



[Solomon said to the Lord,]
“Give your servant, therefore,
a listening heart to judge your
people and to distinguish
between good and evil.”

1 KINGS 3:9

What Image of the Kingdom Will You Serve Up?

ANN M. GARRIDO

Jesus' favorite thing to talk about was a mystery he called the kingdom of God, referred to in the Gospel of Matthew as the kingdom of heaven. He was not the first to speak of it. The prophets before him spoke often of God's dream for the world. They wanted all to know what it would look like when God reigns here on earth as God already reigns in the heavens. But Jesus added to that teaching by offering vivid new images of what God's reign is like. Matthew 13 is filled with such snapshots. The kingdom of heaven will be like a mustard seed, a pearl, a measure of leaven, a hidden treasure. It will be like a sower casting out seed, a wheat harvest, a net that catches many fish.

At the end of this litany, however, Jesus offers an image of what he expects of those who have received his teaching about the Kingdom. They are to be like “the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52). It sounds as if Jesus' disciples are to act like hosts of a banquet, setting the table with stories from across time to feed their guests with whatever words and images would best help them grasp the mystery of this kingdom. They are to continue Jesus' work of developing new ways to illumine a mystery that is in the end too great for words. ✱



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

What image of God's kingdom would you offer people of the twenty-first century?



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

53 South Road, Paget PG 03 | P.O. Box HM 727, Hamilton HM CX

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General • Cell: 705 0236

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Saturday 7:00pm (Neo-Catechumenal Mass).

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Parish Administrator:

Karen Marsh
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CHANCERY OFFICE

EMAIL orcc.bermuda@gmail.com



Mass Schedule & Intentions

*We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend.
May you be blessed by your presence here today.*

MINISTRIES...

JULY 25/26th - THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

5:00PM Lector: Joshua Blee EM: Sara Peniston
10:15AM Lector: Cherry Ramdass-Briere EM: Lucy Attride-Stirling
 Collection: Karen Marsh

August 1/2nd- THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Suzette Cabrerra EM: Susan Shreeve
 Collection: Jesse Almeida

MASS INTENTIONS...

JULY 25/26th - THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Theresa Ramdass+
10:15AM For St. Michael's Parishioners

August 1/2nd- THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

4:45PM For Those Suffering From Natural Disaster
10:15AM St. Michael's Parishioners

Thank you for your generosity.



Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

JULY 18/19th Collection: \$1,000.00
Votives: \$60.00 Poor Box (SVdeP): \$366.00
Maintenance Collection: \$687.00

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE
 to St. Michael's Church's: BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

WHEN MAKING YOUR ONLINE TRANSACTION, BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND "COLLECTION" AS YOUR MEMO ON YOUR BANKING TRANSACTION.

Pastor's Point...

Dear Parishioners,

This will be the last time that Pastor's Point, Our Sunday Readings and Words of Life will be a part of this bulletin for now. I shall be on a "staycation" (a vacation staying home on the rock during the month of AUGUST) and will restart on Sunday, 6 September 2026. This is part 3 dealing with the number 3 in the Bible with the next dealing with NUMBERS 4 and 5.

THREE: In sacred Scripture the number three represents that which is solid, real, substantial, and something in its completeness. This number usually indicates something of importance or significance in God's plan of salvation by identifying an important event in Salvation History. This number operates as a "sign-post" in Scripture study for the reader to "pay attention" to the significance of the next event.

In the Old Testament:

- It is the first of the 4 perfect numbers which are 3 (divine perfection); 7 (spiritual perfection); 10 (ordinal perfection); and 12 (governmental perfection).
- The earth was separated from the waters on the 3rd day and life began [Genesis 1:9-13].
- There were three Patriarchs of the children of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel.
- There are three verses in the Priestly Blessing in which the Tetragrammaton, YHWH, God's holy covenant name, appears three times [Numbers 6:24-26].
- Three times the angelic Seraphim cry "Holy, Holy, Holy" [Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8].
- After the Great Flood mankind descended from the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth [Genesis 10:1-32].
- Three "men" announced to Abraham that his barren wife would bear a son [Genesis 18:14].
- Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his son after a three-day journey to Mt. Moriah [Genesis 22:1-4].
- Baby Moses was hidden by his mother for three months [Exodus 2:1] and the adult Moses requests of Pharaoh that he let Moses take his people on a three-day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifice to their God [Exodus 3:18].
- There were three divisions of the desert Tabernacle and later the Temple in Jerusalem: the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies [Exodus 27:9; 26:1-30, 35-37; 31-34; 38:9-20; 21-31; 40:1-33; 1 Kings 6:1-37].
- God is mentioned three times in the Shema, the Old Covenant profession of faith [Deuteronomy 6:4] and three times in the priestly blessing [Numbers 6:24-26].
- The three attributes of God mentioned in Exodus 33:18-19 are hen, rachum, and hesed (gracious, compassionate /merciful, and loving kindness).
- Of the seven annual Holy Feasts of the Sinai Covenant, three are "pilgrim feasts" in which every man 13 years or older must present himself before God at His Sanctuary and later at the Temple in Jerusalem. This command is repeated three times in scripture [Exodus 23:14-17; 34:18-23; Deuteronomy 16:16].
- Jonah spent three days in the belly of the great fish [Jonah 2:1]; Jonah took three days to journey across the city of Nineveh [Jonah 3:3].

In the New Testament:

- Jesus' ministry lasted three years, covering three Passovers [John 2:13; 6:4; 11:55-12:1].
- Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months [Luke 1:56].
- Jesus was missing for three days when He was 12 years old [Luke 2:46].
- Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on the Mt. of Transfiguration [Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2; Luke 9:28-36].
- Jesus arose from the dead on the third day. [Matthew 16:21, 17:23, 20:19; Mark 9:31, 10:34; Luke 9:22, 18:33, 24:7, 46; Acts 10:40].

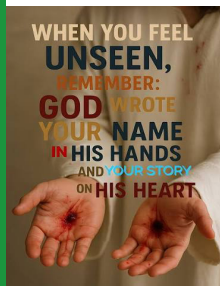


Continued on page 4

Bishops Corner . . .

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

"Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord promises that he will never forget any of us. He assures us that he has engraved our faces on the palms of his hands and that his love is greater than a mother's love for her child." This comforting reminder is offered at the beginning of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the Sixth World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held on the 26th of July, with the theme "I will never forget you (Is 49:15)."



Pope Leo says that the prophet gives us a glimpse of an intimate and intense dialogue in which God addresses, in familiar terms, each person individually and the people as a whole, saying that even today, we can read these words as referring to each of us. The Pope acknowledges that quite a few elderly people share the painful feeling of being forgotten, especially as they experience loneliness or sometimes being reduced to a bed, number, or illness. He also invites everyone, especially the young, "to revive the beautiful custom" of visiting their grandparents, elderly relatives, and even those who have no one to visit them. "Bring them, through this message and your presence, the closeness and affection of the Pope," he said, as he called on loved ones to offer their grandparents and their elderly loved ones a tender and affectionate encounter.

Finally, the Pontiff thanks all elderly people for supporting him every day with their prayers, especially when they recite the Holy Rosary. "I return this gratitude from the bottom of my heart," he said, while noting he leaves them with this prayer: "May the Lord always renew us in faith, hope and love — He who never forgets us!"

Full official text of the Pope's message: <https://tinyurl.com/56heyp2>

Have a restful weekend and a Happy Cup Match week!

+ Wes Jurek
Bishop Wes



Dear Padre,

I'm in the OCIA program. My wife and I were married civilly. She goes to a non-denominational church but is not baptized. Someone said we would have to get our marriage "convalidated." Why? And what does that mean?

Convalidation is a legal term, but it can also be understood as good pastoral practice and even more as a wise spiritual choice. Basically, from a legal point of reference, your marriage took place outside of the canonical structure of the Church. It needs to be "regularized" and "documented" for you to move forward. Because your wife is not baptized, it cannot be a sacramental marriage, which requires baptism, but it can be made valid and recorded in official Church documentation. Such documentation is helpful, particularly if you have children and intend to raise them as Catholic. Also, if your wife ever decides to become a baptized Catholic, your marriage would automatically become a sacramental marriage when she is baptized. Nothing more is required of you. All in all, it is a good decision and a positive step in your spiritual journey. ✱



BOGDAN SONIAKHNYA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

WORDS OF LIFE. -

"Assisted suicide proponents are pursuing an aggressive nationwide campaign to advance their agenda through legislation, ballot measures, litigation, and public advertising, targeting states they see as most susceptible to their message. Some polls indicate that the public is receptive to the general concept of assisted suicide. But the same polls show that when the public learns about the dangers of assisted suicide, especially for those who are poor, elderly, disabled, or without access to good medical care, their views shift against the practice.

"USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide"

During Fr. Joe's vacation in August, both the Masses will be celebrated by Fr. Vivien. There is no change to the 10:15am Sunday Mass. However, in order to make it possible for Fr. Vivien to be on time on his duties at St. Patrick's, the Saturday Masses at St. Michael's through the month of August will be celebrated at 4:45pm.

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- We need a volunteer to assist with St. Michael's Communications initiative, to help with getting the word out about St. Michael's via all social media. Please Email stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com if you can help.
- The EMMAUS Bible Study will be taking the summer off. It will re-start on Tuesday, September 15th. Have a great summer everyone.
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S

- St. Theresa's Cathedral summer opening hours are:
Monday-Friday 7am-4:30pm
Saturday 8:30am-7:30pm
Sunday 8am-7pm
- Daily Mass is celebrated at 7:30am.
- Noon Day Mass in St. Theresa's Cathedral: The 12:10pm will return in September.

St. ANTHONY'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated Tuesday - Friday at 8:30am

St. PATRICK'S

- Daily Mass is celebrated at 8:00am
- Praying the Rosary is on each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration each Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm
- A mass in Tagalog takes place on, THE SECOND FRIDAY of the month at 7:00pm.

St. JOSEPH'S

- A Filipino mass is celebrated every, THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH at 11:00am

STELLA MARIS

- A Filipino mass is celebrated on the LAST Wednesday OF THE MONTH at 7:00pm

St. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP

- Opening hours - 10:00am-2:00pm. Tuesdays and Saturdays.
- **VOLUNTEER NEEDED** that can assist for 2 hours/week on Saturdays from 12-2PM, or as a fill-in for any absences. If you can assist, please call 292-0416 or drop by in person. Thank you

St. Vincent de Paul Society Donations

Donations can be made by Direct Deposit to:
BNTB BD\$ 20006060476711100 or US\$ 8400784730010.

Memo Field: Identify your name and purpose of donation.
ie. "In memory of..." (IMO and the name of person).

Email (Optional): send to svdp@northrock.bm for confirmation and acknowledgement.

DONATIONS IN CASH: Please use the Poor Boxes in your parish churches or the envelopes provided and place these in the collection baskets.

Upcoming Events

Due to the Cup Match holidays there will be
NO Summer Lunch & Movie Event
on Thursday, 30th July.

The next film will be shown on Thursday, 6th August.

Sunday, 2nd of August, marks the Portiuncula Indulgence strongly rooted in St. Francis' spirituality.

A second solemn celebration within St. Francis Jubilee Year will take place in our Diocese. Bishop Wes will officiate the 11:30am Mass at St. Anthony's Church with communal recitation of prayers for indulgence. The conditions for obtaining indulgence for offer for salvation of oneself or the souls of the deceased are the ordinary ones: Sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, Prayer according to the Intentions of the Holy Father.

Pastor's Point (Continued)

- Saul was blinded for three days [Acts 9:9].
- The theological virtues are faith, hope and charity [1 Corinthians 13:13].
- The heavenly Jerusalem has three gates on each of its four sides [Revelation 21:13].
- Christians saw three as symbolic of the Trinity, the triune nature of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and the number of the Holy Spirit who is the third person of the Most Holy Trinity [Matthew 28:19].

In Addition:

- There are three divisions of time: past, present, and future.
- There are three persons represented in grammar.
- Thought, word, and deed complete the sum of human capacity.
- People of God, have a great summer as it is hot and make sure to pace yourself, God bless, keep cool and hydrated,

God bless,

Fr. Joseph Mulya

Fr. Joe, Pastor and Vicar General DOHB

SOURCE: Agape Bible Study: The Significance of Numbers in Scripture, online., pages 2 & 3

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

God speaks to us.... [T]he first attitude to cultivate is listening, so that the divine Word may penetrate our minds and our hearts; at the same time, we are required to speak with God, not to communicate to him what he already knows, but to reveal ourselves to ourselves. Hence the need for prayer, in which we are called to live and to cultivate friendship with the Lord.



GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
JANUARY 14, 2026

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Our Sunday Readings

I KINGS 3:5,7-12
 PSALM 119:57,72,76-77,127-130
 ROMANS 8:28-30
 MATTHEW 13:44-52 (or 44-46)

All for the Kingdom

I KINGS 3:5,7-12

Reading closely

1. Why do you think God offers to give Solomon whatever he asks for?
2. What all might Solomon have wanted to ask for?
3. How does Solomon speak to God?
4. How does Solomon describe his situation?
5. Why was God pleased with Solomon's request?
6. What exactly does God promise to give Solomon?
7. How do you think Solomon felt when he woke up?

Living the word

8. What do you most want to ask of God?
9. Is there anything you want to ask of God but aren't? Why?
10. What do you think God wants you to ask?
11. How do you discern what to ask of God?

THE FIRST READING

The reign of King Solomon

During his reign King Solomon ensured peace with Egypt and other nations, built the temple and palace in Jerusalem, and centralized power.

Israel grew so much in wealth and prestige that Solomon's reign was later remembered as a golden age in the history of Israel. There is a dark side to Israel's ascent, however: the king imposed such heavy taxes and labor on his people that the northern part of the kingdom seceded after his death in 922 BC.

The power behind the throne

Solomon is credited with showing much of the same piety as his father David. In verse four Solomon offers a huge number of animal sacrifices to the LORD.

Because Solomon (more or less) obeyed the Sinai Covenant, God gave him the blessings promised in it, such as wealth, glory, and long life (vv.13-14). Solomon's success is thus portrayed as being founded on his devotion to God.

Imperfectly pious

Although Solomon is initially faithful to God, the king later built shrines to other gods in order to please his non-Israelite wives. He even joined his wives in worshiping these other gods, a terrible violation of the Sinai Covenant (I Kings 11).

MATTHEW 13:44-46

1. How do you think each person found the treasure/pearl?
2. How do you imagine each person reacting to their discovery?
3. How do you think other people reacted to the decisions these two people made?
4. What are you searching for?
5. How will you know when you've found what you're searching for?
6. What will you do when you find what you're searching for?
7. What insights do these parables offer you?
8. In what ways do these parables challenge you?

MATTHEW 13:47-50

9. On what basis do the fishermen decide what to keep and what to throw away?
10. On what basis will the angels decide?
11. How might Jesus' disciples have reacted to this parable?
12. What feelings does this passage evoke in you?
13. What action does this parable prompt you to take?
14. What prayer does this parable prompt you to offer?

MATTHEW 13:51-52

15. Do you think the disciples really did understand *all these things*?
16. How easily do you understand Jesus?
17. What might the disciples have treasured from their Jewish heritage?
18. What might the disciples have especially treasured from Jesus?
19. What do you treasure about your faith?

PRAYER

by St. Thomas Aquinas

Grant me grace,
O merciful God,
to desire ardently all that is pleasing to you,
to examine it prudently,
to acknowledge it truthfully,
and to accomplish it perfectly,
for the praise and glory of your name.
Amen.

THE GOSPEL READING

Drop everything (vv.44-46)

In the absence of home security systems and banks, farmers hid valuable items in their fields. If their land was invaded or seized and they didn't have time to dig up their valuables, others might eventually find them and claim them.

Like all good parables, the first two we hear today are open to multiple interpretations. Here are just three things they teach us.

- God's kingdom is the only thing a person should ultimately want
- Whether stumbling across God's kingdom or seeking it, one must take immediate action to be part of it
- A person must be willing to give up everything for God's kingdom, including whatever or whoever seems important or necessary

Mixed catch (vv.47-50)

This parable conveys the same ideas as the allegorical interpretation of the weeds and the wheat (vv.37-43). Here the focus is on what happens to *the wicked*: their frightening demise warns people to repent and embrace God's kingdom.

The parable assures those who have embraced the gospel that God will prevail over evil. The just must be patient and not presume to exercise judgment on God's behalf.

Christian scribes (vv.51-52)

Jesus asks his disciples if they understand his teaching. When they say they have, he makes them the subject of another parable. They are to be householders who treasure his ministry (*the new*) while honoring their Jewish heritage (*the old*).

Matthew quotes from the Jewish scriptures more than the other Gospel-writers in order to show clearly that Jesus is the fulfillment of Israel's hopes. Matthew is thus himself a *scribe* and *householder* who uses *the old* to show the vital significance of *the new*.