

Scripture Reflection

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us about two sons. One says "no" to his father but later changes his mind and goes to work. The other says all the right things—"Yes, sir"—but never actually goes. Jesus' point is uncomfortable: God is interested not simply in what we say, but in what we ultimately choose to do.

That same message runs through Ezekiel. A person who has wandered far from God is not condemned to remain there. If he turns away from sin and begins doing what is right, "he shall surely live." Conversely, yesterday's faithfulness cannot become an excuse for today's refusal of God.

The Church calls this conversion: a genuine turning of the heart toward God that produces a change in our lives. The Catechism reminds us that Christ's call to conversion continues throughout the Christian life. It means turning away from evil with a real "desire and resolution to change one's life," trusting in God's mercy and grace.

This is tremendously hopeful. Perhaps we have spent years saying "no" to God in some part of our lives. Perhaps we have made choices we deeply regret. Our past does not have to determine our future.

The question Jesus places before us is not merely, "What have you said to God?" but "What will you do now?"

There is still time to turn around. There is still time to go into the vineyard. There is still time to say "yes" with our lives.

Rev. Michael Thomas



Epiphany of Our Lord & St. John's invites you to

PRAYER PRAISE and ADORATION

the next two Friday's at 6:30 PM

October 16, Epiphany of Our Lord

October 30, St. John the Baptist

Come to both or just one. All are welcome!

Bring a friend!

These events will be directed by the Holy Spirit!

Come Holy Spirit!



PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Heavenly Father, during the month of September, we come before you with faith and confidence, placing all our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters into your loving hands. Your Word assures us, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

Lord, remember all who are sick and suffering. We pray especially for those battling cancer, diabetes, heart problems and other serious or long-term illnesses. As your Word says, "Heal me, Lord, and I shall be healed" (Jeremiah 17:14). Strengthen them in moments of weakness, comfort them in their pain, bless their treatments and guide the doctors, nurses and families who care for them.

We pray also for all who are looking for employment. Open doors of opportunity for them, especially those who have experienced repeated disappointment. Provide for families struggling financially and bless the work of their hands, for "my God will fulfil all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

May September bring healing to the sick, employment to jobseekers, hope to the discouraged, peace to troubled hearts and abundant blessings upon our families. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Anthony, Pastor