



Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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WELCOME!

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30 pm Adoration
6:00 pm Mass

CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



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PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (SEPTEMBER 17TH – 18TH)

Donation	\$5,222.00
Donation Online	\$1,282.00
Maintenance Fund	\$40.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Total Donation	\$6,544.00

2022 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL GOAL \$24,876

GIFTS RECEIVED \$37,552.50

 **Annual Catholic Appeal**

**TOGETHER WE CAN
be Christ to Others**



CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

**WORKING
ON THE MARGINS**

www.usccb.org/cchd



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**SPECIAL COLLECTION: CATHOLIC
CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT.
SEPTEMBER 17TH & SEPTEMBER 18TH**

THANK YOU for your generous support 1st week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! As a parish, **we raised \$4,826** to support those on the margins who live in poverty in the United States. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give!

Visit: www.usccb.org/nationalcollections and click "How to Give" under "Resources."

26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - C

Homily by Father Peter Doan

There were two major league baseball players, a catcher and a pitcher. They were not only good friends but also men of faith. They both loved baseball so much, that they could not imagine being happy in heaven if there were no baseball there. So they made a pact that whoever would die first would try to come back and report whether there was baseball in heaven or not.

Shortly after this agreement, the catcher suddenly died and entered his eternal reward. A couple months later, being a man of his word, he appeared in a dream to his friend. "I have good news and I have bad news," he said. "Which do you want to hear first?" The pitcher responded, "I'll take the good news". "Well the good news is this: there definitely is baseball in heaven. The field is perfect, the crowd is always supportive, and I play every day." "Wonderful," said his friend. "What's the bad news?" "Well the bad news is, I'm looking at the board posting the players for tomorrow's game, and you are scheduled to pitch."

It is going to happen to all of us sooner or later, with warning or unexpectedly. We will need to pass from this life to the next and make an account of the life we have lived. That is why it would be wise for us to listen to Jesus' teaching in today's parable. In this disturbing but important parable we hear how a rich man failed to attain eternal life, even though he had been abundantly blessed.

Why did he fail? There is nothing in the parable that indicates he was a dishonest man or a mean man. Nothing that indicates he was unthankful for what he received. He seemed to be a person who enjoyed life and who shared what he had with his family and friends as he feasted sumptuously every day. Nor is there anything in the parable that indicates that he mistreated the poor man Lazarus who was at his gate. He did not insult him or abuse him. In fact, it seems that he never even noticed him.

This is what I would suggest is the failure of the rich man: he did not notice Lazarus at his gate. The two of them did not live far apart. Lazarus was sitting at his very door. Yet the rich man lived his life isolated from the poor man. There was a gap between them. The rich man lived his life without noticing the poor man who was close at hand. After his death, the rich man certainly noticed Lazarus. Not only did he notice him, but he wanted to bridge the gap between them. He begged that Lazarus would bring but a bit of water to cool his tormented tongue. But after death we discover that the gulf becomes a chasm, and it is no longer possible to cross it.

Obviously then, the point of the parable is to notice Lazarus at our door and to reach out to him while there is still time. Lazarus is at our gate. He is one of the more than one million children who are homeless in America, who sleep every night on our streets. Lazarus is at our door. She is one of the millions of Americans who have no access to health care, who must choose between buying her heart medicine and putting food on her table. Lazarus is at our gate. He is an acquaintance who lost his job through downsizing and has just taken out a second mortgage. She is an elderly woman who is in a nursing home now for ten years where no one visits. Lazarus is at our door.

He is the person in our school or in our office that cries out for respect but must face ridicule every day. She is the person struggling with mental illness who comes off a bit odd and is discounted as a person of value. He is our next door neighbor who recently lost his wife of forty years and hangs around the driveway as we come home, looking for company.

Jesus calls us to notice Lazarus at our door, and to reach out and cross the gulf that isolates us from him. He calls us to do this in a very personal and specific way. It is important to notice in the parable that the rich man did not ignore all the beggars in Israel, but only Lazarus who was closest to him.

We cannot be expected to reach out to the millions of people without health care or the tens of millions who are dealing with grief. But we can be expected to notice the Lazarus who sits at our gate. Who is he? What is her name? You know it. The name is coming to your mind right now. That person is the person that the gospel calls you to recognize, to notice, and to touch. Do not ignore him or her. Do not pretend that the need of one so near to you is not your concern.

There is good news and bad news in today's gospel. The bad news is that we are very likely ignoring people who are close to us and who are in need. The good news is that there is still time to change. Lazarus is at our door. Jesus calls us to notice him and let our love make a difference. Reach out, cross the gulf that presently separates you from him. After death, it will be too late.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with. (1 Kgs 19:7)

PSALM

Praise the Lord, my soul! (Ps 146)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING

I charge you before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession, to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Tm 6:13-14)

GOSPEL

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented." (Lk 16:25)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead." Regardless of how the message of faith is received, a total conversion of mind and heart is needed for it to take root and have meaning. It is easy to become complacent and comfortable with all that life can afford us. Life can become "all about me," preserving my livelihood and protecting my securities. Often, this drive can become so strong that we eagerly strive to protect our self-interests at the expense of others. Other people are necessary only to the extent that they are "useful" to us and profitable.

Merriam-Webster defines entitlement as "the belief that one is deserving of or entitled to certain privileges." In a world that pretends to offer us so many necessities, this is perhaps the greatest contemporary sin. When we feel "entitled" to something, even if it is perceived necessary, our relationships can get skewed. Unless we adopt a global vision of entitlement wherein everyone is entitled to the same things, we risk becoming extremely self-focused and selfish. All we care about is defending our rights and protecting our turf. This impulse can be so strong that we pursue it even at the expense of another. Is this what God intends for his children?

Holding on to this myopic vision, the plight and station of others are off our radar and of no real concern to us. Relying on our own merits and becoming resilient to life's challenges, we replace the true and real God with the one we created ourselves. Jesus and the prophets before him have consistently reminded us of the dangers of wealth, ignoring the poor and the needy, and becoming too fiercely independent and arrogant. Yet, we conduct our lives as if that message has never been preached. We give our faith a nod and never consider for a moment that we may be wrong in terms of what we see as important. "The things that we love tell us what we are (attributed to St. Thomas Aquinas)." Ponder those words a bit and remember that when we leave this world and go to the next one, what we loved here is what we will look for there. What we sought here may not be there.