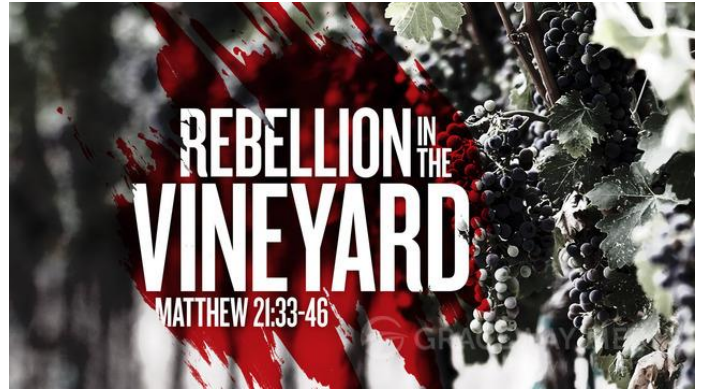


## **Weekend Mass Reflection**

By Deacon Andy Kemp

- 1) Isaiah 5:1-7
- 2) Philippians 4:6-9
- 3) Matthew 21:33-43

Picture a fall morning. It's a little cool around the edges but it's starting to warm up. The sun is shining and you're about to go on a road trip to see the fall colours. Maybe this will be the last bike ride of the season? Or maybe it'll be a day that is completely yours to enjoy. As you're turning the key to start the engine, your neighbour asks, "Did you hear the news? Last night's storm damaged the main road out of the



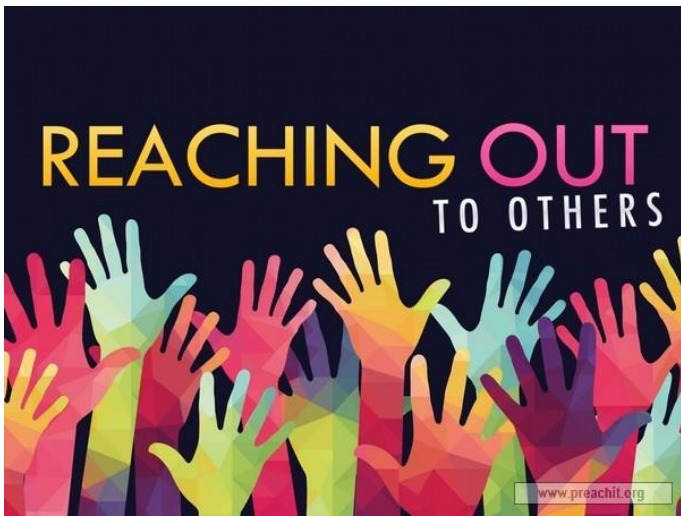
city and it is too dangerous to travel." At that same time, the DJ on the radio is reporting that both the O.P.P. and Township are suggesting an alternate route out of the city due to dangerous conditions. Do you re-think your route and consult your GPS or map book? Do you continue on your way?

Today's Gospel is an allegory with the characters portraying real people telling a story with a hidden message. Would those listening open their hearts to this story? Would future generations open their hearts while listening to the Good News of our Lord and Saviour? Would they stop and re-think about which road they are taking? The landowner (God the Father) planted a vineyard for the tenants (the leaders of Israel) to care and maintain. The landowner sent servants (prophets) to harvest the produce (God's people called to be with Him in heaven). These "servants" and those after them were put to death. The landowner sent his son (Jesus) to collect the harvest. The tenants were jealous and sent the son outside of the city to be killed. Jesus was taken outside the city walls and killed, crucified on the Cross. The landowner will come and take back what belongs to Him. The tenants will be judged and dealt with harshly and He will send new tenants and servants.

Our first reading speaks about God providing for His people. He expects that those in power will protect and provide for His people. Instead, God sees the wickedness, the abuse, and hears the cry of His people. God's judgement will be both fair and harsh. The so-called leaders know what is expected from them and their responsibilities are very clear. It seems as though the mistreatment of others is happening all too frequently. We see a wider gap occurring between the wealthy and the middle and lower incomes. Workload is increased without the

recognition or job protection. Is there a fear of losing one's job if they speak up? Is their work ethic so strong that they'll gladly accept more responsibilities at the sacrifice of their own health? The people didn't listen to Isaiah or other prophets before or after him. Did they listen to John the Baptist and his message of repentance? Did they listen to Jesus as He spoke these words to them? What about now, in 2020? It's sad and frustrating that each generation appears full of greed, jealous, anger leading to oppression. Our Lord tells us that the Father will send new tenants to care for His land and His people. Their cries have been heard. Who are these "new tenants" and when will they arrive?

We are the new tenants, the new servants ready to do the will of the Father. How do we do this? Where do we find the strength or the courage to speak out? Most of us know family, friends, or neighbours that are continuing on the wrong road. They're not paying attention to the warning signs and are oblivious that their road on earth will come to an end. Our hearts and ears are open to the Word of God. Sacred Scripture is alive, vibrant, and brings meaning to our lives. We can share the Good News in our words and more importantly in our actions.



A little kindness, acknowledging the hurt and worry in others can go a long way and can help them on their way to feeling better about themselves and turn their lives around. We prepare ourselves to receive the Body of Christ. When we receive Communion, we are strengthened and united with Jesus. With love from God in our hearts, we are ready and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us to serve Him and His people. There will be obstacles, hesitancy, and trepidation. Thankfully, we can gather as a

family, a community, and can share our joys, laughter, and concerns. It's not easy but it is easier knowing that we're loved and that we're not alone.

St. Paul encourages us to pray and share with God all that we are feeling. God's love is never-ending. We will receive as much as we can share with others. The Holy Spirit is always with us. We have been given a beautiful gift, the gift of life. Each day is ours to enjoy. Every day is a new day to be shared with others. God has created us to care for the earth and for God's people. We are the new tenants. We're not alone. Our brothers and sisters are worldwide, ready to do the will of the Father. While we are thinking of those that are turning from God, let's remember the words from our psalm and pray for them and maybe they'll pray these words. "Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved."

In October, **20 minutes prior** to the start of all weekend Masses, you are invited as follows to join the congregation in praying the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Batawa:	<b>4:40pm</b>	led by Mrs. Donna Maingot
Stirling:	<b>8:55am</b>	led by the St James Catholic Women's League
Frankford:	<b>10:40am</b>	led by Mrs. Shirley Balasubramaniam

I would suggest that you offer a rosary for your personal needs and intentions, and would ask that you considering also offering a rosary for any of the following Universal Needs & Intentions of the Church:

- For Church leaders, that the Holy Spirit might fortify them in their Gospel mission
- For our world, that the peace of Christ might touch the hearts of leaders and influencers
- For the sick, the lonely, and those who live on the margins in our communities, that neighbours might open their hearts to them
- For public authorities, that the love of Christ might penetrate their hearts
- For lawmakers, that God might guide them in living out their duty
- For victims of violence or racism that they might find healing
- For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith that they might find peace in God's presence
- For the world, that God might lead us in ways to protect and serve one another
- For all those who feel alone or abandoned, that God might strengthen and comfort them
- For those in oppressed regions of the world, that God might guide them to places of freedom and peace
- For those who are held captive by their addictions, that God might lead them to find recovery and healing
- For victims of oppression and racism that God might soften the hard hearts of their persecutors
- For those who are ill with the Coronavirus, that God, the Divine Physician, might offer them hope and provide healing
- For all who feel despair, that God might lift their cloud of darkness and fill them with hope
- For those who are in danger of premature death by natural or unnatural causes that God might stay the hand of nature and man
- For. . .

<b>Where can you go this weekend to Mass? Here are the attendance numbers from last weekend Check it out!</b>			
	SHJ – 5pm Saturday	SJM - 9:15am Sunday	SFA – 11am Sunday
	26 September	27September	27 September
<b>Placements Available in Church Each Weekend</b>	16	47	16
<b>Parishioners Who Attended Last Weekend</b>	28	60	26
<b>Placements Still Open Last Weekend</b>	0	14	0



Face coverings are now mandatory.

**\*Weekdays\***

- If you are unable to make it to Mass on Saturday or Sunday, don't forget that we also have a weekday Mass at 9 a.m. in St Francis, Frankford every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Before setting out, however, be sure to check the Weekly Parish Bulletin, which is sent with this newsletter, because weekday Mass schedules can sometimes change!

**Weekends**

- The doors of the church open 30 minutes before the start of Mass.
- Seating is on the basis of first-come-first-seated.
- Upon arriving at the church, please let the usher know how many people are in your group.

## **Parish Financial Support**



Thank you for continuing to help our Parish through these difficult times with both your prayers and generous donations. Your contribution will help to ensure that the Parish can cover its present financial obligations until we are able to reopen our doors.

Here are now 6 ways to donate:

1. Set up an automatic deposit to the Parish bank account – this can be done by calling the Parish at 613-398-6745.
2. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the Office at 288 Riverside Parkway, Frankford, and leave it in the small black mailbox to the right of the door.
3. Bring your weekly donation envelope (cheque only!) to the St James Church at 236 Edward Street, Stirling, and leave it in the black mailbox to the left of the main door.
4. Send an e-transfer from your account to St Francis of Assisi Parish at email [assisifrankford@gmail.com](mailto:assisifrankford@gmail.com). Then email us at [assisi@sympatico.ca](mailto:assisi@sympatico.ca) to let us know (a) the password which you have chosen for us to access the donation, (b) your first and family names, address, telephone number, and the number on your regular Sunday donation envelope (if you do not have one, let us know that, too).
5. Mail your donation to St Francis of Assisi Parish, PO Box 339, Frankford, ON K0K 2C0
6. At Mass in the Collection Box

