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Sunday, September 24th, 2017
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous? Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”
 — Mt 20:13c-16
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Sept 23	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Sept 24	5:00pm 9:30am	Missa Pro Populo Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.)
Mon. Sept 25	11:00am 9:30am 7-8pm	Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families) Intention Available Holy Hour & Reconciliation
Tues. Sept 26	9:30am	Clive Stewart (Jim & Mary Smith)
Wed. Sept 27	9:30am	Intention Available
Thurs. Sept 28	9:30am	Intention Available
Fri. Sept 29	9:30am	Betty Mei (Patti & Cyril Simek)

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Year of the Rosary: CELEBRATION OF A LIVING ROSARY: Saturday, September 30th, 2017, St. Alfred, St. Catharines, 8:30am— Mass with Bishop Gerard Bergie; 9:15- 11:30am— reflection, song and prayer. Parishioners are invited to this special event to **pray for peace in the world** during the 100th anniversary of the Fatima Apparitions. All are welcome!

Thanksgiving Food Drive: Baskets are the back of the church. Donations to Pelham cares appreciated. The following are a list of the **Items Most Urgently Needed** : Canned Fruit, Juice boxes, Apple/berry school snacks Jam (regular and sugar free), Stew / Chili, Honey, Nut free granola bars, Sugar free Jello, Cooked and instant pudding, "Wow Butter" (soy based), Unsweetened Almond Milk, Shampoo. Please have items ready for the weekend of Sept 30/Oct 1 so that we can get them to Pelham Cares before Thanksgiving. Please note that at this time, there is an abundant supply of dried pasta and pasta sauce. Thank you so for your support!

St. Vincent de Paul Society: Please join us downstairs for coffee following Mass on **September 30/October 1** to learn more about the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul. We will have a display with information about the work the Society does and our members will be there to answer any questions you may have.

Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 “Are you envious because I am generous?” The landowner in today’s Gospel parable surprised everyone. Contrary to standard practice, he paid all of his laborers the same wage, regardless of how many hours they had worked! Of course this was a very pleasant surprise for those who had begun their job late in the day. And, understandably, it was something of a disappointment for those who had toiled since the morning. From their perspective, they should have gotten more than the others. But in fact the landowner was not cheating anyone; he was simply being especially generous with the latecomers.



This story would have had a special meaning for the Jewish audience listening to Jesus. They, the Chosen People, were the laborers who had started at 9:00 am. They belonged to the group with a long history of worshipping the true God. Non-Jewish Gentiles, on the other hand, had appeared late in the game. Jesus was making the point that just because he would offer the same salvation and mercy to everyone, there should be no reason for the Jews to complain. They had received their promised Messiah; so what if, in God’s mercy, he allowed others who had not waited so long to be saved as well? Divine generosity is not meant to be a cause for jealousy.

Now, we may feel removed from the concerns of those Jews. But the basic lesson remains relevant: that we ought to appreciate God’s generosity, even when it reaches to those whom we may not expect God to forgive. Those who have long been faithful, for example, might think they deserve more benefits than sinners who repent late in life. But instead, we should all rejoice to see God’s mercy extended to **everyone**, no matter when they joined the fold.

Looking for an amazing Bible Study?
 Discover the “big picture of the Bible”, as St. Ann’s hosts **Jeff Cavins’ popular video series, “The Great Adventure: A Journey through the Bible.”** This exciting study will take your understanding of Sacred Scripture and your Catholic faith to entirely new levels:

- Understand how the **people, places and events of the Bible fit together** in God’s plan of salvation history and **how relevant this is to our lives today.**
- Learn the **six covenants God made with humanity** and how they led to the establishment of the Catholic Church.
- Discover how **your own Catholic faith fits into “His story”.**

The first session of this 24 week, two part series will be offered on **Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 pm starting Oct 3, 2017 and will run to Dec 19, 2017** in the Parish Hall; the second part will resume in January of 2018. Cost is for materials only: student workbook is \$48.99 + tax. Please register by calling the Parish office or by e-mailing **stansfewick@cogeco.net**. Anyone needing financial assistance to purchase the student workbook should send an email to the above email address.
On the weekend of Sept 23/24 , a promo video will be presented and you can register. There will also be an opportunity to register on the weekend of Sept 30/Oct 1.

Confirmation Prayer Partners– Sign up Sheet at the back of the church. Your role as a prayer partner is to offer a prayer of your choice every day from now until the day of the student’s Confirmation which will take place in our parish on **Saturday, November 11th at 5pm.** Your prayerful commitment will be a rich spiritual blessing for you as well as for the student. The Sign up sheet is at the back of the church. Please consider being a prayer partner– **7 individuals** are needed.

Sunday, October 1st, 2017
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.” — Mt 21:32
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Sat. Sept 30	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Oct 1	5:00pm 9:30am	Harry Atkins (Wendy Atkins) Ugo & Antonietta Scurci (Scurci, Devine & Gregoris Fam.)
Mon. Oct 2	11:00am 9:30am	Missa Pro Populo Kelly Morellato (Racz Family)
Tues. Oct 3	7-8pm 9:30am	Holy Hour & Reconciliation Daniel & Cecilia Leo (John & Diane Szydlowski)
Wed. Oct 4	9:30am	Tony Rana (Gwen MacDougall)
Thurs. Oct 5	9:30am	Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families)
Fri. Oct 6	9:30am	Special Intention for Jackie & Guy Lupien (Maeve & Doug Devlin)
Sat. Oct 7	9-10am 4-4:45pm	Reconciliation Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation
Sun. Oct 8	5:00pm 9:30am 11:00am	Missa Pro Populo Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family) Anthony Filbert (Linda Filbert & Family)

Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.” Jesus spoke these shocking words not just to anybody. He spoke them to “the chief priests and elders of the people.” The ones who were professional law-keepers. The ones who were religious leaders and teachers. The ones who were, in truth, self-righteous, pompous, and presumptuous. Jesus must have known how offensive it would be to his audience to share this unpleasant fact. But he said it anyway because he knew they needed to hear it.
 But the point wasn’t to offend. The point was to **amend**. Jesus was urging them to change their lives for the better, to come to God with a humble, contrite heart, seeking forgiveness and mercy. These unrepentant leaders were plagued by an inability to see their own sins. They were far too focused on identifying where others were going wrong. The Lord longs to see everyone repent from their sinful behavior and begin anew. Either we need to acknowledge and repent of our sins, or we are placing ourselves in the same category as the pharisaical priests and elders. And that’s definitely not the place to be.

Parish Calendar

September.....	
Sept 24.....	Bishop’s Collection for Needs of the Church In Canada
October.....	
Oct 1st.....	Spanish Mass 1pm
Oct 6th....	Visitation of sick and homebound
Oct 6th.....	Youth Ministry Bingo night– Lookout Ridge
Oct 9th.....	Thanksgiving
Oct 11th.....	St. Ann School Thanksgiving Mass 9:30am
Oct 15th.....	St. Vincent de Paul meeting after 11am Mass
Oct 16-20....	Weekday Masses cancelled
Oct 16....	Holy Hour Cancelled
Oct 21....	Confessions cancelled 9-10am
Oct 23-25....	Weekday Masses cancelled
Oct 23....	Holy Hour Cancelled
Oct 22....	Special Collection– World Mission Sunday
Oct 29....	Youth Mass during 9:30am Sunday Mass
Oct 30....	Holy Hour Cancelled
Oct 30 & 31....	Weekday Masses cancelled
Every Wednesday:	Confirmation classes 4-5:30pm; Youth Ministry 6:30-8:30pm (Grades 5-12)

Prayer Intention Month of October:
 Universal: Workers and the Unemployed—That all workers may receive respect and protection of their rights and that the unemployed may receive the opportunity to contribute to the common good.

Pope Benedict XVI in an address at the Basilica of St. Mary Major where he prayed the rosary with the faithful said:

October Month of The Holy Rosary
 Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new Springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ’s mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory. May Mary help us to welcome within ourselves the grace emanating from these mysteries, so that through us we can “water” society, beginning with our daily relationships, and purifying them from so many negative forces, thus opening them to the newness of God. The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the centre of each “Hail Mary”.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE
 If you are a CWL member and plan to attend the Celebration of the Living Rosary on September 30th (see above), please contact Donna Larocque 905-386-6703.
 The next CWL meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 27th**, with Mass beginning at 6:30pm followed by a meeting (in the parish meeting room). The CWL would like to keep members informed of league activities/events happening in our parish and diocese and a great way to do this is through email. If your email has recently changed or you now have access to email, please notify the office so we can update our records. We look forward to seeing everyone at our meetings this year !