Gabriel, & Raphael

Friday, September 30

Feast of St. Jerome (died in 420)

"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ"

5:30pm to 6:30pm Food Recovery Program (SPCNC
Cafeteria) 25 guests joined us last week!

Contact Jim Grant for more information.

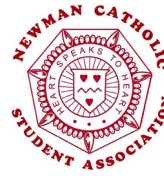
Saturday, October 1

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

National Bullying Awareness Week

Jim Grant, Volunteer, Social Justice Advocate,

jimgrantbc@gmail.com



Campus Ministry News!

Week of September 25 - October 2

College Hour

We are so excited to have you join us for Chapel this semester! Here are some helpful reminders and tips as you prepare to join us:

- Our theme this year is "Seek First..." and your message will explore what it means to seek "the kingdom of God". Some suggested topics that may help guide your message are faith & belief, trusting God above all else, and our pursuit of God (through prayer, scripture reading, community, etc.).
- Please keep your message within 18-22 minutes.
- Chapel will take place in the Elizabeth Lyles Theater located in the Culture and Arts Center (an updated map will be provided to you). Please follow University guidelines regarding masking and social distancing protocols.
- If you have any media (PowerPoint presentations, images, videos, etc.) please send them to OSF.student@fresno.edu the Monday prior to your scheduled Chapel message.
- Please arrive at 9:30 for a brief sound check with our Events Staff.

If you have any additional questions or need further guidance please don't hesitate to reach out to Taylor Starks taylor.starks@fresno.edu

We look forward to hearing your message!

Theme: What does it mean to strive? How does that look?

Tacos and Theology

Join us on 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 p.m. Afterwards, we will have our Student Lounge opened to provide a space for studying or to pick up school materials!

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

Knights Burrito Breakfast - Cafeteria

Claretian Youth Car Wash 8:00am to 2:00pm and Bake Sale

CNH Parking Lot

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 and RCIA Chapel
 Dismissal
 12:45pm Baptisms (Group) Chapel
 3:00pm Igbo Mass Chapel
 7:00pm Mass Chapel

Monday, September 26

Jb 1:6-22; Lk 9:46-50

8:00am Mass for Deceased Members of the Lopez Family Chapel
 8:30am Men's Morning Scripture Study Library
 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study Student Lounge

Tuesday, September 27

Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Lk 9:51-56

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 12:00pm Christian Meditation Community Room
 6:00pm FF&F CNH & Main Building

Wednesday, September 28

Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Lk 9:57-62

8:00am Mass for Micaela Lopez Avila 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 29

Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Jn 1:47-51

8:00am Communion Service Chapel
 10:30am Spann Funeral Chapel
 4:00pm Confessions Chapel
 5:30pm Spirituality of the 12 Steps CNH 103
 6:00pm Mass Int. of Deacon John Supino and Family Chapel
 6:30pm Tacos and Theology Student Lounge

Friday, September 30

Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Lk 10:13-16

8:00am Mass Int. of Kevin Nicholson Chapel
 5:30pm Food Recovery Network Cafeteria

Saturday, October 1

Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Lk 10:17-24

7:30am Men's Saturday Coffee Group Cafeteria
 5:00pm Mass for Jose Guadalupe Sanchez Chapel
 6:00pm St. John Henry Newman Novena Chapel

Sunday, October 2

Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10

7:30am Mass for Todd Anderson Chapel
 9:30am Mass for John Godburn Chapel
 11:30am Mass for Teresa Espinosa and RCIA Dismissal Chapel
 6:00pm St. John Henry Newman Novena Chapel
 7:00pm Mass Chapel

September Contributions

2021		2022	
Sept. 5 ACH	\$26,023.55	Sept. 4	\$22,726.18
Sept. 12	\$15,563.44	Sept. 11 ACH	\$15,563.44
Sept. 19 ACH	\$36,372.30	Sept. 18 ACH	\$23,403.77
Sept. 26	\$10,517.01	Sept. 25	
Sept. Total	\$88,476.30	Sept. Total	\$61,693.39

Prayers:

- ◆ For those who died this week: John Cook
- ◆ 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 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, Magdalena Lovejoy

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

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 27 from 6:00pm to 7:00 pm.

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: Introduction to our 6 Priorities for Social Justice.

Family Life Topic: Promoting Discipleship at Home.

Scripture Topic: Read, Reflect and Discuss the Up-Coming Sunday Scripture Readings.

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.

The **Men's Monthly Saturday Coffee Group** of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center meets on the first Saturday morning each month, October – June, 7:30am to 9:00am, in the Cafeteria for coffee, scripture reflection, faith-sharing & friendship building. **Please join us this Saturday, October 1st from 7:30-9:00am and bring a friend!**

Prayer Ministry

Christian Meditation

This ministry meets Tuesday from 12:00pm to 1:00pm 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 Oct. 17 through Nov. 28, 2022. The meetings are held from 5:30pm 7:00pm on Monday evenings in the Newman Center Community Room. Advanced registration is required.

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

What is a Novena?

In Latin, "Novem" means "nine." A Novena is a form of prayer that normally takes place over nine days, with devotions usually focused on a specific intention. There is no prescribed form of prayer for a novena, but many include rosary prayers. Although Novenas can be prayed as a means of mourning the dead or petitioning God's help in a specific situation, we are praying a Novena of Preparation, in anticipation of St. John Henry Newman's feast day on October 9. Therefore beginning on Saturday, October 1, we'll pray a special Novena every evening at 6:00pm, led by one of our clergy or staff. Each day's prayers are focused on a particular aspect of St. John Henry Newman's spiritual guidance. We know this will be an enriching experience for our parish, and we hope to see you there!

Creation Care Tips

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table." —Luke 16:19-21

Two thousand years after Jesus told this parable the inequality between the rich and the poor is even more scandalous. With modern agricultural knowledge and good stewardship of natural resources, the earth can produce enough food to feed all of its population. What it can't do is feed the entire population at the level of wasteful extravagance some live today. By eating lower on the food chain and eating food that is grown more sustainably we free up resources for more people to be fed. This week, shop at a farmer's market, switch a conventional purchase to an organic one (e.g. organic milk instead of non-organic), eat a few more vegetarian meals, or choose popcorn, dried fruit, or nuts for a simple snack instead of a highly packaged and processed treat.

Weekly Justice Challenge

Justice Challenge: Sunday's Gospel tells the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Ironically, we don't see the rich man doing anything bad—he didn't hit Lazarus or make him leave or even yell at him. So why did he end up in eternal damnation? It was because he didn't even notice his suffering brother. The rich man was totally oblivious to the needs of Lazarus. Your challenge this week is to increase your awareness. Look at your community, your country, and even your world with new eyes. Who are the invisible poor who need your help? Discuss every evening who you have noticed for the first time. Then, at the end of the week, as a family or an individual choose one action you can do to help a person or a group whom you identified. The help could be a financial donation, direct service, or a form of advocacy on their behalf (e.g., emailing your state legislators to change laws to provide more aid to the homeless or single parent families or the mentally ill).

From Fr. Byron Macias, CMF

Jesus continues his teachings about conversion. Last week he taught us that if even a corrupt administrator can convert, so can we! This week Jesus takes the "conversion" to the next level: it's never too early!

Jesus talks about a rich man who didn't care about others (Luke 16:19-31). Then, after he dies, he realizes he spent his life so focused on himself that he missed out so much: from the poor hungry man who died at his door to his brothers who were the same or worse than he. But by then, it was too late.

I can think of at least three reasons why it's never too early to experience conversion:

First, we secure salvation in the afterlife (Jesus talks about life after death in this very Gospel passage).

Second, we can save others through our help, care and prayers. St. Francis of Assisi is the living example of this: it is in giving that we receive;

Third, indeed: it is in giving that we receive: Conversion gives meaning to our lives.

Conversion does not add anything to the power of God but it can change our lives for good. And it is not impossible to do: All it takes is to pray, to be aware, to share and to do now! It's never too early to experience conversion.

FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTION

Please join us on Friday, October 7 right after the 8:00am Mass for Adoration in the church.

COLLEGE HOUR AT FRESNO PACIFIC

Please hold Edgar Guzman and I prayer as we share the Scripture reflection on Sept 28th at Fresno Pacific University.

HELP: SNACKS AND DOOR PRIZES NEEDED

Our Claretian Youth loves snacks! We can use your generosity: we can use snacks, drinks and door prizes for our Claretian Youth. Please contact me if you would like to help.

CARWASH

May God reward you for supporting our CAR WASH this weekend. Our Claretian Youth has been working hard in raising funds towards the World Youth Day Trip. I am sure they feel your warmth and support. Thank you for your generosity!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS RETREAT

Our Fall Retreat will be 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 Thank you so much!

TACOS AND THEOLOGY

We will not have Tacos and Theology this week. Instead, we will be gathering (at the same time and place) to learn about Laudato Si and Creation Care.

CREATION CARE TEAM

Our next meeting will be on Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:30pm (both Zoom and in person). Please contact Jim Grant or me for more information.

SAINTLY QUOTE

"Go to the poor: you will find God." –St. Vincent De Paul (Feast: Sept 27).

HAVE A LAUGH

A Catechist asked the children just before she dismissed them to go to church: "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

Annie replied, "Because people are sleeping"

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 a 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.

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.

Food Recovery Network - Friday Dinners

Our Parish's Friday Dinner Ministry needs your help. 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.

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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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.

8th Annual Blue Mass

Bishop Brennan is inviting ALL FIRST RESPONDERS! Bishop Brennan will celebrate a Mass, known as the "Blue Mass", for all first responders and those who work in public safety on September 30, 2022.

The Blue Mass will be at St. John's Cathedral in downtown Fresno and will begin at 12:15pm. Those attending are encouraged to wear their uniform but can come in civilian attire if they choose. Bishop Brennan will bless all badges during the Mass and will bless department vehicles immediately after the Mass.

A lunch reception will follow after the Mass and will be hosted by the Catholic Daughters Council 2526 from St. John's Cathedral, Knight of Columbus Councils 9525, St. John's Cathedral and 16185, Holy Spirit, Fresno, and Me & Ed's Pizzeria.

All faiths are welcome. The Fresno County Sheriff's Department is coordinating an Honor Guard for the Mass and welcomes members of other public safety Honor Guards to participate with them.

Please contact Deacon Pete Marquez at 559-434-7701 for additional information.

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

Warnings About Extravagance

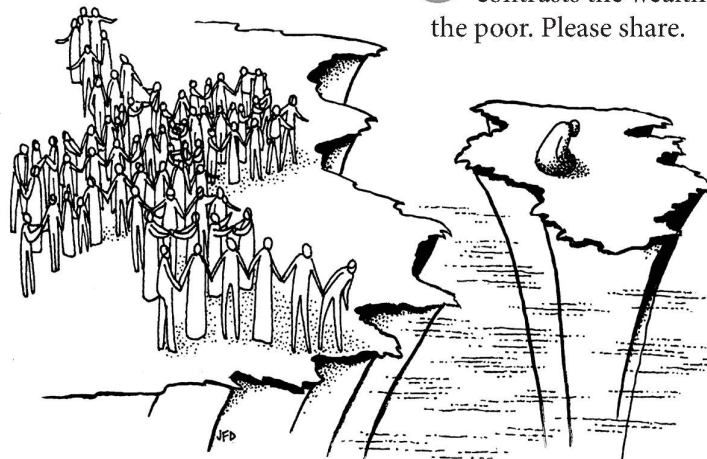
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Amos 6:1a, 4-7 - Third woe
- ▶ 1 Timothy 6:11-16 - The good fight of faith
- ▶ Luke 16:19-31 - The rich man and Lazarus

This week's readings focus on extravagant wealth, poverty, and economic inequality. The passage from Amos continues the theme of last week's reading calling out the sinfulness of the extremely wealthy. They are living in luxury (beds of ivory! eating veal! drinking wine from bowls, not cups!) while around them the needy are being ignored and their country is crumbling. Presumably the poor can rarely afford meat, much less veal, and are sleeping on the ground. Jesus paints a similar picture of the disparity between the rich man Lazarus and the poor beggar at his door ending with a harsh or consoling conclusion, depending on the status of the listener/reader.

Luke's Gospel has more parables and teachings about wealth and poverty than any other, including this one about the rich man and Lazarus. Because Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles—which continues with many examples of money used appropriately or not—we can presume that Jesus (and the author Luke) was addressing an audience that included a mix of both wealthy and poor people. In Jesus' world, there weren't many in-between, with almost no middle class to speak of.

In reality, most of the wealth amassed by the rich came from the exploitation of the poor, although sometimes the religious and cultural presumption was that the rich were rich because God favored them while the poor did something to lose God's favor. Jesus flatly contradicts this idea with his para-



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“The Lord gives sight to the blind ...raises up those who were bowed down.”

Sheepish Question:
Where have I failed to notice someone in need?

ble. Abraham's statement, "They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them" was a clear reminder to Jesus' listeners about God's desires for money and possessions to be shared and used for the benefit of everyone. "Moses and the prophets" was a catch phrase referring to the Jewish scriptures (our Old Testament). Of the 600+ commandments contained in those books, many of them detailed how wealth should be fairly distributed so that no one was left destitute. Clearly, the rich man in this parable had ignored Jewish law.

Questions of the Week

- 1 Think about a modern day example that contrasts the wealth of some with the plight of the poor. Please share.
- 2 How might God be calling you to share your wealth and possessions more equitably and justly?

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