

st. francís of assísí

South End
93 Fourth Avenue, Albany

391 Delaware Avenue, Albany

stfrancisalbany.org
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Are You Envious of My Generosity? Francis and the Math of Grace

Dear Parish Family,

This weekend's Gospel (Matthew 20:1-16) tells the story of a landowner who goes out at dawn to hire workers for his vineyard. He hires more at nine, more at noon, more at three, and still more at five — an hour before the workday ends. When evening comes, he pays every one of them the same full day's wage. The ones who arrived at dawn are furious. They worked longer; they expect more. The landowner's answer cuts to the heart of the parable: "Am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am

generous?" It is, as Isaiah reminds us in this Sunday's first reading, a matter of God's ways being higher than our ways, his thoughts higher than our thoughts (Isaiah 55:6-9). We keep score. God gives.

There is a story about Francis that gets at exactly this scandal of grace. One winter day, walking with Brother Leo from Perugia toward the Portiuncula, cold and half-frozen, Francis began to describe what perfect joy is — by first ruling out everything Leo assumed it would be. Write, Leo, he said, that perfect joy is not in a friar who works miracles, or heals the sick, or raises the dead. Write that it is not in knowing every language, every science, every secret of Scripture, or even in converting whole nations to Christ. Two miles of this went by,

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The LORD is just
in all his ways
and holy
in all his works.

¿Envidias Mi Generosidad? Francisco y la Matemática de la Gracia

Querida familia parroquial:

El Evangelio de este fin de semana (Mateo 20, 1-16) cuenta la historia de un propietario que sale al amanecer a contratar trabajadores para su viña. Contrata a más a las nueve, a más al mediodía, a más a las tres, y todavía a más a las cinco — una hora antes de que termine la jornada. Al llegar la tarde, les paga a todos el mismo salario completo. Los que llegaron al amanecer se indignan. Trabajaron más tiempo; esperan recibir más. La respuesta del propietario va al corazón de la parábola:

«¿Acaso no puedo hacer lo que quiero con mi dinero? ¿O te da envidia que yo sea generoso?» Es, como nos recuerda Isaías en la primera lectura de este domingo, que los caminos de Dios son más altos que nuestros caminos, y sus pensamientos más altos que nuestros pensamientos (Isaías 55, 6-9). Nosotros llevamos la cuenta. Dios da.

Hay una historia sobre Francisco que capta exactamente este escándalo de la gracia. Un día de invierno, caminando con el hermano León desde Perugia hacia la Porciúncula, helados y agotados, Francisco comenzó a describir en qué consiste la perfecta alegría — comenzando por descartar todo lo que León suponía que sería. Escribe, León, le dijo, que la perfecta alegría no está en un hermano que hace milagros, cura enfermos o

continuó en la página 2

St. James Food Pantry 518-441-1929
3391 Delaware Ave., (rear) Mon. & Wed.: 10:00 am — 12:30 pm

St. John's/St. Anne's Center 518-472-9091
88 Fourth Ave. Mon., Wed., Th.: 10:00 am — 12:00 pm
1:00 pm — 3:00 pm

Welcome Table Tues., Sat., 11:30 am — 1:00 pm

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twenty-fifth sunday in ordinary time — september 20, 2026

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resucita muertos. Escribe que no está en conocer todas las lenguas, todas las ciencias, todos los secretos de la Escritura, ni siquiera en convertir naciones enteras a Cristo. Así pasaron dos millas, negación tras negación, hasta que León finalmente le preguntó sin rodeos: entonces, ¿en qué consiste?

Francisco respondió con una escena, no con una doctrina. Imagina, le dijo, que llegamos al convento empapados, helados, hambrientos, y llamamos a la puerta. El portero sale, no nos reconoce, y nos echa tratándonos de ladrones y embaucadores. Si volvemos a llamar y nos maldice y nos cierra la puerta, y lo soportamos sin turbarnos, sin una palabra amarga — eso, León, es la perfecta alegría. Y si pierde aún más la paciencia, sale con un garrote lleno de nudos, nos golpea y nos revuelca en la nieve, y lo aceptamos con alegría por amor a Cristo, pensando en su propio sufrimiento — eso, por encima de toda gracia y de todo don que el Espíritu Santo concede a sus amigos, es la perfecta alegría. Porque todo lo demás — los milagros, el conocimiento, la sabiduría, hasta convertir al mundo entero — son dones que Dios le da a un siervo. Pero vencerse a sí mismo, y soportar el sufrimiento y el desprecio por amor, con gusto, por Cristo: eso es algo que nadie puede atribuirse como mérito propio. Eso es la gracia obrando de principio a fin en nosotros, sin nada de por medio que hayamos ganado nosotros mismos.

Fíjense en lo que hace Francisco. Va desmontando, una por una, cada medida basada en el mérito que León habría usado para clasificar la santidad — exactamente la misma medida que los primeros trabajadores usaron para reclamar su salario. León suponía que la perfecta alegría se encontraría en la cima de alguna escalera de logros. Francisco seguía diciendo no, no, hasta que a León no le quedó más apoyo que el don gratuito mismo — una alegría entregada al que es golpeado y rechazado con la misma plenitud con que podría entregarse al que hace milagros. Esta es precisamente la matemática del propietario: el salario no es proporcional a las horas trabajadas. Es proporcional a su propia bondad, que no tiene proporción alguna.

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We have a network-wide subscription, so enjoy all the benefits of Hallow : set and maintain a prayer routine and includes audio Bible stories, prayers, meditations, Lectio Divina, Christian music and so much more!



Si somos honestos, la mayoría de nosotros vivimos como los trabajadores contratados al amanecer. Medimos nuestra cercanía a Dios por nuestro historial — años en la banca, sacrificios hechos, pecados evitados — y en silencio nos molesta cuando alguien que «no se lo ha ganado» parece recibir la misma misericordia, la misma bienvenida, la misma paz que a nosotros nos costó tanto. Francisco pasó su vida desaprendiendo esa matemática. El Evangelio de hoy nos pide hacer lo mismo — no trabajando menos, sino soltando el control de la cuenta, y recibiendo la generosidad de Dios como regalo y no como salario.

Antes de terminar, quiero decirles un sincero gracias. Ustedes llegan aquí con fidelidad, y esa fidelidad nunca se desperdicia — pero espero que también sepan que el amor de Dios por ustedes nunca fue algo que tuvieran que ganarse. Siempre fue un regalo, ofrecido con la misma libertad a ustedes que a quien apenas llega a la puerta.

Y los invito esta semana: noten los momentos en que se descubren midiendo — comparando su propio mérito con el de otro, llevando la cuenta de quién merece qué. Cuando lo noten, entréguelo. Pidan a Dios la gracia que pidió Francisco: no más logros que mostrar, sino un corazón suficientemente libre para alegrarse cuando Dios es generoso, aunque sea con otro. Con gratitud y bendiciones,

P. Daniel Vallejo

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continued from p. 1

negation after negation, until Leo finally asked him plainly: then what is it?

Francis answered with a scene, not a doctrine. Imagine, he said, that we arrive at the friary soaked through, frozen, starving, and we knock. The porter comes, doesn't recognize us, and turns us away as thieves and frauds. If we knock again and he curses us and slams the door, and we bear it without being troubled, without a bitter word — that, Leo, is perfect joy. And if he loses patience further, comes out with a knotted stick, beats us and rolls us in the snow, and we accept it with joy for love of Christ, thinking of his own suffering — that, above every grace and every gift the Holy Spirit gives his friends, is perfect joy. Because everything else — miracles, knowledge, wisdom, even converting the world — these are gifts God gives to a servant. But to conquer oneself, and to endure suffering and contempt out of love, gladly, for Christ's sake: that is something no one can take credit for. That is grace working all the way through us, with nothing left over that we earned ourselves.

Notice what Francis is doing. He is dismantling, one by one, every merit-based measure Leo would have used to rank holiness — exactly the measure the first-hired laborers used to rank their wage. Leo assumed perfect joy would be found at the top of some ladder of accomplishment. Francis kept saying no, no, no, until Leo had nothing left to stand on but the free gift itself — a joy handed to the one who is beaten and turned away just as fully as it could be handed to the one who works

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Please help those in need through almsgiving. Either place your gift in one of the poor boxes near the church entrance, or place a check made out to "The St. Vincent de Paul Society" in the collection basket.

You can also help by joining us.

Call the Cathedral at 518-463-4447 to learn more.

miracles. This is precisely the landowner's math: the wage isn't proportioned to the hours worked. It is proportioned to his own goodness, which has no proportion at all.

If we're honest, most of us live like the workers hired at dawn. We measure our closeness to God by our record — years in the pew, sacrifices made, sins avoided — and we quietly resent it when someone who "hasn't earned it" seems to receive the same mercy, the same welcome, the same peace we worked so hard for. Francis spent his life unlearning that math. So does today's Gospel ask us to unlearn it, too — not by working less, but by releasing our grip on the ledger, and receiving God's generosity as gift rather than wage.

Before I close, I want to say a heartfelt thank you. You show up here faithfully, and your faithfulness is never wasted — but I hope you also know that God's love for you was never something you had to earn in the first place. It was always a gift, offered as freely to you as to the one just arriving at the door.

And I invite you this week: notice the moments you catch yourself measuring — comparing your worthiness to someone else's, keeping score of who deserves what. When you catch it, hand it over. Ask God for the grace Francis asked for: not more accomplishments to point to, but a heart free enough to rejoice when he is generous, even to someone else.

With gratitude and blessings,

P. Daniel Vallejo

Second Collection

The second collection today is for the upcoming snow removal expenses.

LEFT BEHIND AT THE PICNIC

One helpful person left behind a thermal tote bag.

Please contact Roberta Grieco at 518-269-5576.

KoC Chicken Parmesan Dinner

On Saturday, October 3rd, 2026 from 4 - 7 PM, the Latham-Colonie KoC #3394 are hosting their Annual Chicken Parmesan Dinner (prepared by members Steve and Jude Chiera), at 328 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110.

Menu; Salad, Chicken Parmesan w/Spaghetti, Bread, Dessert, Coffee or Tea.

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Donation \$20.

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mass intentions

<i>Delaware Ave.</i>		<i>Requested by:</i>
Sat., Sept. 19 4:00 pm	Pro Populo	
Sun., Sept. 20 9:00 am	† Gail Catoggio	Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Sept. 26 4:00 pm	† Alicia & Jorge Constantino	Graciela & James DeSemone
Sun., Sept. 27 9:00 am	Pro Populo	Family
10:30 am	Pro Populo	
<i>South End</i>		<i>Requested By:</i>
Sat., Sept. 13 10:30 am	Pro Populo	
Sat., Sept. 20 10:30 am	Pro Populo	

Readings for the Week of Sept. 20, 2026

Sun: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/
Mt 20:1-16a
Mon: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13
Tues: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/
Lk 8:19-21
Wed: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6
Thurs: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17bc/
Lk 9:7-9
Fri: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22
Sat: Eccl 11:9-12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/
Lk 9:43b-45

Next Sunday:

Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

st. francis of assisi parish

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Ms. Kristen Witham

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Office Hours: M—F: 9:00 am—4:00 pm (Closed for
national holidays and as noted in the bulletin)

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Mass and Confessions Schedule

Confession and Mass Schedule

Sat.:	Confession:	3:15–3:50 pm	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	4:00 pm	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
Sun.:	Mass	9:00 am	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	10:30 am	St. Francis (Del. Ave.)
	Mass	10:30 am	St. Francis (South End)

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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Santa Misa: Domingo 10:30 am

Confesiones: Domingo 10:00 am

Primer Domingo del mes: Benediccion a todos los ninos y jovenes
al final de la Santa Misa.

Hora Santa:

Todos los primeros Sabados de cada mes a las 5:15 pm.



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