



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 4, 2021



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**RESTORED SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE
BEGINS MONDAY, JUNE 21ST****WEEKEND MASSES:****SATURDAYS AT 5PM SUNDAYS AT 8AM & 10:30AM****DAILY MASSES:****MON, TUES, WED, * , FRI & SAT AT 8AM*****COMMUNION SERVICE: THUR AT 8AM****RECONCILIATION:****SATURDAY 3:30PM - 4:30PM OR BY APPOINTMENT****HOLY HOUR: WEDNESDAYS 6PM - 7PM****CONNECT:****PHONE: (847) 433-0130****ONLINE:****www.icparish.org****OFFICE HOURS:****Mon-Thu: 9:00AM-3:00PM***The office will be closed each day from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm.***Fri: 9:00AM - 12:00PM****Sat-Sun: Closed**

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 3

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Gaspare DeLuca
Mary Anne Harrison
Bernice Witten

Thursday, July 8

8:00am: Walter Radke

Friday, July 9

8:00am: Jerome Stachniw

Saturday, July 10

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish
5:00pm: Ray Geraci
Gaspare DeLuca
Donna Leonardi

Sunday, July 11

8:00am: Margaret Vena
10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate Conception Parish

**Monday, July 5**

8:00am: Illa Dachs

Tuesday, July 6

8:00am: Pedro Garcia

Wednesday, July 7

8:00am: Peter Diambri



Judith Ann Cullen

February 14, 1947 - June 26, 2021

Inge Helen Sidari

September 5, 1936 - June 18, 2021

May the faithful departed rest in peace.



Please note that the parish offices will be closed on Monday, July 5 in observance of the holiday. Mass will still be held at our normal time, 8AM.

Father Mike's Homiletter – July 4, 2021 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Ezekiel 2:2-5; Psalm 123:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6

As we celebrate the independence of our nation this weekend, it is important to think about what we are celebrating. Independence does not mean freedom from any obligation or interference. It means a system which takes each person into account, and tries to give the maximum amount of freedom to each one, so long as it does not infringe on the freedom of another. There has been a lot of publicity and negativity in the last year about how our country operates and the nature of our society. No one I know would certify the United States as perfect – there is always room for improvement in our country and in each of us. However, we are a nation whose founding documents acknowledge the dignity of the individual, and express the desire to become a nation which respects each person and gives him or her the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life in whatever way the individual may choose. While we have not achieved the ideal, identifying what we are striving to achieve is a crucial step on a continuing journey. And the ideals we try to achieve can, and should, grow with our expanding understanding of life as God intends us to live it. We have made much progress over the 245 years of our existence, but let us not be satisfied with where we are, nor become so negative that we see no possibility of making further progress. I wish you all a happy – and hopeful - Independence Day.

One of the things which can slow the progress along any path is ego, and our readings this week seem to be warning us about letting it get the better of us. Ezekiel is being sent as a prophet to the Israelites, but God is warning him not to assume he will be successful. God tells Ezekiel the Israelites are difficult people, so don't expect them to change their ways instantly, but they will know they have encountered a prophet. A better attitude is described in our Psalm – the psalmist is focusing on the Lord, knowing He is the source of all good, despite the fact that the psalmist has felt mostly scorn from others. Even St. Paul reports that God has allowed him to suffer from a "thorn in the flesh" to make sure he didn't get too full of himself. And when he asked God to take it away, God told him that His grace would be enough to get Paul through the difficulty. Paul recognizes that the "thorn" is a reminder of his dependence on God, and thus, his weakness is actually a strength – it keeps things in perspective. In the Gospel, Jesus gets a taste of ego deflation - His hometown of Nazareth is not impressed with either His teaching or His miracles. Familiarity made them unwilling to acknowledge His power – He was too ordinary for them. And their lack of faith meant He could not perform many miracles in Nazareth. They couldn't see beyond the townsman they knew and find the God who had come to them.

Yet last week's Gospel gave us two examples of great faith which produced great miracles – Jesus' cure of Jairus' daughter and the hemorrhaging woman. I noted that both Jairus and the woman looked beyond convention and sought to understand God's purposes and then asked for help. As a synagogue official, Jairus could have looked at an itinerant preacher as "competition", and the woman would have known that the "rules" said she should stay away from crowds. But both saw the goodness in respectfully, but determinedly, going beyond the expected – and they got the unexpected. In this week's Gospel, Jesus got the unexpected. He held out His hand in love to his hometown, and it was brushed aside. The egos of Nazareth got in the way of seeing who He truly was. Yet, He did not force the issue. God gives us freedom – and we choose what to do with it. This week, let's give some thought to making sure that our egos don't make us more like the residents of Nazareth than like Jairus and the hemorrhaging woman. Let's use our freedom to curb our egos, and focus on others.

Peace! Father Mike

P.S. Speaking of the unexpected, some very thoughtful elves arranged a little birthday celebration last Saturday after the 5 pm Mass. It was a wonderful surprise and delightful to be able to gather again – worth being another year older! Many thanks to all who participated in the fun.

Food for Thought...

God saves in history.
Each person's life, each one's history,
is the meeting place God comes to....
God is in your own heart.

-St. Oscar Romero, *The Violence of Love*



thank you

We rely on the generosity of our parish community to help us cover expenses related to ministry, maintenance, staffing and other pressing needs.

Our collections are still down from our average Sunday budget.

Please consider using this link to set up an online donation for
Immaculate Conception Parish

<https://www.givecentral.org/location/109/event/1292>

GiveCentral is a secure online donation platform. Donations can be made as you wish.
A one time donation, monthly or even weekly if you choose.

Donations are also welcome by mailing your donation to the parish
or dropping them in our mail slot at the Parish Center.

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Thank you!!!

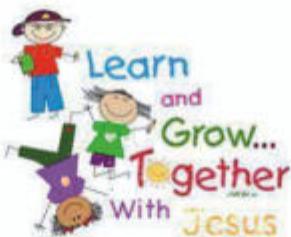
*We want to express our sincere thanks to those who continue their Sunday offering
to support IC Parish.*

Never doubt
the power of
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PRAYER SHAWLS

A Prayer Shawl is a shawl that has been crocheted or knitted in different patterns. It is around 24" by 62" with some being narrower or longer. They can be requested for, or by, anyone experiencing a medical or physical need. They can be blessed and come with a prayer to help comfort and ease any suffering. There is no cost, however, donations can be made to purchase more yarn to continue this ministry.

If you would like a Prayer Shawl, arrangements can be made for delivery or pickup. Please contact Mary Roberts at 847-445-7483.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

PREP

REGISTRATION IS OPEN !

2021-2022 classes begin for students in Grades K-8 on 9/19/21 at 9 a.m. Please use the link below to register and view the class calendar.

<https://www.icparish.org/Prep-Registration>

Any questions, please contact Barb via email PREPOffice@icparish.org

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Immaculate Conception, Highland Park, IL

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YOU ARE INVITED TO A

Concert in the Meditation Garden

with Linda Iovino - Accordionist

Immaculate Conception Parish
Green Bay Rd. - Adjacent to the Rectory
July 11th, 2021 @ 1:30pm

RSVP by Thursday, July 8, 2021
ineil39@sbcglobal.net
847-432-4442

Thank you for all your thoughts & prayers!
Refreshments and snacks will be provided
Please bring your own chair.

Rain Date: Sunday, July 25, 2021

