

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Catholic Community

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 6, 2009

Served by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate

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Fr. Roger Bergkamp	Pastor	262-4749, Option 3	
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Bro. Craig	Pastoral Associate	262-4749, Option 3	cbonham0817@gmail.com

SUNDAY LITURGY: Saturday 5pm, Sunday 9am and 11:30am, Sunday 5pm, until August 31

WEEKDAY LITURGY: Monday through Friday, 12:05pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday 11:00 – 11:45am
Saturday 4:00 – 4:45pm

Sacrament of Anointing of Sick: Available during the Sunday masses, or as needed.

Sacrament of Baptism: for children – Parents Prep class required. Call Marlys for reservations.
Best done prior to birth.
for adults – Contact the office about RCIA

Sacrament of Marriage: 6 month process (several classes and FOCUS Test and/or Engaged Encounter, or Couple to Couple...contact a priest.

Pastoral Council: meets the 3rd Thursday of each month (usually)

Prayer Chain: pjham@att.net, Pat Hamilton 262-5250

Sexual Abuse Victim Assistance Coordinator: Marlys Verba

Please Note: Submissions/articles for the weekly bulletin via email must be in by Thursdays at noon to Marlys: marlys.verba@gmail.com and you may send a copy to: csponsel@acsalaska.net

Back to the Present

The readings for this Sunday invite us to move through time, but in an interesting direction. They have us look to the future for the sake of the present.

In the reading from Isaiah, God promises that those who are in any way prevented from living life to the fullest will be freed from impediments and will sing and dance with joy. This is the kind of future for which we all yearn. In the gospel, we see Jesus fulfilling the promise that God made. His ministry establishes God's reign in which healing and the blessings of life are no longer merely expectations of the future. Through the power of Jesus, they unfold before the eyes of those who witness Jesus' wondrous deeds. The future is now in the present. This future is real, even though one needs eyes of faith to recognize it.

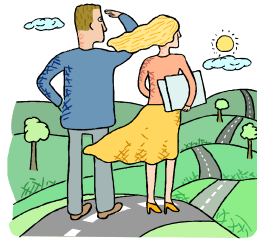
Unless we can step into the mysterious future that these readings envision, they will remain simply religious stories, and we will sit in the audience watching someone else's drama unfold. But how do we take that step into the future?

The author of the Letter of James offers an example of how this can be done. Who of us has not been impressed when a fashionably dressed woman or man joins our gathering? If this is a person of renown, we might fall all over ourselves showing deference. But do we show that same kind of courtesy to those among us who are less fortunate or well-known? James insists: "Show no partiality." In a society like ours, where we dote on people who have money or power or celebrity, this mandate is counter-cultural. We cannot deny that there are differences in social status. However, if we show respect to all people, regardless of the differences, treating them as children of God, we will be taking a step into that future of peace and blessing. In a very real sense, that future will be made present.

Looking to the future for the sake of the present is not the same as living in the future. Nor is it the same as planning the future, which seems to be a favorite pastime of many people. The future referred to in these readings is not simply the one we want for ourselves. It is the one that God wants for us. This is the future depicted in God's promises, the future in which we will be freed from whatever prevents us from living life to the full.

This future, which is really the reign of God, takes shape when we make a decision to live God's promises in the present. God holds out the possibility of this future, but we must decide to step into it. It will dawn upon us when we work to ensure justice for those oppressed, food for those who are hungry, freedom for those unjustly held captive, sight to those who cannot see, relief to those crushed by life, protection to widows and orphans, and respect to strangers. This is the future promised by God, and each time we accomplish such feats we bring God's future 'back to the present.'

[Dianne Bergant, C.S.A.](#)



A LOOK AHEAD:

GENERATIONS OF

FAITH will begin Sunday, September 13, after the 11:30am

Mass; Please join us for a light lunch at O'Neill Hall and following we will gather for the event which will be on the Sacrament of Holy Orders: Everyone is invited to come; please let us know if childcare is needed for the little ones, 3 1/2 years old or younger, by Saturday, so we may plan appropriately; Please call Thelma at 262-9443 to register; Generations of Faith is a required part of the curriculum for our students in the First Reconciliation class as well as those in the Confirmation class.

Parents of students in second grade who are in the First Reconciliation/First Eucharist class will have a necessary meeting to go over the program as well as the class schedule on Thursday, September 17 at 7pm at O'Neill Hall. Please mark this on your calendar. Please bring your child's Baptismal record as well with you. Even though the informational class is after the initial Generations of Faith session, this is a required part of the First Reconciliation class.



First Teen Night - Sept. 20 - Our Lady of Angels (Kenai) - 4pm

Begins with a 4pm Mass at Our Lady of Angels Church in Kenai followed by fun at the beach. Two forms (Parent Permission & Emergency Medical) must be completed and turned in by next Sunday, Sept. 13 - no exceptions. Sign up and start the new school year off right.

To all the picnic helpers—

A big thank-you goes out to all who helped with cooking, donating turkeys and haliut, set-up, planning, etc. It was a wonderful parish gathering.

A extra BIG THANK YOU to The CORN MEN, Ken Laing and Harold Martin who donated and cooked all the great corn. It was awesome!!

And one last thanks to everyone who made it possible to pay off our loan on the church building.

Calendar for September 7, 2009 — September 13, 2009, with Daily Readings

September 7 Monday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	September 8, Tuesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	September 9, Wednesday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am	September 10, Thursday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration starts after noon service Men's Group Breakfast 6:30am	September 11, Friday: Noon Mass Morning prayer, 7:30am Eucharistic Adoration ends before noon service	September 12, Saturday: 5pm Mass Reconciliation 4:00pm	September 13, Sunday: 9:00am, 11:30am Masses
Colossians 1:24-2:3 Psalm 62:6-7, 9 Luke 6:6-11	Micah 5:1-4a Psalm 13:6ab, 6c Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23	Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 145:2-3, 10-11, 12-13ab Luke 6:20-26	Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6 Luke 6:27-38	Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 Psalm 16:1b-2a & 5, 7-8, 11 Luke 6:39-42	Timothy 1:15-17 Psalm 113:1b-2, 3-4, 5 & 6-7 Luke 6:43-49	Isaiah 50:4c-9a Psalm 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 James 2:14-18 Mark 8:27-35

Saturday September 12, 2009, 5:00pm

Eucharistic Ministers: Jane Fellman, Jim Fellman, John Bonk, Barbara Bonk, Bob Ermold

Lectors: 1st Reading; Christine Ermold; 2nd Reading: Carolyn Cannava

Altar Server:

Sunday, September 13, 2009, 9:00am

Eucharistic Ministers: Myrna Cowan, Connie Dunn, Kathryn Dunagan, Bob Evenson, Shirley Twohy

Lectors: 1st. Reading: Kathleen Evenson; 2nd reading: Pat Cowan

Altar Server:

Sunday, September 13, 2009, 11:30am

Eucharistic Ministers: Mike Walker, Kate Forrest, Dave Carey, Lucy Katzenberger, Diana Garske

Lectors: 1st. Reading: Scott Earsley; 2nd reading: Kathy Walker

Altar Server:

Mop & Bucket 9/7 — 9/12: Jack Ransom Family **Collection Counters: 9/13:** Jacquie Moxey & Connie Gatling

At the Same Table

We believe in a God in whom justice and mercy meet. Our God cares about the plight of the downtrodden (mercy), but also does something about their condition (justice), giving food to the hungry and sight to the blind, setting captives free, protecting strangers, and sustaining the fatherless and the widow.

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of salvation that will involve opening the eyes of the blind, clearing the ears of the deaf, and even brightening up the environment. Mark presents Jesus as the kind of savior prophesied by Isaiah, one who makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.

Those of us who have a calling from the God of Jacob to be followers of Jesus must combine concern for the downtrodden (mercy) with action on their behalf (justice). We must reject the religion of favoritism for the rich and imitate God, who chose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and secure justice for the oppressed. We must combine preaching the Good News of the Kingdom with healing the sick. This is the way to offer true worship to the God of peace and love.

“It is not simply a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty. It is not enough to combat destitution, urgent and necessary as this is. The point at issue is the establishment of a human society in which everyone, regardless of race, religion, or nationality, can live a truly human life free from bondage imposed by men and the forces of nature not sufficiently mastered, a society in which freedom is not an empty word, and where Lazarus the poor man can sit at the same table as the rich man.” Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio* (1967) 47

Gerald Darring

(taken from http://liturgy.slu.edu/23OrdB090609/reflections_justice.html)

The Practice of Charity

The author of the letter of James cautions us not to show partiality because prejudice undermines both love of neighbor and love of God. However, if we're completely honest with ourselves, we all discriminate, often unintentionally. It's our cultural and familial upbringing combined with our personal experiences that influence the way we feel about others. Only when we become aware of our hidden biases can we begin to change them.

Scientists at several universities (including Harvard, Yale, Washington, and Virginia) have come up with a way to examine unconscious bias. Why not get together with some friends and uncover your hidden bias. You might be surprised. Go to <http://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/>. Then select "Demonstration" and follow the prompts. Once you've become aware, pray for ways to turn your bias into blessing.

The USCCB has launched a special website on health care reform at <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare> this site will have letters to congress, testimony, action alerts and fact sheets. The USCCB is working on efforts to support reform that covers everyone, protects life and respects conscience.

Year of the Priest: September prayer is for the cardinal virtue of justice. Justice, as a virtue, it is the constant and permanent determination to give everyone his or her rightful due. It is a habitual inclination of the will and therefore always recognizes each one's rights, under any and all circumstances. The rights in question are whatever belongs to a person as an individual who is distinct from the one who practices justice. (Modern Catholic Dictionary, Fr. John Hardon) Also, see the Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2nd edition, paragraph 1807. For more information on Year of the Priest, contact Joanne Biegel 262-2444.