

Pastor's Letter

September 27, 2026 – 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

Talk is cheap. It comes as no surprise, then, when Jesus tells us in our Gospel reading that actually doing the will of God and not just talking about it is the mark of the real Christian. But the parable of the two sons tells us something else about the Christian life as well. In the parable the first Son is asked to go work in the vineyard and initially refuses but then changes his mind and does as the father asks. Even though he is initially rebellious, he comes around to the father's way of thinking. And that is what matters.

Each and every one of us is on a journey of becoming the people God wants us to be. Being open to change is essential to making this journey successfully. Change isn't always easy. Neither is learning to trust. But God asks us to do both. St. Paul writes in our second reading, "Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others." That is not the way we are used to doing things.

We are used to living in competition with each other, putting ourselves first, taking care of number one. When we hear God tell us to put others first, our immediate reaction might be to get defensive. We might pull back and say, "I can't do that." It feels dangerous to care too much about others. But then maybe we remember how Jesus lived for others, how he "did not regard equality with God something to be grasped. Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." All for us. And then, maybe we take a deep breath, turn back toward God and say, "Ok, Lord, you did it for me, so I'll try to be there for others."

The Christian life is full of this kind of back and forth wrestling with ourselves as we try to grow in the image of Christ. Let's keep striving to do what God wants us to do, even when we want to say no.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Journey of Faith begins September 28

Have you ever had questions about the teachings, history, and structure of the Catholic Church? Maybe you are thinking about becoming Catholic, have family or friends who are Catholic, or maybe you are Catholic and want to go deeper in the practice of your faith. Our parishes will once again be offering a class called, "Journey of Faith" starting in September. This is our program for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Our OCIA class is for anyone interested in learning about Catholic faith and life. Classes will begin on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Brigid's in the parish hall. The class will be led by Fr. Scott. This is a great opportunity to go deep into the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. Bring your questions and join us! For more info contact Fr. Scott.

