We urge you to register as a member of the parish. We will be happy to provide you with church envelopes to assist you in the support of the church. You may register in person at the church office or by completing the following form.

Name __________________________
Street __________________________
Phone ___________________________ Zip

Check:
☐ New Registration  ☐ Moving out of Parish
☐ Change of Address  ☐ Want Envelopes
Catholic Review ☐ Yes  ☐ No

Please cut out and drop in the collection box or mail to the rectory.
From the Pastor . . .

My Sisters and Brothers:

In today’s Gospel we’ve heard those well-known and often quoted words: “the last will be first, and the first will be last.” They were spoken by Jesus in his “Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard” (see Matthew 20:1-16a).

According to the story, day laborers had exhausted themselves after working from morning to afternoon in the heat, and then they complained when those who had come later, and who had worked far less (even some for only an hour), were paid the same amount for that day’s wages. They said: “These last ones worked only an hour, and you made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat” (see verse 12). Even so, the landowner’s responded thus: “I am not cheating you . . . did you not agree to the usual daily wage . . . am I not free to do as I wish with my own money . . . are you envious because I am generous” (see verses 13-15).

It’s important to note Jesus often used hyperbole when teaching. He often exaggerated situations presented in the parables in order to very clearly demonstrate his radical message of salvation for all. But as we read the “Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard,” and having all of our contemporary sensibilities toward fairness and justice, we’d likely believe the laborers who worked an entire day should be paid much more than those who worked only an hour—not simply and exactly the same amount. After all, that would seem like the just thing for the owner of the vineyard to have done. But was Jesus really addressing the question of fair wages and just compensation for labor? Doesn’t it seem, at face value, we might conclude from this story Jesus had given some kind of justification to the rich and powerful to abuse their laborers? But he really didn’t advocate such at all! The parable simply offered his followers a guarantee of the fullness of grace for all people, even for those who were “latecomers” to his message of salvation for all. Converts to the faith, even those who converted on their “deathbed,” were assured a place in the Kingdom! This was Jesus’ new and revolutionary message!

The message of this Gospel was also foreshadowed by the words of Isaiah found in today’s first reading (see Isaiah 55:6-9). The Prophet proclaimed our loving God called back-to-himself those who had sinned; he said: “God is rich in forgiveness,” and “let the sinner turn to the Lord for mercy, to our God who is generous in forgiving” (see verse 8). These words remind us that God’s love and forgiveness are equally extended to all people. And doesn’t this idea perfectly complement the message of today’s Gospel parable? God’s mercy is available even for those who fail to act quickly upon it! I believe this is precisely why Jesus said “the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Jesus assured his followers salvation was for all! No matter at what age a person repented, turned away from sin, and became reconciled to God, he or she could receive the fullness of God’s grace! What was most important for such people was that they turned to God with all of their hearts. And so those who “worked only an hour” (i.e. the latecomers to God’s Kingdom), were “equal” in the eyes of God to those who had been faithful for all or most of their lives. In this way, even “the last will be first!” And so, let’s rejoice then when friend, a family member, or an acquaintance, finally joins us in the Christian way of life! May we never consider ourselves “more worthy” because we’ve always been faithful! And let’s pray for those who have not joined us! And may we always be patient with the hope that others will discover the joy we have and our faith’s promise of eternal life!

Praise God! Friar Timothy

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**PRAYER LIST**

Continue to keep in prayer our sick, homebound and recovering members, especially Mamie Gregory, Irene Gist, Beatrice Hradsky, Albert J. Novak, II, Mary Schwartz, Marie Troch, Evelyn Turner, Lillian Tyler. Remember also Fr. Timothy and his family, our relatives, friends, our city, those who serve our country in the military, our world and all the needs recorded in our parish prayer intention book.

**PRAYER WALK FOR PEACE**

Please join Bishop Madden for his next prayer walk on Wednesday, September 27 at St. Francis Xavier Church, 1501 E. Oliver Street 21213. The evening will begin with a light meal at 5:30 p.m. and a prayer
in the church and end before 7:30 p.m. During the walk, we will pray at specific locations that have been affected by violence, and for all those individuals who have been so terribly affected by violence. Please join us as we continue to step out in faith to reclaim our city for Christ.

**READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

**Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25–28

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1–11 or 2:1–5

Gospel: Matthew 21:18–32

**MASS INTENTIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun Sep 24</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Bro. Vincent Hoerner CSSR &amp; For the Parishioners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues Sep 26</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Christopher E. Goldbeck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed Sep 27</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Fr. Joseph Coshan CSSR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs Sep 28</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Fr. Felix Yanish CSSR (Gift of Hope Chapel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri Sep 29</td>
<td>8:00</td>
<td>Enid Fung</td>
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**SUNDAY ATTENDANCE & COLLECTIONS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Masses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/17/2017</td>
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<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>Last Year's Total</td>
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**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School orientation for students and parents will be held on October 1, 2017 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the 2nd floor in the rectory. All are welcome.

**MEN'S CLUB**

There will be a meeting of the St. Wenceslaus Men’s Club Holy Name Society on **Sunday October 1 at 10:30 am**. The purpose of this meeting is to plan events for our 2017-2018 year. All men of the parish are encouraged to come. Refreshments will be served.

**FALL INVESTMENT CLUB**

The Fall Investment Club begins October 8 and concludes on December 10. Each $10 membership brings 40 chances to win cash prizes from $200 to $25. Additional Tickets are available for purchase in the church office.

**LITURGY MEETING**

There will be a Liturgy meeting held on **Tuesday, September 26th** at 7:00 pm in the parish rectory. All members are asked to attend.

**OLDIES BUT GOODIES DANCE**

The Survivors Ministry is sponsoring a night of old fashioned fun and dancing. **Friday, October 20th** in the lyceum, 9 pm–1 am. Tickets are **$10 per person** and can be purchased from any Survivors member. See flyers in back of church for more information.

**FRIAR TIMOTHY’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, October 21, 2017, Friar Timothy will celebrate his 25th Anniversary of Priesthood Ordination (the actual date is October 17th). Please join him and his family for a special "Anniversary Mass" that will take place at the regular 5:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon parish Mass at St. Casimir Church (2736 O'Donnell Street, Baltimore). Friar Timothy was ordained at St. Casimir and is currently a resident of the friary there. Immediately following the Mass, all are invited for a simple reception, with light refreshments, in the Kolbe Hall at St. Casimir. Please sign the "R.S.V.P." list located on the table in the back of our church if you plan to attend. Friar Timothy would like to know who is coming so that enough refreshments can be prepared for the reception. Please join us for this special occasion if you can! We will also pray with Friar Timothy in a special way during our own parish Mass on Sunday, October 22nd as he celebrates this significant anniversary!

**OBLATE SISTERS’ EVENT**

“Tea Time” with the Oblate Sisters of Providence. The annual Tea Time Fundraiser begins at 11:30 a.m. **Saturday, October 22nd** at the Sacred Heart Hall, 701 Gun Road. Women are encouraged to wear hats and gloves, while men are encouraged to wear ties. There will be a silent auction and other unique tea items for sale. **Tickets are $35.** Proceeds benefit the Mother Lange Guild's efforts to promote the Cause for the Beatification of Mother Mary Lange.

**REFRESHMENTS IN FRONT PARLOR**

Join us after mass for fellowship and refreshments.
“Seeking Serenity”

-a booklet for those suffering health problems.

Quick-reading, inspiring, cheering—A meaningful gift for those you care about.

Send $10.00 to FATA, P.O. Box 4889, Baltimore, MD 21211 (Checks only payable to FATA)

Fr. Joe Breighner offers his book-

“More Reflections Along A Country Road”

...Over 200 “Minute Meditations for Everyday” on all kinds of topics. Short, insightful, meaningful, motivating, inspirational...some of Fr. Joe’s best thoughts.

Send $10.00 plus $4.50 for postage & handling to FATA
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WHAT CAN STRAY CATS TEACH US ABOUT LIFE?...

You may be surprised!
Fr. Joe Breighner’s book – “For the Love of Stray Cats”

an easy “purrfectly” insightful read.

Send $10.00 plus $2.00 for postage & handling to FATA
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Baltimore, MD 21211 (checks only payable to FATA)

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