



THE ONLY CATHOLIC CHURCH IN BERMUDA NAMED AFTER AN ANGELIC BEING.

Our Parish Community

October 4th, 2026

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

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

The Gradual Road to Ruin

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSsR

A wise old sage once observed, "When it starts out stupid, it just gets more stupid." The parable in today's gospel illustrates this wisdom.

The son has been sent. The jig is up. The owner is not going to give up the vineyard. The tenants gambled and lost. It's time for them to accept the inevitable and pay the rent. But common sense and wisdom do not prevail. *Kill the son*, they think, *and all that he would have inherited will be ours!*

How do you get from "don't pay the rent" to "kill the son"? It is not a straight or smooth path. There are a lot of twists and turns between point A and point B. But it happens. It sneaks in. It demands little compromises and small dishonesties along the way as it becomes easier and easier for you to choose what is destructive. Then, you find you have lost it all—your very self. And the corruption you've embraced convinces you that you're making wise choices. You must be completely cleansed of the seduction that has enabled you to make these choices. You need to start again. ✱



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Reflect

Am I aware of a sin that has become easy to commit?

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Pastor: Reverend Joseph F. H. Morley, Vicar General (c) 705 0236

Parish Administrator: Karen Marsh (c) 799 0842

Email: stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & "LIKE" us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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



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...

October 3/4th - THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Laura DeFrias EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: Joyce Lee
Collection: Jesse Almeida

October 10/11th - THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Lucy Attride-Stirling EM: Willie Forbes
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

October 3/4th - THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For the Intentions of St. Michael's Parishioners
10:15AM Iduino Rodrigues +

October 10/11th - THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Jose Rodrigues +
10:15AM In Gratitude for the Support of Our Church Maintenance Fund



SEPTEMBER 26/27th Collection:
\$1,254.00

Feast Day Flowers: \$50.00
Thank you for your Support.

A MASS OF THANKSGIVING

St. Michael's Parish invites you to join us for a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday, October 11th at 10:15am**, offered in gratitude for all those who have generously supported our church maintenance project.

Through your donations, encouragement, time, and continued support, you are helping us care for St. Michael's and preserve our parish home for the generations to come.

At this Mass, we will come together as a parish community to thank God and to pray for the intentions of all our benefactors.

Please join us as we celebrate with grateful hearts and give thanks for the generosity that continues to sustain our parish.

Bishops Corner...

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Thinking these days about St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, the Patroness of our Diocese and our Cathedral with its Parish, I would like to share with you a poem by Dr. John Celes:

*If every flower be a rose,
And drape the world in hues,
The earth could look less beautiful,
And every dawn – stale-news!*

*If every flower be a lily,
And emanate perfume,
Then nostrils will discontent be,
And women all could fume!*

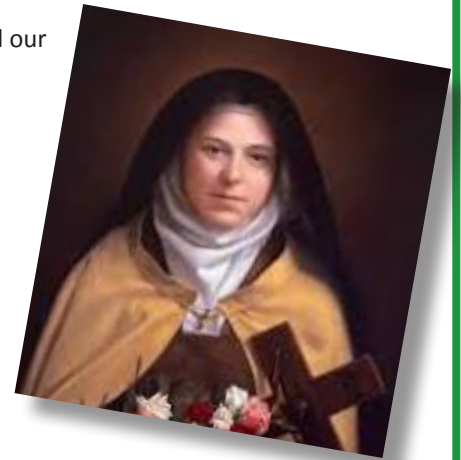
*If every flower, daisy be,
And turn the fields to lawns,
The feast to eyes could soon be lost,
And empty will be dawns!*

*So, every flower, God has made
With beauty that can't fade;
And uniqueness that is well-laid,
To decorate the braid.*

*No matter, how silly, it be,
Each flower seems so nice;
The flower in the wilderness
Is dressed to well entice.*

*You cannot belittle something
In Mother Nature's lap!
For God has taken every care
To give each, needed sap.*

*The world God made is perfect most,
And man can't find a fault;
Man's wisdom is far too little
To make salty, the salt!*



Happy St. Thérèse Feast! And a blessed week!

+ *Wes Jurevalle*
Bishop Wes



LET'S TALK
MENTAL HEALTH

If you or someone you know is struggling with mental health illness or suicidal thoughts, please call: 236-3770 weekdays from 8:00am to 5:00pm (MWI) 911 or 239-1111 (24/7 Crisis hotline)

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. i.e. "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.

Pastor's Point . . .

Dear Parishioners,

I will continue with my sharing of the information that is online regarding our Catholic Faith by focusing this week upon THE CATECHISM MAP which contains over 100 pages that visually distill all 2,965 paragraphs of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. There are illustrated maps covering the whole of the Catholic Faith in plain language, faithful to the Magisterium with instant, lifetime access on any device with print-ready color pages. Also, with other options there is the Catechism Study Planner, 150 Psalms (divided up based upon the 5 divisions of the psalms verse-by-verse), 100 Catechism Questions/Answers, Journal for a 54 Day Rosary Novena, plus other features.

Again a great use of technology since, as a society we have more information at our disposal about our faith as never before. Downloading the HOTMART app is most helpful in order to have access to those apps that have already been paid.

Since this is the month of October in remembrance our OUR LADY, next week I will focus upon A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE HOLY ROSARY which is a part of this bundle.

God bless,

Fr. Joe, Pastor & Vicar General (DOHB)



WORDS OF LIFE

“When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, “May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the mother of life. Mary’s acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities Respect Life Reflection: “Mary: Mother of Life”

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Today we lift up our prayer for peace in the world, asking that nations renounce weapons and choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy. Disarm our hearts of hatred, resentment, and indifference, so we may become instruments of reconciliation. Help us understand that true security does not come from control fueled by fear, but from trust, justice, and solidarity among peoples.

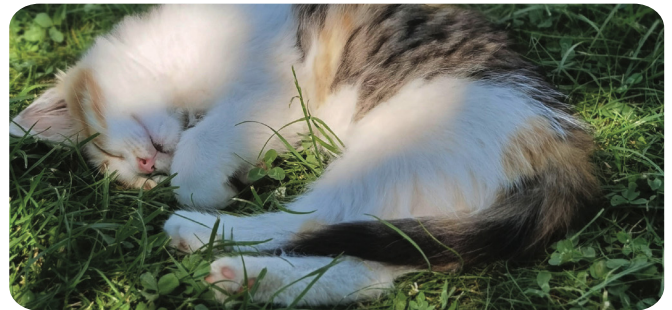
“PRAY WITH THE POPE” VIDEO MESSAGE, MARCH 2026 The quotations from Pope Leo XIV are printed with permission, copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione–Libreria Editrice Vaticana. All rights reserved.



MARCO IACOBucci EPP - SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

My friend is deeply involved in her faith, but I struggle with our friendship because I don't like how she treats her pets. I don't understand how someone who values religion so highly can show so little care for animals. What should I do?



HLIB RAHOISHA / PEXELS

Franciscan Friar Kevin Mackin writes, “The bond between person and pet is like no other relationship, because the communication between fellow creatures is at its most basic. Eye to eye are two creatures of love” (“Why We Bless Animals,” *Catholic Update*). Because of this strong bond between humans and sentient creatures, it’s especially difficult to witness their mistreatment, either through neglect (such as failing to provide sufficient food, water, shelter, or veterinary care) or direct physical abuse (a violation of anti-cruelty laws and a criminal offense in all fifty states). Studies show that owning pets offers us companionship and emotional support; in turn, these qualities can foster in us greater empathy and compassion toward others. Yet, while pets may greatly benefit our health and well-being, owning them comes with a serious obligation and moral responsibility. Vulnerable pets depend on humans for adequate care and protection. At times, some pet owners can be overwhelmed by their responsibility to provide proper care; others may even be unaware that they are treating their pets inappropriately. Out of concern for both your friend and her pets, consider a non-critical, nonconfrontational approach to discuss your observations and to offer assistance. ✱

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

What is Happening in Our Diocese?

St. MICHAEL'S

- The **EMMAUS Bible Study** each Tuesday, 3:00pm.
- Neocatechumenal Way Eucharist celebration - Saturdays at 7:00pm
- The **Holy Rosary** will be said each Wednesday evening at 5:30pm, led by Lucy Attride-Stirling. Everyone is welcome to come and spend some quiet time, please join us.
- **A Filipino Mass in Tagalog will be celebrated each Sunday starting on October 4th at 4:30pm**

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.
- Saturday Portuguese Mass is at 9:00am
- The 12:10pm Mass is celebrated each Wednesday, Thursday & Friday.

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 each Wednesday at 10:00am
- A weekly Portuguese Mass is celebrated each Wednesday at 7:00pm.
- Adoration /Rosary on Thursdays is cancelled for the month of September, as Fr. Vivien will be out of the Island, resuming on Thursday October 8th.
- 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

Save the Date

This Tuesday, the 6th of October, we will re-start our Lunch & Movie Programme.

At 12:00pm lunch will be served (this Tuesday it will be a Split Pea & Ham Soup and rolls), and afterwards we will watch the movie, with ice-cream during the intermission.

The movie will be "Immortal Beloved" from 1994, written and directed by Bernard Rose. It is a mesmerising mystery based on the tumultuous life of Ludwig Van Beethoven. Gary Oldman gives a tour de force performance as the passionate, volatile genius who inspired love and hatred in equal measure. Whether seducing regal followers or criticising the ruling class, Beethoven made many enemies. But he also had one true love - the unnamed "Immortal Beloved" mentioned in an enigmatic letter discovered upon his death. The thrilling search for the identity of this mystery woman leads us into Beethoven's dark past, his hidden passions, and ultimately into the unparalleled genius of his music.

Film length is 121 minutes.

It is rated R for violence and language. In the UK it was classified for 15 years and older audience.



Preparation classes for Confirmation will start at the beginning of November. There will be two options:

Miss Maura Almeida will hold classes on Mondays from 4:00pm – 5:30pm in St. Theresa's Hall with the first class beginning on the 2nd of November.

Mr. Anthony Donaghy will hold classes on Wednesdays from 5:00pm – 6:30pm also in St. Theresa's Hall with the first class beginning on the 4th of November.

Confirmation will take place on Pentecost Sunday, 16th of May 2027, at 2:00pm in St. Theresa's Cathedral.

If your child was born in 2012 or prior, they are eligible to prepare for Confirmation. Please contact the Chancery Office to register for classes at orcc.bermuda@gmail.com if you have not already been contacted by them.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

PREPARATION • JANUARY 2027

Is your child ready to begin preparing for First Holy Communion?

Interested? Contact St. Michael's Parish
stmichaelsbermuda@gmail.com

Our Sunday Readings

ISAIAH 5:1-7
PSALM 80:9,12-16,19-20
PHILIPPIANS 4:6-9
MATTHEW 21:33-43

Wild Grapes

ISAIAH 5:1-7

Reading closely

1. What care did the friend show for his vineyard?
2. What all might the friend be hoping for?
3. Were his hopes reasonable?
4. What does the vineyard produce?
5. Why might this have happened?
6. What might the friend feel about his harvest?
7. Why does the prophet ask the people of Jerusalem to judge what's happened?
8. What will the friend do to the vineyard?
9. Why does the friend take action against his vineyard?
10. Would other vine-growers have understood the friend's reaction to his harvest?
11. How might people have reacted when the prophet tells them they are the vineyard?

Living the word

12. a) What vineyards are you part of?
b) How healthy are these vineyards?
13. a) What kind of grape are you?
b) What sours you?
c) What makes you sweet?

THE FIRST READING

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.

MATTHEW 21:33-43

Read vv. 33-34.

1. How might people have reacted as they began hearing this story?
2. How does the beginning of this story differ from Isaiah's parable?
3. What do you think the relationship was between the landowner and the tenants?
4. Does the landowner have the right to claim some of the produce?
5. What would you expect to happen next?

Read vv. 35-40.

6. How do the tenants act?
7. Why might they have responded this way?
8. Why might the owner have kept sending people to the tenants?
9. How does the owner view his son?
10. How do the tenants view the son?
11. If you had been the landowner, what would you have done?

Read vv. 41-43.

12. How might those in authority have reacted?
13. How might others have reacted?
14. How might people have reacted to Jesus' use of scripture?
15. Who all might the new tenants represent?
16. What will the new tenants do?
17. What are the *fruits* of the kingdom of God?
18. What this passage leave you thinking about?

THE GOSPEL READING

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*.

PRAYER

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.