

It's Not Fair

The story in the Gospel doesn't sound fair. Some people worked from early morning until evening; others joined them at the end of the workday. But they all got the same pay. How can that be fair? Perhaps fairness isn't the point of the story. But then, what is?

The landowner, symbolizing God, hired the workers "after agreeing with them for the usual daily wage" (Matthew 20:2). If the earliest workers presumed that the agreed-upon wage would be changed, does that make God unfair? Those workers expected God to conform to what they considered just—and justice certainly is a very important value. However, God acted out of divine generosity—a quality we hope to benefit from but which might engender resentment when it is bestowed upon others.

As difficult as this story might seem to us, it raises some important questions about ourselves. Perhaps the story is not so much about God as it is about our

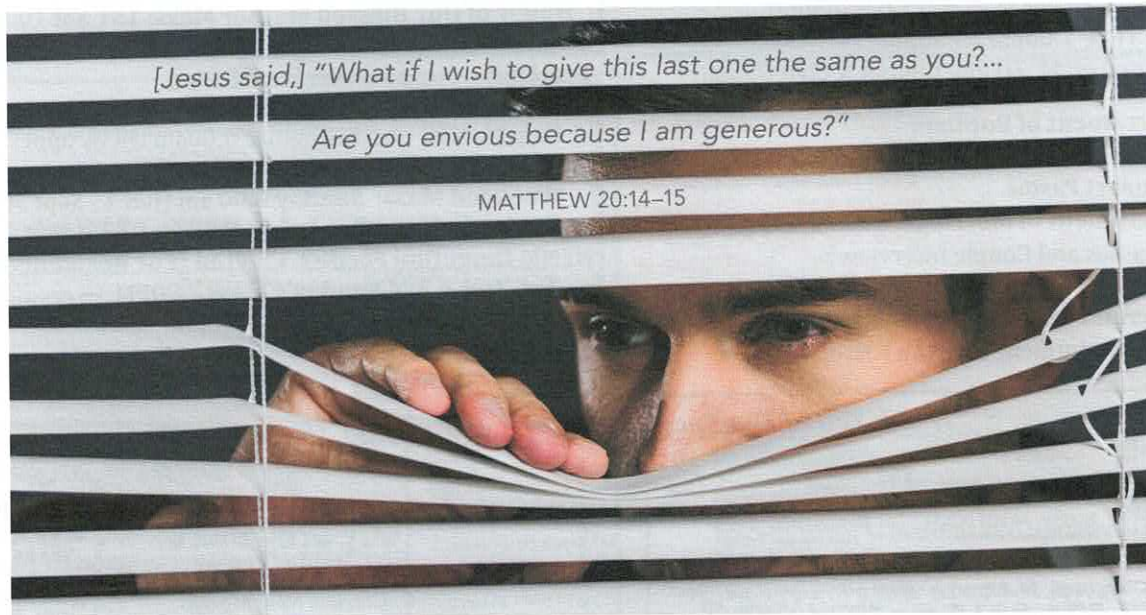
own attitudes. If we are faithful to what we believe is God's will for us, do we then presume that God owes us some kind of compensation? Do we expect that God will act according to our standards of retributive justice (this-for-that) rather than restorative justice (bring-it-back-to-life)? Do we resent God's graciousness toward others?

It is better that we all look to God for generosity than for justice. If we do, we will find, as the psalm response tells us: "The LORD is gracious and merciful" (Psalm 145:8).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Do you resent others who seem to have an easier life? Does this lead you to question God's justice?
- ★ Pray for the insight to realize that we earn nothing; everything is a gift from God.





St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

115 N. First Street, Clayton, NM 88415

Office and Fax: (575) 374-8894 Email: sfxclayton@gmail.com

Rectory: (575) 374-8900 (After 9:00 PM-Emergency Only)

Missions: Des Moines, Folsom, Moses, NENM Detention Facility

www.sfxclayton.org

Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jason Pettigrew
Deacon: Dcn Louis Montoya (Retired)
Business Manager/Finance: Theresa Gard
Secretary: Lucine Montoya
Religious Education: Rose Ramirez
Adult Religious Education: Rev. Jason Pettigrew

Parish Office Hours (CCD Building)

W, TH, F 1:00pm -5:00pm
Closed on M, TU and Church & Civil Holidays

Sacrament of Baptism

(Classes and Parents Interview)
Contact Pastor

Sacrament of Marriage

(Classes and Couple Interview)
Contact Fr. Jason -6 Months Prior

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

By appointment with the Pastor

SEPTEMBER 20TH

St. Francis Xavier, Clayton

Weekend Mass: Saturday 5:00pm Sunday 10:30am

Daily Mass: (Wed-Spanish)-Fri at 12:10pm

Thurs at 5:30pm

Adoration /Confession: Tue 5:30-7:30pm Thurs 6:00-7:00pm

Honor of Our Blessed Mother Mass: 1ST Sat 10:30am

Confession: Saturday 4:00-5:00pm OR By Appointment

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Des Moines

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00am (Oct 1 - May 31)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

St. Joseph, Folsom

Weekend Mass: Sunday 8:00 am (Jun 1 - Sept 30)

Confession: Sunday before 8:00am OR by appt

NENM Detention Facility, Clayton (For Residents/Staff)

1st, 2nd & 3rd Sunday's Mass 2:00PM

Confession: Sunday 1:30pm—2:00

Nursing Home, Clayton

Every 4th Sunday 1:30 PM

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*This is my body, which will be given up for you.  
This is my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant.  
It will be shed for you & for all... so that sins may be forgiven.  
Do this in memory of me.*

Masses will be offered **September 2020**  
+ All the Departed Parishioner's & Family Members  
**SI All the Sponsors, Benefactors & Supporters of SFX Clayton**  
**SI Good Health & Well Being of all Parishioners & Families**

**Sat, Sept. 19** +Patricia Osborne by Laura Gonzalez  
+Joe Simoes by Belen Simoes  
+Charlie Alsup by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Sun, Sept. 20** SI (ISG) Paul Durbin  
SI (SSG) John Cloud  
SI (SSG) John Herrera  
SI (SGT) Brian Montoya  
SI (SPC) Mathew Durbin

**Wed, Sept. 23** +Patricia Osborne by Laura Gonzalez  
+Ann Jones by Ross & Shelley Carter  
+Orlando Bugas by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Sat, Sept. 26** +Betty Fogarty by Julian & Colleen Gutierrez/Families  
+ Ann Jones by Ross & Shelley Carter  
SI Agnes Fisk by Ross & Shelley Carter

**Sun, Sept. 27** +Patricia Osborne by Laura Gonzalez  
SI Gladys Marie Jesko by Kirk & Debbie Jesko  
SI Dennis Rael by Belen Simoes

**Weekly Collections Summary: August/September 2020**

|                 | <u>SFX</u>  | <u>OLOG</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| September 12-13 | \$ 2,081.00 | \$ 339.00   |
| September 05-06 | \$ 1,630.05 | \$ 433.00   |
| August 29-30    | \$ 2,253.00 | \$ 373.00   |
| August 22-23    | \$ 1,245.50 | \$ 278.00   |

**Thank you so much for your generosity!**

*Please visit the following very informative websites:*

[www.archdiocesasantafe.org](http://www.archdiocesasantafe.org)  
[www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com)  
[w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)  
[www.catholicculture.org](http://www.catholicculture.org)

**Announcements**

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER DONATING  
YOUR TIME:  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR!**

**CCD Teachers Confirmation Teachers  
Lectors Church Cleaners**

**SFX Celebration Raffle Tickets**  
We will start selling the  
2020 "The Birth of CHRIST!!!"  
Raffle Tickets early this year at \$5.00 a ticket  
or \$20.00 a book.

**Lectors for Masses**

**Sat, Sept. 19** 5:00pm Shelley Carter—Lector  
**Sun, Sept. 20** 10:30am - Effie Walker—Lector  
**Sat, Sept. 26** 5:00pm - Ross Carter—Lector  
**Sun, Sept. 27** 10:30am - Craig Reeves—Lector

**ACA Pledge Goal Report**

**St. Francis Xavier-Clayton**  
**% of Participation - 12.10%**  
**Number of Families -314**  
**Parish Goal - \$13,500.00**  
**% Goal Pledged -73.66%**  
**% Goal Paid -74.70%**  
**Total Pledge-\$9,944.00**  
**Total Paid-\$10,084.00**  
**Short-\$3,416.00**

All Ministry schedules are updated  
monthly and posted on the church website.  
If you need to know when you serve,  
check **www.sfxclayton.org!!**

# Dear Padre,

**My nephew has a chronic illness. My father is saving money to send to him so he can send it to a faith healer my dad has seen on TV. What can I say to my dad to convince him this is a bad idea?**

**T**he Catholic Church teaches that “those who dwell in heaven” regularly intercede with God on our behalf (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 956), and those intercessions include healings.

But living people with the power to instantly heal physical and mental ailments are rare. Some “healers” have accomplices who fake illness or disability and are then “cured” for the sole purpose of getting people to



ROMOLO TAVANI/SHUTTERSTOCK

give money to the “healer.” We should be very skeptical about these claims, because scam artists understand how easy it is to take advantage of people who are desperate for relief of pain or for the cure of a chronic or terminal illness.

One thing is certain: healing ultimately comes from God. Anyone who claims he or she is the healer and not simply God’s instrument is unquestionably a fraud.

Suggest to your dad that he talk to his priest before he sends any money to the “healer.” The best way for him to help his grandson is to pray for him and donate any money he has saved to an organization that does research into the condition. That way, your father will be helping everyone with the condition—not just your nephew.

—Fr. Rick Potts, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



## A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Jesus wants to make us contemplate the gaze of that landowner: the gaze with which he looks upon each of the laborers searching for work and calls them to go to his vineyard....It is a gaze which calls, invites one to get up and begin a journey because he wants life for each of us.*

—ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

## Calendar

### Monday

SEPTEMBER 21  
*St. Matthew,  
Apostle and  
Evangelist*  
Eph 4:1–7, 11–13  
Mt 9:9–13

### Tuesday

SEPTEMBER 22  
*Weekday*  
Prv 21:1–6, 10–13  
Lk 8:19–21

### Wednesday

SEPTEMBER 23  
*St. Pius of Pietrelcina,  
Priest*  
Prv 30:5–9  
Lk 9:1–6

### Thursday

SEPTEMBER 24  
*Weekday*  
Eccl 1:2–11  
Lk 9:7–9

### Friday

SEPTEMBER 25  
*Weekday*  
Eccl 3:1–11  
Lk 9:18–22

### Saturday

SEPTEMBER 26  
*Weekday*  
Eccl 11:9–12:8  
Lk 9:43b–45

### Sunday

SEPTEMBER 27  
*Twenty-sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*  
Ez 18:25–28  
Phil 2:1–11 or 2:1–5  
Mt 21:28–32

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