

# Dear Padre,

## How is an icon different from a regular painting of a saint?

Generally, *icon* means a symbol or image. In the Church, it refers to an image depicting Bible stories or holy people. "Icons express in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1160).

Even though an icon is an image created with paints, icons are written, not painted. Icon writing, called iconography, is a vocation as well as a talent. The difference between a painter and an iconographer is that iconographers follow strict rules and standards set forth in Eastern Church canon law and Christian tradition. Rooted in God's word, icons are rich in symbolism. The colors, gestures, and shapes speak spiritually to invite us to pray and worship.

Icons can be written on almost any surface, but historically most were written on wood and had a gold-leaf background. One example of this type of icon is Our Mother of Perpetual Help, which is believed to have been written in the fifteenth century. Pope Pius IX gave it to the Redemptorists in 1865, telling the order to "make her known throughout the world." It now hangs in the Church of Sant' Alfonso in Rome.

To see the original icon in real time and learn more about icons, please visit [omphicon.org](http://omphicon.org).



[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](http://TheRedemptorists.com)

### A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Discernment...involves hard work....We do not find set before us, prepackaged, the life we are to live. No! We have to decide it all the time, according to the reality that comes. God invites us to evaluate and choose: He created us free and wants us to exercise our freedom. Therefore, discerning is demanding.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, AUGUST 31, 2022



CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY / VATICAN MEDIA

#### MONDAY

October 9  
Weekday  
Jon 1:1-2:2, 11  
Lk 10:25-37

#### TUESDAY

October 10  
Weekday  
Jon 3:1-10  
Lk 10:38-42

#### WEDNESDAY

October 11  
Weekday  
Jon 4:1-11  
Lk 11:1-4

#### THURSDAY

October 12  
Weekday  
Mal 3:13-20b  
Lk 11:5-13

#### FRIDAY

October 13  
Weekday  
Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2  
Lk 11:15-26

#### SATURDAY

October 14  
Weekday  
Jl 4:12-21  
Lk 11:27-28

#### SUNDAY

October 15  
Twenty-eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Is 25:6-10a  
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20  
Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

#### Know Someone Overly Anxious About Sin?

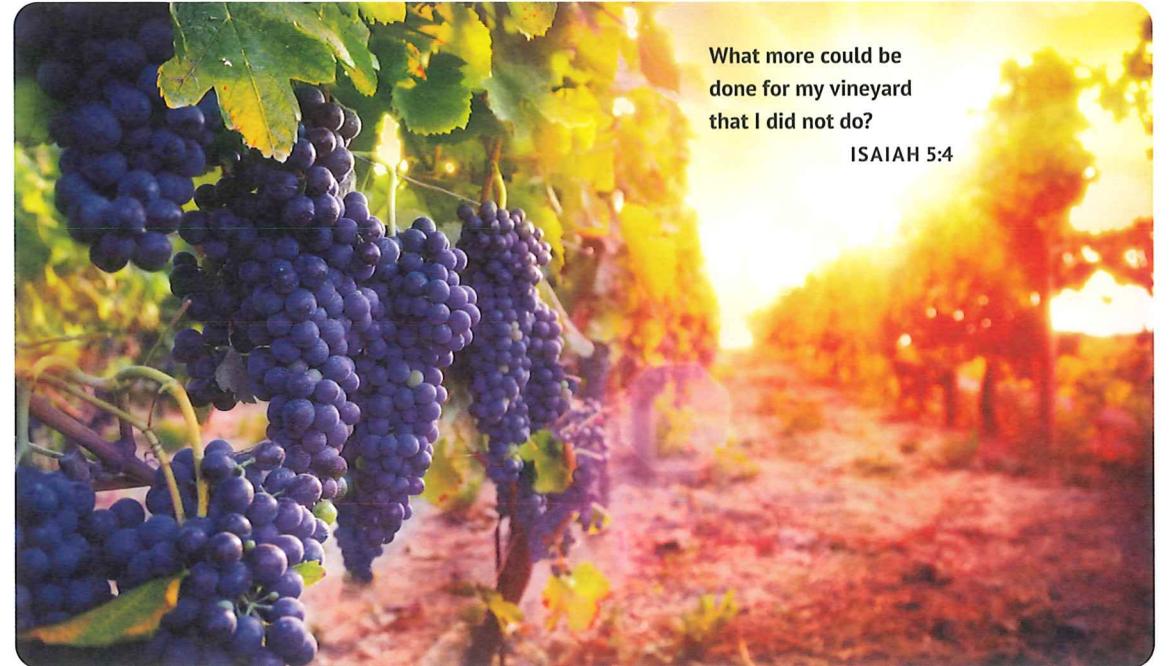
Since 1964, the Redemptorists' *Scrupulous Anonymous* free monthly newsletter has ministered compassionately to those struggling with scrupulosity. To subscribe, visit [ScrupulousAnonymous.org](http://ScrupulousAnonymous.org).

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 8, 2023

Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 5:1-7 / Philippians 4:6-9 / Matthew 21:33-43



What more could be done for my vineyard that I did not do?

ISAIAH 5:4

## When God Daydreamed Us

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At the end of the Broadway musical *Camelot*, King Arthur finds himself confronted by the fact that his dream of the Round Table and justice for all has died without having borne the fruit he had hoped. A young boy, Tom of Warwick, comes up to him asking if he might be dubbed a knight. Arthur does so, and then commissions him to go forth and tell the story of Camelot to everyone he meets, all with the hope that someone someday will dare to try again to create a world with equal justice for all.

We all live with dreams of what we might be, of what life might be. They seldom turn out the way we had imagined, yet what would life be without such dreams. They push us into new futures. They create hope and new possibilities. They bring meaning to our lives.

The parable of the landowner and his vineyard is really a story of God and the dream God has for us. It is a story of how God withholds nothing from caring for his vineyard that it might bear fruit, that is, from trying to make his dream for us a reality, even to the point of giving his Son over to that dream.

Dreams never come easy. If they did, they would not be dreams. It was so for those who founded this nation in 1776. It is so for parents with dreams for their children. It is so as well for God, who dreams dreams for us in Jesus.

### Reflect

*Do the dreams you have for your life and the lives of your children reflect God's dreams for you?*



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Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**10/7/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Lucy, Jonathan, & Nathan Gannett

**Reader:** Gwen Waechter

**E.O.HC:** Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

**10/8/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Cade & Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

**Reader:** Mike Broeckelman

**E.O. HC:** Maria Enriquez, Rosa Cardenas

**28th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**10/14/2023 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.**

**Servers:** Volunteer, Jason Velasco, Ryann Bamberger

**Reader:** Karen Burden

**E.O.HC:** Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

**10/15/2023 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.**

**Servers:** Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman-Fuller

**Reader:** Hannah Schauf

**E.O. HC:** Teresa Beltran, Karen Burden

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Saturday, Oct. 7</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Juan &amp; George Perez</b>
<b>Sunday, Oct. 8</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Mary Sahrufier</b>
<b>Monday, Oct. 9</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Gary Sack</b>
<b>Tuesday, Oct. 10</b>	<b>9: 30 a.m.</b>	<b>For our parishioners</b>
<b>(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village )</b>		
<b>Thursday, Oct. 12</b>	<b>12:10 p.m.</b>	<b>David Hoang</b>
<b>Friday, Oct. 13</b>	<b>7:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sp. Int. Powers Family</b>
<b>Saturday, Oct. 14</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Eddie Catlin</b>
<b>Sunday, Oct. 15</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>People of our parishes</b>

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**October 8, 2023**

**27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

*"The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel." (Psalm 80:9)*

Do you believe the world is the way God wants it to be?

My friends, at the heart of Christianity is the profound truth of the utter graciousness of God --- an incredible God who gives us everything we need --- pouring out his grace and blessings simply because he loves us. And he didn't do this just at creation --- he continues to do this every second of every day --- most perfectly shown in the sending of his Son to save us and heal a broken world.

And when we take everything God provides, when we take seriously our responsibility to tend the vineyard faithfully --- beautiful things will happen, beautiful fruit will be borne, a beautiful world will become a more visible reality --- little by little through every act of love, however great or small. Does God want a better world? Do we want a better world?

Let's stop looking to God to make it happen from the outside, but rather allow God to make it happen through every human heart open to his grace. Making the world a better place isn't God's job. It's ours. And hopefully we are faithfully on the job this day, and every day to come. Fr. Peter

**COLLECTION** for October 1, 2023: Envelopes: \$870; Loose: \$229.55; Online Giving: \$302.64; Total \$1190.66; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under –570.51

**CHURCH PROJECT GOAL** \$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$37001.74. *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards.*

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Altar Society meeting: 10/8 at 5:00 p.m. in parish hall. All ladies are invited

- Parish Pastoral Council: 10/11 at 5:30 p.m.

**DIOCESAN MATRIMONY ANNIVERSARY MASS** Couples who are observing their 5th , 10th, 20th , 40th , 50th or other significant anniversary in 2023 are invited to the Diocesan Matrimony Anniversary Mass. It will be held Sunday Oct. 22, 2023 at 3 pm at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dodge City. A light meal will follow in the Holy Family Social Center. Register online at: <https://form.jotform.com/90425952763160>. If you need help to register online, please call the Parish office and we will help. Also, if you are celebrating a significant anniversary but are unable to attend the Cathedral Mass with Bishop Brungardt, please let Father Peter know so that your anniversary does not go unrecognized. Registration for the Cathedral Mass is due by Oct. 9.

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK** What specific thing can I do this week to produce fruit for the kingdom of God?

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (by St. Francis de Sales) O my great and good Creator, how much I owe to you, that in your mercy you raised me from nothing to make me what I am. What can I possibly do to bless your name or to thank you enough for your inestimable goodness? Yet, my Creator, instead of uniting myself to you by loving service, my inordinate desires have made me a rebel. I have cut myself off from you by preferring sin, dishonoring you as if you were not my Creator. O my God, with all my heart I offer you myself, as you have made me. I dedicate and consecrate myself to you. Amen.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Matthew 21: 33-43)**

**Foolish tenants** This is the second of three parables Jesus tells in response to those who question his right to teach. Large landowners often leased their land. Those who grew crops on the land had to share some of the harvest with the owner, who would send representatives to collect what was owed. If the landowner was a convert to Judaism and died without an heir, anyone leasing his land could make a legal claim to the property. In this case, however, the owner both has an heir and is himself still alive, making the tenants' action of killing his son both illegal and immoral.

**Failed leaders** Jesus condemns the Jewish leaders for denying that he is bringing about God's kingdom. These leaders will lose both their current status and a place in God's kingdom. The people who will enter God's kingdom include both other Jews and Gentiles.

**Condemning themselves** What began as a parable becomes an allegory. Each element of the story now represents something else. When Jesus prompts the Jewish leaders to say what should happen to the tenants (v.40), they make a judgment against the tenants that turns out to be God's judgment against them (v.43). Now the allegory becomes clear: just as God punished people when they failed to listen to his prophets, so will he punish these leaders for failing to believe in Jesus.

**The cornerstone** Psalm 118:22-23 was popular among the early Christians. Here Jesus uses it in two ways. • He proves his authority over scripture by explaining the hidden meaning of these verses • He assures his listeners that he, the son, will prevail despite whatever they do to him The passage contains a play on words: in Hebrew the word for son is ben. The word for stone is 'eben.

([oursundayreadings.wordpress.com](https://oursundayreadings.wordpress.com))

### **UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING OF THE WEEK - (Isaiah 5:1-7)**

**Parable of judgment** The prophet invites his listeners to reflect on a song about a friend's vineyard. He then reveals that they are the vineyard, and God is angry at the harvest his patient efforts have produced. The LORD freed the Israelites from Egypt, led them into a fertile land, and protected them from invaders. Despite God's love and generosity, his chosen people are like wild, sour grapes. God will destroy the vineyard with its thankless, heartless grapes. **Yielding to evil** The prophet uses a play on words to explain the difference between the plump, juicy grapes that God wanted and the small, sour grapes he got. God planned for a harvest of justice (mishpat) and righteousness (sedaqah). Instead, the people acted with violence (mispah) and injustice (se'aqah). The outcry (v.7) probably refers to the lament of those who had their land or possessions taken from them by other Israelites.

### **STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION OCTOBER 1,2023**

*“The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner stone...” - Matthew 21:42*

Jesus was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens, but he was still obedient to God, the Father. Similarly, living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be “rejected” by others, but we, too are called to be obedient. Saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is a sign that God is alive and well!

*“La piedra que los constructores rechazaron se ha convertido en la piedra angular...” - MATEO 21:42*

Jesús fue rechazado por los líderes políticos y religiosos de su época, así como también por ciudadanos ordinarios, pero él siguió obedeciendo a Dios Padre. De la misma manera, tener un estilo de vida de responsabilidad puede hacer que usted sea “rechazado” por los demás. Dar gracias antes del inicio de una comida en un restaurant puede atraer miradas extrañas de algunas personas, ¡pero para otras es una señal de que Dios está vivo y bien!

**NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL**  
**Mary, Mother of the Eucharist (Adoration)**

**REFLECTION:**

A few days ago we reflected on the beauty of the Gospel: God's love has redeemed the world. You and I have been loved into existence. Created by love and for love—the eternal love of heaven.

Today, I want to reflect on how this great love story hung upon a “yes” of a young teenager, named Mary.

By giving God her simple and total “yes,” Mary became the Mother of God. Thirty-three years later, Jesus would give her to us, becoming the Mother of the Church. Now, each of us can claim Mary as our own. We rely on Jesus' Mother for her prayers and trust her to assist us in our spiritual walk.

Though she never steals the spotlight from her Son, we can garner assuring glimpses of her compassion and powerful intercession in Scripture. At the wedding feast of Cana, we see her bring the newly married couple's need to Jesus, and Jesus responds by performing his first public miracle. At the Crucifixion of Christ, while many of Jesus' closest followers were in hiding, we find Mary at the foot of the cross, proving she is willing to be close to pain and suffering.

In our Blessed Mother, we find more than an advocate; we also find an example of how to relish God's presence. One of the few Gospel passages that describe Mary's actions is Luke 2:19, “And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” Here we catch a glimpse of her life of fruitful prayer, meditating upon all that Jesus said and did. When Jesus walked amongst humanity, how many people passed him by without recognizing the gift of his proximity? Mary was always aware of who Jesus was and the importance of his nearness.

God chose Mary to bring forth Christ into this world. For nine months, Mary was a living tabernacle. The life of Christ physically dwelled within her. As we go into the world, we too can be living tabernacles as Christ dwells within us through our participation in the Sacred Liturgy and the Eucharist. Today, let us follow after Mary's example and reflect on the love of Jesus in our hearts.

As disciples of Christ, we must allow Mary to draw us close to her son. John Paul II wrote in *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, “Mary can guide us toward this most holy sacrament because she herself has a profound relationship with it.” Mary's mindfulness, faithfulness, and devotion drew her close to Jesus, and following her example can help us do the same.

**PRAYER:**

Mother Mary, you are the perfect example of discipleship and devotion to Jesus. We thank you for your motherly compassion and intercession. We pray that we may become more like you, living tabernacles filled with the presence of Christ. As we follow after your Son, we pray that you wrap us in your loving mantle of protection. Lead us ever closer to Jesus. Amen.

**CHALLENGE:**

In the next week, spend 30 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament. During that time, reflect and contemplate Mary's love and devotion to her Son, Jesus. Conclude your time before the Eucharist by praying a Rosary.

**TWENTY– SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**To the greater good!**

Our country's second poet laureate, Richard Wilbur (1921-2017), fought in the Second World War. It convinced him that writing verse was serious business: “One does not use poetry ... to organize oneself and the world, until one's world somehow gets out of hand.” Wilbur explained: “I feel that the universe is full of glorious energy ... and that the ultimate character of things is comely and good. I am perfectly aware that I say this in the teeth of all sorts of contrary evidence, and that I must be basing it partly on temperament and partly on faith.” Believe in the ultimate goodness, regardless of any evidence to the contrary! (Preparetheword)

**VIGÉSIMO SÉPTIMO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

**¡Por el bien mayor!**

El segundo poeta laureado de nuestro país, Richard Wilbur (1921-2017), luchó en la Segunda Guerra Mundial. Esto lo convenció de que escribir versos era un asunto serio: "Uno no usa la poesía... para organizarse a sí mismo y al mundo, hasta que el mundo se le va de las manos." Wilbur explicó: "Siento que el universo está lleno de energía gloriosa... y que el carácter esencial de las cosas es amable y bueno. Soy perfectamente consciente de que digo esto a pesar de todo tipo de pruebas en contrario, y de que debo estar basándome en parte en el temperamento y en parte en la fe." ¡Crean en la bondad absoluta, más allá de cualquier evidencia que demuestre lo contrario!