



1st Reading: IS 55:6-9

Responsorial Psalm: PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18

Second Reading: PHIL 1:20C-24, 27A

Gospel: MT 20:1-16A



*Generosity inspires gratitude,
and gratitude inspires
generosity.*

The Generosity of God

In gratitude we are human; in generosity we are divine: "You received without pay, give without pay" (Mt. 10:8). This verse can be found earlier in St. Matthew's Gospel. And now this week we learn more about gratitude and generosity... the abundance and never-ceasing generosity of God. As humans, we many times restrict our definition of justice to equity in terms of what is earned or entitled, a just or fair wage so to speak. The landowner in today's Gospel represents God, who goes beyond being just to being radically just and abundantly generous.

"The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally. We are occasionally tempted to think that our own actions deserve more reward, more of God's abundant mercy, than the actions of others. But God's generosity cannot be measured into different amounts for different people. When we think that way, we are trying to relate to God on our terms rather than to accept God's radically different ways." loyolapress.com

As we strive to live the holy life God desires for us, we need to be mindful of these two important virtues: gratitude and generosity.

September 21 is the Feast of St. Matthew the Evangelist. As one of the Four Evangelists, Matthew's Gospel was written in the second half of the first century. You may have noticed that this past year, the Sunday Gospels have been taken from the Gospel of Matthew, except on the Nativity of the Lord, Easter. We will continue reading from Matthew until the First Sunday of Advent, when we begin a new liturgical year (Cycle B).

Learn more about St. Matthew by following these links:

Franciscanmedia.org - St. Matthew

USCCB - The Gospel of Matthew, Introduction

Theartistsjob.weebly.com - *Humanizing the Sacred: Caravaggio's "Saint Matthew & the Angel"* (visio divina and art appreciation)

In the Kitchen: St Matthew was a tax collector, many times symbolized with coins or a money bag. On this feast day, celebrate with "Silver Dollar Pancakes!"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Question for Children: How do you experience God being generous to you: through your family, friends, school, or parish?

Question for Youth: This Gospel reminds us that God is always seeking us out and welcoming us into his generous love. Through whom has God reached out to you? Who is always encouraging you to say "yes" to God?

Question for Adults: Using Jesus' parable as your starting point, describe in your own words how God will treat those who come to be part of the church, even those who come late.

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GENEROSITY

DEFINITION: To give of oneself in a willing and cheerful manner for the good of others.

How can you be more generous by giving...



time



service



encouragement



forgiveness



hope



praise



charity



Links for More Ideas, Activities & Resources FYI

[YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) - Gospel Reading and Reflection for Kids - Matthew 20:1 - 16a USCCB (Young Children Faith Builder)

Bostonfaithjustice.org - The Gratitude/Generosity Loop (Adult Faith Builder)

Rcbo.org - Inspiring Children's Generosity, Diocese of Orange (Family Faith Builder)

catholicphilly.com - Liturgy teaches the value of gratitude - Msgr. Joseph Prior (Teens - Adults Faith Builder)

