



SACRED HEART CHURCH

Church Location: 515 Main St., Red Bluff, California 96080

Office Location: 2355 Monroe Ave., Red Bluff, California

96080 www.SacredHeartRedBluff.org

Rev. **Chuck Kelly, Pastor**

Ignacio Montes, Deacon

SACRED HEART SCHOOL: 527-6727

PARISH OFFICE: 527-1351

PARISH FAX: 529-2586

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil: 5:15 PM in English; 7:15 PM in Spanish

Sunday: 8:00 and 10:00 AM in English and 12:00 noon in Spanish

Daily: Mon.-Thurs. 7:00 AM

Wednesday: School Mass at Parish Hall 8:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturdays: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

BAPTISMS: By appointment only. Please call the Office.

CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE: Please contact the Rectory at least 6 months advance.

C.F.F. (Grades 1-8) Wednesday at 6:45 PM during the school year.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Anytime upon request to the elderly, serious accident or illness.

October 4, 2020

Once again,
O Lord of hosts,
 look down from heaven, and see;
 take care of this vine,
 and protect what your
 right hand has planted.

Psalm 80:15-16

Twenty-Seventh
SUNDAY
 in Ordinary Time

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The Church presents today's Old Testament and Gospel readings together, as a pair. We delight in the symmetry between the two passages. Jesus, who is the Word of God, knows the Hebrew scriptures by heart and intends for his parable to echo Isaiah. As Jesus begins speaking, he summons the words of Isaiah, knowing his learned audience of chief priests and elders will feel comfortable with a familiar scripture passage. These scholars recognize immediately that Jesus is referring to a prophetic passage about sin, about the chosen people's tendency to turn away from God and grow "wild."

AMAZED BY INNOVATION

What Jesus does next surprises his audience. He adds a new twist to Isaiah's well-known words, adding a new character, the landowner's very own son. Adding this innovation shows that Jesus confirms the prophet's warning—that God longs for "his cherished plant" to grow according to the divine plan. The narrative twist also allows Jesus to reveal the fullness of God's plan in a way

his audience can understand. Like a master teacher, Jesus respects the knowledge and faithfulness of the chief priests and elders, and then builds on what they know. By adding the landowner's son to the parable of the vineyard, Jesus gently expresses his own mission as the Son of God. Matthew's Gospel often depicts the chief priests and elders as oppositional; they worry that Jesus will abolish the law and foment rebellion. As the Lord said earlier in Matthew's Gospel, however, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). Jesus' audience is skeptical about him, horrified at the thought of a mere human being claiming that he is the Son of God. Jesus' masterful approach provides an opportunity for his audience to give him the benefit of the doubt. In this way, Jesus proposes—not imposes—his kingship, inviting us all to follow him.

Today's Readings: Is 5:1-7; Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20; Phil 4:6-9; Mt 21:33-43

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