

# Christ Our Hope Catholic Church

## *Faith In Laity Corner*



*27<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Times*

## *Only Ourselves To Blame*

*Reading: Is. 5:1-7*

Over the past few days one is left with the question- How did we come to this? What has happened to our humanity that we are able to objectify human life; and not be moved by the pain and suffering brought on by behaviors we may display? Yes, sadly we have reached to this, and with great sorry, there is more to come. However, God gave His solemn promise that He will never destroy the earth by water, as in the days of Noah. Over the 2 million years or so of human existence, there is no response to the natural disasters we have faced; then there is the loss of life through war and diseases. One is left to guess that the deliberate terror of wiping off people whom you have no personal knowledge or dispute, it becomes difficult to establish a logical reason. Gun supporters will proclaim that guns do not kill, but reasoning that guns in the hands of people who have no regard for humanity are a danger to everyone and every aspect of humanity-still does not bring reasoning. Rights are not lost when one is not able to possess a gun, which could be used to your better human nature, to the harm of others. We have a long, long way to go.

We ask that God have mercy upon us and that God should treat us fairly, yet we tremble at the thought of the righteous judgment of God, and find that God is not fair... Are we fair to others and to ourselves? In the first Reading on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Times is from the prophet Isaiah. God sounds like He is speaking to us 2500 years later.

*"My friend had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside." (Is. 5:1)*

As God bestowed upon us a land rich and fertile, with the systems to educate, legislate and produce enough for all.

*"He spaded it, cleared it of stones,  
and planted the choicest vines." (Is. 5:2)*

God provided the United States with a wonderful prospect that He did not grant everyone; opportunities were afforded to all who came, a welcome door to those who were in need. Weather and rich soil to produce, nurture, and defend the weak. He is now awaiting the fruits of the graces He bestowed.

*"Then he waited for the crop of grapes,  
but it yielded rotten grapes." (Is. 5:2)*

The United States was one such land respected, prosperous, and progressive the envy of so many other countries. Yet, now this question lies before us all.

*"Why, when I waited for the crop of grapes,  
did it yield rotten grapes?" (Is. 5:*

What are our *'rotten grapes'*? Really, a broken legal system which favors the rich; *white collar crime* which permits its guilty criminals to pocket the profits; proliferation of racism across the board; a culture of dependency drugs; victimization of women and children in child abuse, sex trade and enslavement; success marked by how much excess can be made- mega industries, mega churches, mega-corporations. We have become a society where a pet is valued more than a human being. (*never intended by God, man was to dominate the animals*). God's question to us is

*"What more could be done for my vineyard  
that I did not do?" (Is. 5:4)*

We are now afraid to praise God, to mention His name; or do we lean on the other side as to condemn those who are not of our faith, not of our race or hold to 'the all American culture'. Yes, maybe God is posing this statement today....

*"I will let you know  
what I am going to do to my vineyard" (Is. 5:5)*

He does have a dire warning on the next lines... Please note.

*"Take away its hedge, give it to grazing,  
break through its wall, let it be trampled!" (Is. 5:5)*

God does not act quickly, He gives us time... but time for God is different than time for humanity. Do we heed and hear as the people of Nineveh by turning from sin and repenting from the king to the common man/woman? Do we ignore the warning and allow the righteous judgment of God to fall on us?

*"I will make it a ruin:*

*it shall not be pruned or hoed,..*

*but will be overgrown with thorns and brier.” (Is. 5:6)*

Without the willingness to admit our faults and consciously addressing God’s question to us, we may not be able to restrain the hand of God in the future. Yes, prayer and fasting is the only answer.

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*AS we remember October being the month of Mary and the Feast of Fatima will be on October 13. We, whom God has blessed have to be concerned for those less off than ourselves. Remember the plight of people Caribbean islands, southeast USA and those who are faced with another hurricane. Mary our Mother is the Queen of Peace, may she bring peace to our troubled world.*

Faith in Laity Corner is a weekly review of Sunday’s readings written by

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