

## Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time September 15, 2019

### **Salesian Perspective**

This morning we have had the opportunity to listen to a whole chapter of Luke's Gospel. It contains the core of the Good News - the merciful forgiveness of our God.

Jesus is eating with sinners, an obvious problem for the religious leaders. Jesus' actions are a parable in themselves, showing how much God loves sinners. God's joy in the repentance of one sinner is so very clear. Then Jesus tells the story of the two sons.

The younger son is the obvious sinner and humbly receives the generous forgiveness of his father. But it is clear by the end of the story that the elder son is in an even worse state. Not only is he unable to forgive his brother, but he has estranged himself from his merciful father as well.

When we take the time to be honest before God, all of us realize that we are like the younger son, sinners in need of God's merciful love. But we might ask ourselves if we don't, at times, react as the elder son did, resentful that God also forgives the "greater sinners" around us. It's so easy to fall into certain self-righteousness. Here we are trying to "be good" and others don't seem to be struggling as we are. Very subtly, we begin to look down on others as if we are better than they are.

Humility is the recognition that I am unworthy of the great love God has for me. All of us are. Each of us has received God's generous mercy again and again in our lives. Our only proper response is gratefulness and joy.

The Gospel story leaves the elder son's response hanging. Will he recognize the younger sinner as his brother and welcome him home as his father has already done?

How would you or I respond? That's the question for us in today's Gospel. Will we be so grateful for our own experience of God's amazing mercy that we will rejoice when any brother or sister returns home?

As the father reminds us: "We have to celebrate! This brother or sister of yours was dead and has come back to life; was lost, and is now found."

### **Remember the Homebound**



Please let Father Fred know when a parishioner or family member is homebound. He would appreciate the opportunity to visit and offer his services.

Also, if you would like a Eucharistic Minister to visit you at home during an illness or when unable to attend Mass, please call **Father Fred at (252) 995-6613**.



**Stay connected!**  
**"Like" and follow our Facebook page, "Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Parish."**



### **Mass Intentions**

The weekend Masses are for the living and deceased members of Our Lady of the Seas Catholic Community.

The Reading for today's Mass is found in the

**Glory & Praise** at number **871**:

**1st Reading** ~ Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

**2nd Reading** ~ 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**Gospel Reading** ~ Luke 15:1-32



### **Masses For The Week**

- ❖ **NO DAILY MASS / NO OCRACOCKE**
- ❖ Saturday Vigil 5:30pm
- ❖ Sunday 9:00am

### **Pope's Intention for September**

#### **The Protection of the Oceans**

*That politicians, scientists and economists work together to protect the world's seas and oceans.*



### **Summer Raffle**

Tickets are on sale after each Mass. One ticket for \$5 or five for \$20. Proceeds go toward funding new hurricane shutters. Drawing for \$500 will be held every time the sales total \$1,000. But that's not all! This year, we are saving every single one of the 50/50 ticket stubs. In the final drawing, all of the stubs will be entered to win the use of a beautiful Hatteras Island vacation home for one full week. Don't miss your chance to win some bucks and the bonus prize, too. Get your tickets today!

**1st Winner – Kathy McNamara, Woodbridge, VA**

**2nd Winner – Keith Palen, South Park, PA**

**3rd Winner – Mary Melville, Hollidaysburg, PA**

**4th Winner – Michele Hughes, Manchester, CT**

**5th Winner – Debbie McCoy, Nags Head, NC**

**6th Winner – Wendy Vanderburg, Philadelphia, PA**



### **MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

Join our choir. No auditions necessary. Music-reading skills helpful, but not required. All you need is the desire to serve God's people by supporting and encouraging their sung prayer at our liturgies. Of course, singers should also have the ability to carry a tune in a bushel basket.

Besides receiving the grace that comes from answering God's call to bring your gifts to the Music Ministry, you are assured a ringside seat with a great view all year long - even on Easter Sunday! Part-time residents and visitors are most welcome.

Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays at 4:00pm in the church, except during the summer. They will resume this Fall on September 18. Please contact Linda Browning at 252-995-3662, or see her after the 9:00am Mass if you have any questions or would like more information.

## Martha & Mary Ministry News



### Hurricane Dorian Clothing Drive

Beginning Wednesday, September 11, we will be starting a clothing drive for the residents of Ocracoke Island. We are looking for new or lightly-used clothing and shoes for adults, children, toddlers and infants. **Please be sure items are in good condition; NO STAINS, NO HOLES, NO DAMAGE.** Items that are not usable will overwhelm the process. Quality is much better than quantity!

If you are in **NEED** of help, please message us with your families' needs. Please include sizes so we can do our best to help.

**Donated items can be dropped off in the box on the porch of the Parish Hall at OLS.**

Please contact **Megan Vayette** at (252) 216-7176. You can also send a message on the Martha & Mary Ministry FB page.



The planning meeting for 2019-2020 was well-attended. Lots of enthusiasm and great ideas were presented. In addition to the Coffee Sundays, Lenten Soup Suppers and Bake Sales that are our staples, logistics for a yard sale, pot-luck social, book club and movie nights were planned.



M&M now has a dedicated Face Book page. There are already several posts announcing our planned activities. Please "like" and follow **Martha & Mary Ministry of Our Lady of the Seas** today!

Remember we need YOUR participation. M&M welcomes all ladies from OLS to join! Send your email address to [janegrimm@aol.com](mailto:janegrimm@aol.com) today!



### Volunteer Appreciation

A great celebration of the Eucharist requires the dedication of many people serving the liturgical ministries. At every Mass, the **Extraordinary**

**Ministers of the Holy Communion (EMHO)** have the great privilege of administering, along with the priest, the Body and Blood of Jesus to those who come forward to receive the Lord. This is a very prayerful, joyous, and humbling ministry. What a blessing to be the one who shares the great sacrament of Jesus with the members of the congregation.

Most people that serve as EMHC are members of our Parish, some of whom are part-time residents. We also have regular visitors who look forward to participating during their visit to the island.

GaeAnn Gessner is responsible for training our EMHC. Depending on the season, only one EMHC might be called upon to assist Father, other times as many as five will serve. We have 30 trained EMHC. That's a lot for a small Parish! **Thank you to all for accepting the call to serve!**

### Summer Fund-Raiser Wrap-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped or contributed to make this fund-raiser a tremendous success. Special thanks to our major sponsor and all the weekend sponsors. We could not have made it without your support. **Thank you, and may God bless you. Dave & Karen Kellmer.**

## Agape Christmas Boxes

Join the United Methodist Women of Buxton in preparing shoe boxes for Project AGAPE. This is a joint mission project of the two NC United Methodist Conferences. The project supports humanitarian efforts in Armenia.



A list of items to be included in the boxes is available at the Buxton Methodist Church, or online under Project AGAPE. They require that plastic shoe boxes be used, and request that you enclose \$5.00 in cash or check for transportation costs. Checks should be made out to the NC Conference and marked for Agape Christmas Boxes.

If you want to participate, but cannot do a box, the UMW will accept donations. The boxes have to be at the MERCI Center in Goldsboro by October 1, so we will need to have them completed and turned in by September 22.

The packing list is available at <http://nccumc.org/outreach/files/2019-New-Packing-List-for-Christmas-Boxes-for-Armenia.pdf>.

## Creative Choices Fundraiser Update



### The Pregnancy Resource Center

Nags Head, NC, is thrilled to announce that as of August 13, 2019 they have a brand-new Ultrasound machine. Thanks to the participation of Our Lady of the Seas during the 2019 Baby Bottle Fundraiser, they were able to procure this much-needed piece of equipment. This machine allows their clients to both hear and see their baby's heartbeat. 90% of abortion-vulnerable mothers that see and HEAR their baby's heartbeat decide to choose life.

## Safe Environment Training

Due to Hurricane Dorian, **Safe Environment Training** has been rescheduled. **Deacon Ramon Ferrer** from the Raleigh Diocese will be conducting the training:

- Saturday, 10/19 (English), 12:00pm–3:00pm, Parish Hall
- Saturday, 10/19 (Spanish), 6:00pm–9:00pm, Residence
- Sunday, 10/20, Train-the-Trainer, 12:00pm-1:30pm Residence

These classes are free, and anyone who has an interest in mentoring or teaching our youth is required to be certified.

## Dates to Remember:

- October 19, **Safe Environment Training**, 12:00-3:00pm (English), Parish Hall, 6:00-9:00pm (Spanish), Residence.
- October 20, **Safe Environment Train-the-Trainer**, 12:00-1:30pm, Residence.
- October 20, **Coffee Sunday**. Fellowship follows the 9:00am Mass in the Parish Hall.
- November 6, **M&M Meeting**, Pot Luck Social, 6:00pm.
- November 28, **M&M Island-Wide Yard Sale**. Details to follow.

**The truly humble reject all praise for themselves and refer it all to God.**

~ St. Francis de Sales