

Fr. Martin's Reflection – September 24, 2023

Dear Sisters & Brothers,



Let's start this week with some wonderful news. On behalf of all of us at Mary, Mother of the Church Parish, I extend congratulations and blessings of joy and happiness to Alfonso and Sarah on their recent engagement. May the love of God forever fill your hearts with love for each other that will guide you throughout the days of your engagement and for the many decades of married life. Alfonso and Sarah are planning their wedding for October 2024. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Our readings this week invite us to take a close look at our lives and ask ourselves how conscious we are about our relationship with God?

The first reading from the prophet Ezekiel imparts a profound lesson about personal responsibility and accountability. It emphasizes that individuals are accountable for their own actions and will face the consequences thereof. This passage challenges the notion of generational sin, asserting that each person is judged on their own merits. It encourages self-reflection and a shift away from blaming external circumstances or ancestral wrongdoings for one's present state.

Matthew shares a parable about two sons, one who initially refuses his father's request but later complies, and another who initially agrees but fails to follow through. This narrative underscores the significance of deeds over mere words. It highlights the idea that true obedience and righteousness are demonstrated through actions, not empty promises. It's a call to authenticity and integrity in one's faith.

Together, these passages indicate a common theme: the importance of genuine repentance and righteous living. They caution against hypocrisy and emphasize that God values sincerity and transformation. In a world often focused on appearances, these scriptures serve as a reminder that God sees the heart.

Moreover, they highlight the dynamic nature of faith. It's not merely a declaration of belief, but an ongoing commitment to live in accordance with one's convictions. The parable of the two sons challenges us to reflect on our own lives. Are we merely professing faith, or are we actively living it out in our daily interactions?

In a society that often seeks quick fixes and external justifications, these passages call for self-examination and personal growth. The readings remind us that our relationship with God is deeply personal and requires continuous effort. Ultimately, they inspire us to align our actions with our professed beliefs, fostering a faith that is authentic, steadfast, and transformative.

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

This Sunday the wonderful volunteers of St. Vincent de Paul renew their commitment of Christian service to the poor and needy of our society. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jeff Burns and all the SVDP volunteers for their compassion, love, and service to the less fortunate and most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters. May the prayers and intercession of St. Vincent de Paul guide you always in your good works.

May you have a week filled with opportunities to serve God.

Fr. Martin