

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

At first glance, the parable in today’s gospel seems to be about heaven and hell. A rich man feasts sumptuously every day, ignoring a beggar named Lazarus at his door. Then both men die. The rich man is in torment, whereas Lazarus is blessed in the presence of Abraham. This parable, however, is about much more than the afterlife. It carries an immediate message for our lives.

I would describe this message as a movement from the door to a crater. At the beginning of the parable, the rich man is happy and blessed. He is free to do what he wishes, to live as he will. Lazarus sits at his door. It is a door that the rich man can open. The rich man can go through that door and bring food to the hungry Lazarus. Or he can bring Lazarus through that door, into his home to bind his wounds and feed him at his table. Yet, even though the door at which Lazarus sits can be opened, the rich man does not use it. He seems oblivious to the opportunity he has to connect with others, to do what is right.

In the second half of this parable, all this change. The rich man is no longer free. He is imprisoned in torment and now he wishes to connect with Lazarus, who he sees in the bosom of Abraham. He asks that Lazarus come to him, but Abraham explains that it is impossible. Between them there has been established a huge chasm, across which no one can pass. What once was possible is now impossible. The door has become a chasm.

This parable invites us to look at our own lives. We might be happy and content, but are there doors that we should open while we can? For a time might come where opening them is no longer possible. We might be happy in our marriage, content with our life, moving from one thing to the next, but not noticing that we are drifting away from our spouse. We no longer talk about important things. Our love is dying. Today we could still open the door and reconnect. But if we wait until divorce papers are filed, that door might be locked.

We may have had a falling out with a close friend or family member, and we are still smarting because of the injustice of it all. But we say to ourselves, “He’ll get over it. She’ll come around”. Today, we could pick up the phone and ask to talk. But a day might come where the other person is no longer willing to talk. The door will be permanently closed or has become a chasm.

The rich man in today’s gospel does not appear to be mean or wicked. He simply does not recognize the opportunities that are present to him in order to connect with other people, to do what is right. He feels that his life is fine. But it is ready to collapse. The parable in today’s gospel asks us to be wiser than the rich man. It asks us to open the doors that we can, to provide love, forgiveness, and justice to others. Waiting could be fatal. For a time may come when, like the rich man, we discover that a step that was once possible has become a wide expanse, over which no one can cross.



A 2nd collection will be taken up this Sunday, at all the Masses, for the Needs of the Church in Canada.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS



- Mon. Sept. 30th** - ST. JEROME, memorial
Zechariah 8:1-8; Luke 9:46-50
- Tue. Oct. 1st** - ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS, memorial
Zechariah 8:20-23; Luke 9:51-56
- Wed. Oct. 2nd** - THE HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, memorial
Exodus 23:20-23a; Mat. 18:1-5, 10
- Thurs. Oct. 3rd** - Nehemiah 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12; Luke 10:1-12
- Fri. Oct. 4th** - ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, memorial
Baruch 1:15-22; Luke 10:13-16
- Sat. Oct. 5th** - Baruch 4:5-12, 27-29; Luke 10:17-24
- Sun. Oct. 6th** - 27th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4; 2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14; Luke 17:5-10

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat. Sept. 28th 5 pm Mass for Erlinda Mazo, R.I.P.
- Sun. Sept. 29th 9 am Mass for parishioners
11 am Mass for the int. of Teresina Ho
5 pm Mass for Wilkie Sia, R.I.P.
- Mon. Sept. 30th 8 am Mass for Simon, Anne & Margareta Oud, R.I.P.
- Tue. Oct. 1st 8 am Mass for the int. of Florie Laureola
- Wed. Oct. 2nd 9 am Mass for the int. of Catarina Kennedy
7:30 pm Novena Mass
- Thur. Oct. 3rd 8:00 am Mass for the int. of Fr. Lawrence Donnelly
- Fri. Oct. 4th 8:00 am Mass for the int. of Elmee Garner & baby
7:30 pm Mass for Joseph & Mary Tong, R.I.P.
- Sat. Oct. 5th 9:00 am Mass for humberto Almeida, R.I.P.

ALTAR SERVERS

Until such a time as a new schedule is provided all former altar servers are asked to volunteer their services at the Mass they attend.





FIRST FRIDAY 24 HOUR EXPOSITION AND ADORATION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT will be held this Friday, Oct. 4th, following the 8 a.m. Mass until Saturday, 8:30 am. A minimum of 2 volunteers per hour is required. Please write your name at the hour you can attend, on the sign-up sheet provided in the vestibule.

PROJECT ADVANCE NEWS

Thank you to all those who generously supported our Project Advance campaign. Our goal is to increase participation. If you haven't contributed, please consider doing so. You can give at the parish office, drop off your donation marked Project Advance in the Sunday collection or give online at: www.rca.org/giving

75th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

Please be reminded that payment for the 75th Anniversary dinner are now due. The deadline, is Sept. 30th. Payment will be collected, this weekend, after all the Masses. During the week your payment may be dropped off at the Parish office.

PREP NEWS

Our Parish Religious Education Program for children in grades 1 through 7 attending public school has begun. Classes are held every Tuesday from 6:30 - 7:45 pm in our school. Registrations are still being accepted prior to classes.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Interested? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult). Every Thursday evening at 6:30 pm in the church hall. The program is suitable for anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith. For more info call (604) 434-6700.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** This Wed., Oct. 2nd, at 9 am. Join us!
- **ProD Day:** No school this Monday, Sept. 30th.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflections

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established..."
(Luke 16:25-26)

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.

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Grace that Reigns Society: PRAYERS FOR PRIESTS

Please join us to Pray for the Priests of the Vancouver East Deanery at St. Mary's Church on Saturday October 5th, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Newman: A Saint for Our Times

Panel on the Life and Thought of Cardinal Newman

Blessed John Henry Newman will be canonized as a saint of the Catholic Church on Oct. 13, 2019. His life has inspired many people around the world and continues to do so – attested primarily by the numerous Newman Clubs, Centres, and Associations today. Join us as our panellists address different aspects of Cardinal Newman's achievements and legacy. Hear the story of how his life can be a role model for us and our journey towards holiness. Join us for this free event on Wednesday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver.

Men's Ministry - Into the Breach

Into the Breach is a men's only, 8-week faith study exploring what it means to be a Catholic man in contemporary culture. Thursdays from Oct. 3 - Nov. 28 at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. Register online for \$10 at secure.rcav.org/into-the-breach

Catechist Evening with Archbishop Miller

Join us Friday, Oct. 11, at 6 p.m. for an evening to celebrate catechists and the work that they do as they prepare for the new catechetical year. There will be Mass, a blessing, and reflection by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB. A light meal will be provided at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre in Vancouver. Register online for \$15 at secure.rcav.org/catechist-evening

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Attention Married Couples: wouldn't it be wonderful to be as joyful together as you were on your wedding day? Lack of time, distractions, work & family responsibilities make us forget that our marriage is a priority. Spend a weekend rediscovering and renewing your marriage. *"As the family goes, so does the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live"* - St John Paul II

Limited spots available: October 18-20, 2019 at the Holiday Inn Express, Langley, BC. Register online: <https://rcav.org/wwme/>
Questions? Sharon & Glen Goh Tel: 604 723 5998.

An Evening with Archbishop Miller

The 8th Annual Archbishop's Dinner will take place Tuesday, Oct. 22nd, at the Hyatt Regency, Van. This year, in partnership with Providence Health Care and with St. Mark's College, Archbishop Miller has designated the proceeds to help foster Catholic health-care ethics in the education of health-care providers and in the support of their day-to-day practice. Reception at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. For more info or to reserve your table(s) please visit rcav.org/dinner2019.

Upper Room Conference

At the Upper Room Conference, you will hear from incredible speakers like Cardinal Dolan, Sr. Miriam James, and Archbishop J. Michael Miller, you'll be able to connect with other disciples, and gain insight and resources on how to live out your missional call in your homes and communities. We'll also have time of worship, prayer and community. This conference has been a long time coming. Led by the vision of Archbishop Michael to see the Gospel shared, the heart of Upper Room comes back to Pope Francis' declaration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month and the prodding of the Holy Spirit in our Archdiocese. The conference takes place at the Vancouver Convention Centre on Saturday, Oct. 26. Registration and conference info at upperroomvancouver.com We believe that God is beginning a new movement in Vancouver.

