

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Sep 21, 2025

Holy Father's Intention for September:

For our relationship with all of creation

Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

Serving the Greater Master:

From a young age, society presents us the “perfect” roadmap for a life of happiness. This vision usually includes having the fancy job, a large house, extravagant clothes and a large sum of money in the bank. It is engrained in our upbringing that the amassing of wealth should be the most important facet of our life, which is why the Lord's words in today's Gospel, that “you cannot serve God and wealth,” can be so difficult to swallow.

It is interesting that Jesus doesn't say we cannot have wealth, but instead, that we should not serve wealth. What does it mean to serve wealth? It is to preferentially prioritize our efforts for career advancement over our efforts to deepen our relationship with God. Essentially, those who serve wealth utilize all of their time and talents to attain more and more possessions. Stewards on the other hand utilize their time and talents to serve Christ and His Church.

In order to foster a healthy attitude towards our wealth, it is important to view it, and our very lives themselves, as a gift from God. It is only then that we can begin to move from gratitude to generosity, graciously sharing our gifts with others for the glory of God and the church. When the temptation to hold onto our wealth looms over us, let us remember Christ's words, and ask ourselves how are we sharing our gifts with the parish community?

Summary:

The Lord's exhortation that “you cannot serve God and wealth” can be difficult to swallow. In order to foster a healthy attitude towards our wealth, it is important to view it, and our very lives themselves, as a gift from God. When we view our wealth as a gift we can then begin to move from gratitude to generosity, graciously sharing our gifts with others for the glory of God and the church.

Praise the Lord who lifts up the poor.

Today's Gospel: Luke 16:1-13

Jesus said to his disciples, "A rich man had a steward who was reported to him for squandering his property. He summoned him and said, 'What is this I hear about you? Prepare a full account of your stewardship, because you can no longer be my steward.' The steward said to himself, 'What shall I do, now that my master is taking the position of steward away from me? I am not strong enough to dig and I am ashamed to beg. I know what I shall do so that, when I am removed from the stewardship, they may welcome me I to their homes.' He called in his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, 'How much do you owe my master?' He replied, 'One hundred measures of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Here is your promissory note. Sit down and quickly write one for fifty.' Then to another the steward said, 'And you, how much do you owe?' He replied, 'One hundred kors of wheat.' The steward said to him, 'Here is your promissory note; write one for eighty.' And the master commended that dishonest steward for acting prudently. "For the children of this world are more prudent in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and mammon."



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“You cannot serve both God and mammon”

Today, the Gospel introduces us to the figure of the unfaithful steward: a man rendering a fraudulent service to his master. He is just a simple steward, but behaves as his master. We must bear in mind:

- 1) Material goods are actually necessary and good, because they come from God's hands. Consequently, we have to prize them.
- 2) But we cannot “worship” them as if they were God and the ultimate meaning or purpose of our existence; we have to be open-handed. Riches are meant for us to better serve God and men, our brothers; not to expel God from our heart and our deeds: “You cannot serve both God and mammon” (Lk 16:13).
- 3) We are not owners, but simple stewards; therefore, not only are we supposed to be trustworthy with whatever we administer, but we are also to make it yield to the best of our possibilities. The parable of the talents shows it quite clearly (cf. Mt 25:14-30).
- 4) Do not let greed drag us along; we have to practice liberality, which is a virtue we should all have, whether rich or poor, each one depending upon his circumstances. We have to give to others!

What if I have enough for my own expenses? Yes, you must also try to increase your wealth to be able to give more (parish, diocese, Caritas, apostolate). Remember St. Ambrose's words: “It is not part of your worldly goods what you give to the poor; what you are giving them is already theirs. Because you have appropriated what has been given for the fruition of all. Land belongs to all, not only to the rich.”

Are you so selfish that you only think of amassing material goods, even if it is as the Gospel's steward did, by lying, stealing, by being stingy, hard-hearted and indifferent to others' needs? Do you ever ponder over St. Paul's words? “For God loves a cheerful giver” (2Cor 9:7). Be generous!



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Offering for Sep 14, 2025

Total Sum. Collection \$4,634.00

Capital Improvement \$ 75.00

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You cannot serve two masters.
Whom do you choose to follow? You have to make a choice. (Luke 16:1 13)

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Baptism: Arrangements must be made one week in advance.
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday from 8:30 am to 9:00 am or by appointment.
Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to plan date of wedding.

Mass Schedule & Mass Intentions

Sun 9/21: * Dominic, Anthony& intention by 1 person
 * Peter, Maria and intention by Phuong Cao
 * Ann Suong Tuyet by Loan Ho
Mon 9/22: * John by 1 person
Tues 9/23: * Thanksgiving by Lap Sam family
Wed 9/24: * Maria Kim Le by 1 person
Thurs 9/25: * Ann Suong Tuyet by Dung Trang
Fri 9/26: * Thanksgiving, all souls & intention by 1 person
 * Paul, Isave, 2 Ann, Joseph and all souls by Hung Ha
Sat 9/27: * Maria Le by family