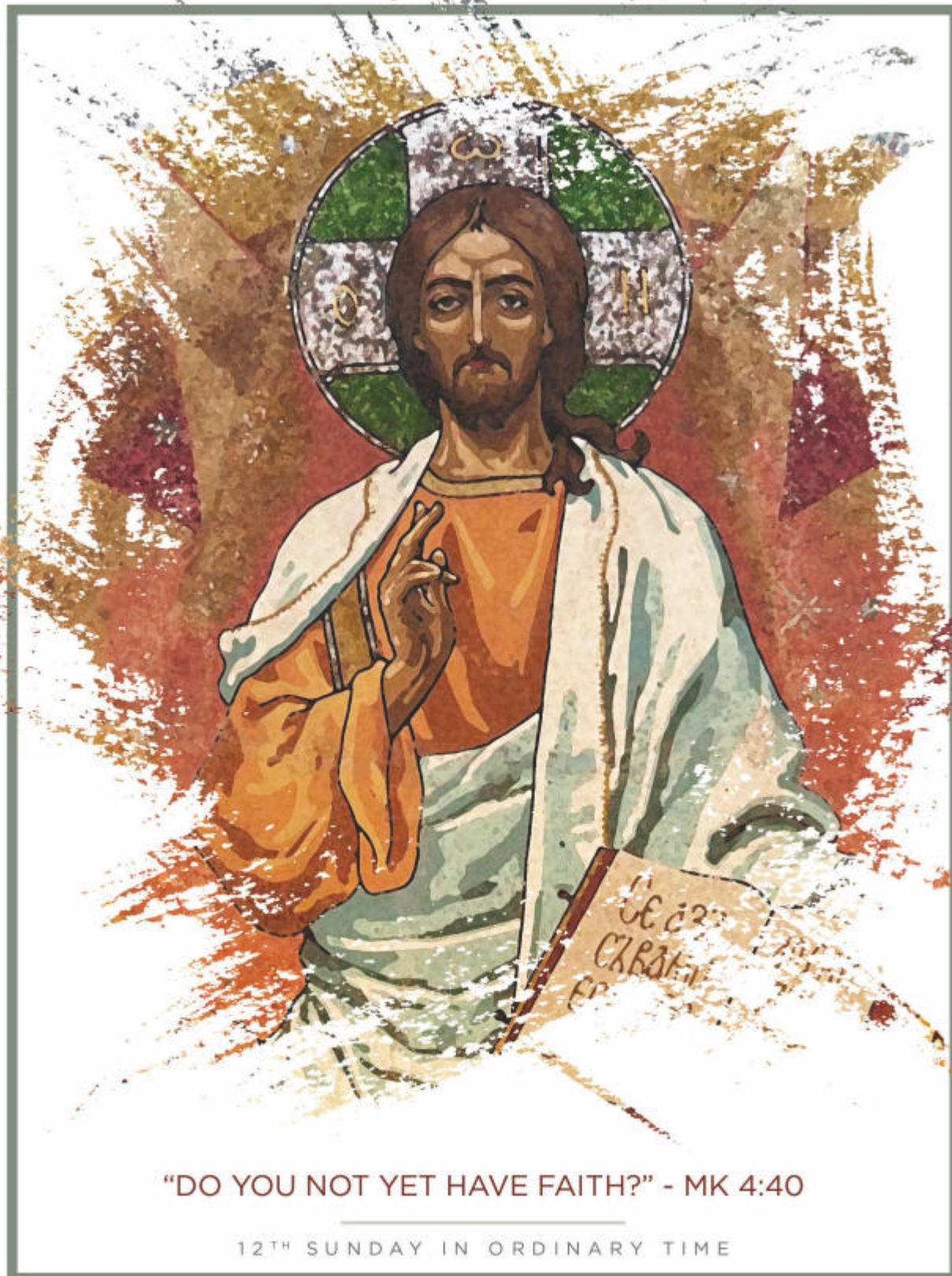


St. James the Greater
Where All are Welcome
Twelfth Sunday of Ordinary Time ✚ June 20, 2021



Message from Fr. Tom

This is certainly a **glorious time of year**, with the late sunsets giving us extra time to enjoy a walk, a bike ride, or just sit on the porch sipping a tasty beverage like lemonade. Can you imagine what life would be like if we never had summer? Food would be scarce, for sure, but also neighbors would hardly ever see each other and it would be a challenge to limit our consumption of simple carbohydrates. I'm planning a two-night getaway this week that will maximize my daylight experience—going up to the North Shore of Lake Superior for some **hiking** along the Superior Hiking Trail, and some **donuts** at the World's Best Donut Shop in Grand Marais. Fortunately for my waistline, the donut shop is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays, so I will just have one opportunity to visit there on my way home. Sometimes I fantasize about what I would do for a job if I couldn't be a priest (not seriously or because of any unhappiness—just daydreaming), and the idea of being a donut fryer in Grand Marais enters my mind. Still, if I'm late for Saturday mass, you don't have to worry that I am there up to my elbows in peanut oil.

Speaking of priesthood, we can look forward to three new priests in our diocese who will be ordained on June 26. They are **Arturo Viguera**, **Timothy Reither**, and **Eric Mashak**. I know Arturo, who is from Mexico and will be serving as a priest in Arcadia, where there are lots of Spanish-speaking people. Arturo interned at St. Joseph's in Menomonie after I left there, but I met him several times and came to like him very much. He was popular with the staff and people there as well.

By now you should all have received a **letter from Bishop Callahan announcing the end to the dispensation from attending Sunday mass, starting June 26/27**. I'm not sure how much of a factor the dispensation was in helping people feel good about worshipping virtually from home, or how much of a factor reinstating the rule of obligation will be as people decide whether to return to in-person mass. Of course, you are still encouraged to NOT come to mass if you are ill, and you are not breaking the rule when hardship of circumstances makes you unable to come. Sometimes people come to me with guilty hearts because they missed mass. I ask them the circumstances, and often it's something like being in the hospital—not a sin, I tell them.

When I teach in RCIA or other settings about Sunday and Holy Day obligation, I like to point out that **there is a tendency in the Catholic tradition to legislate what is deemed beneficial for the good of people's souls**. Is it good for you and for the wider church community to have you come to church and share in Eucharist with us? I think it is! Our presence grounds our relationship with God, strengthens family relationships when we stand together under God, and it brings vitality to a parish to have a full church. And course, recognizing your need for God and allowing Jesus to feed you with his very self is no small thing. Likewise, the "Easter Duty" of making a confession is a rule based on the good that it does for you and the community. Is it a good thing to at least once a year take a look at your life, name your sins, resolve to do better with God's help, and hear from a priest that God gives you a new beginning and forgives you? I think it is! So, in the Catholic sensibility, another rule is born.

Did you notice **our lawn looks like a scene from Lawrence of Arabia**? Long story short, we had to turn off our sprinkling system due to a suspected leak after a visit from the city water department told us our usage had been sky high. Jim Forster gave a lot of his time and energy contacting the lawn service provider, who eventually pinpointed the problem: In April, the technician scheduled two times the water than what was right. But because we thought there could be a leak in the system, we had the water off for over a week—of course the hottest and driest days of summer. Too bad.

Our **finance council** met last week. Donations are down compared to last year, not sure why, but we still have a positive balance on the year because expenses have been down. If income stays the same as expenses rise to pre-Covid level next year, then we could be looking at a different scenario. Thanks to your ongoing offering and our recent drive—what four years ago now?—to raise money for future capital needs, we have enough in our capital fund to pay for our new heating and cooling control for school and parish offices, upcoming roof repair and possible church roof replacement (we're waiting on an inspection for that), and many new toilets, mostly in the school. In addition, the Knights of Columbus have joyfully offered to pay for an extension of our hearing loop system for those of you who have a T-coil in your hearing aids. So, that's all good. **The only not so great thing is that we are over \$16,000 short of our goal for this year's Diocesan Annual Appeal**. More parishioners pledged to this, but our target amount was raised, and so if we don't raise this shortfall the money will have to come out of our operating account. So, **if you're looking for a way to help the parish financially, donating to the Annual Appeal would serve an immediate need**—we would need it by the end of the month.

It's summer—we shouldn't have so much going on! Peace and Blessing to you all. I'll report on my walking pilgrimage next week!

13 June 2021

Fr. Tom's Homily

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 17:22-24; Mark 4:26-34

Jesus knows about the first reading when he preaches his parables today. The first reading from Ezekiel speaks of a mighty noble cedar tree—such a noble tree in that part of the world that even Lebanon to this day has an image of a cedar on its national flag—that will grow among the people and in whose branches birds of all kinds will dwell. And so it is with Jesus' parable plant that grows so that all sorts of birds will dwell in its shade. The difference is that, instead of choosing a noble and high tree, Jesus chooses a common shrub, the mustard plant, grown from the smallest of seeds. **This suggests to me that the Kingdom of God, the state of being where God is supreme in our lives, will come about in ordinary ways from very ordinary people.** It's an appropriate message as we begin the season of Ordinary Time.

I was talking to a letter carrier this week which made me remember that when I was in first or second grade that was my dream job. Part of this desire was what a good fellow **Mr. Koppa** was. He wasn't *our* mail carrier but he was the father of my sister's best friend, and I seemed to see him down the street every day when I walked home from school. I'd yell, "Hi, Mr. Koppa!" And he'd yell back, "Hi ya there, Tommy!" A small thing, a mustard seed, but his friendliness and good cheer and love left its mark in me. It made me feel important and known, and maybe that's why I try to be like for others.

You might ponder what mustard seeds have been planted in you. **Whose simple gestures of love and care or wisdom or courage have left their mark on your soul? I'll give you a few seconds to see if anything pops in your mind.** ... Did you recall anything? It's maybe hard to do on the spot like that, but I encourage you to give it some thought this week. You might even try remembering mustard seeds that you have planted in others. That's harder, because, I find anyway, because the fruit from our lives is felt in others' lives not our own, and often what we think are our most impactful actions are not, and things we do not remember even doing are what really affected people.

This is more the point of the first part of the parable, about the farmer who plants the seed then just goes about life without knowing how the seed grows, but it does! **Certainly one point of this parable for us is that it is God who brings about growth of the Kingdom, not us.** We are called, certainly, to do our part, but we don't control how our loving actions and good deeds are received and play out.

This could be frustrating to people who want more control and are anxious about results. There's a **story opposite of Jesus parable** where a man plants a seed and every afternoon removes the soil to take a peek and see if it's growing yet. He then replaces the soil, but the next afternoon he checks again and of course the seed never grows because it is disturbed so often.

This parable's message is consistent with the feeding of the multitudes when the little boy offers his few barley loaves and Jesus multiplies them to feed thousands, and with the parable of the sower when we see our role as to just sow the seed and not worry about where it lands or how it grows. These stories tell me that, even as the walk of following Jesus is an intense one, really a matter of life and death, **there is also supposed to be a lightness to the Christian.**

When I think of the lightness of being Christian, I think of **Pope John the 23rd**. When asked how many people worked at the Vatican, he said "About half." But more to the point, he was at the end of the day, after his formal prayers of having a lovely way of saying good night to God. It went something like this: "Lord, another day has come to an end. There are so many troubles in the world, in people's lives. Today I saw so many things wrong and I did my best to make things better, but it seems like they are just the same or maybe even worse. But, it's your Church and your world, not mine. So I give these problems all back to you. Good night!"

"It is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how."

Fierce Freedom Justice Run

Wednesday July 21, Carson Park or Virtual, 6 PM.
Run, Walk or volunteer to fight human trafficking
Join the fight against domestic human trafficking by being involved in the 14th annual fierce freedom justice run. This years event will have 2 options: in person run/walk at Carson park, or a virtual run/walk on your own.
Register at cvjusticerun.org by July 1 to get a t-shirt!

SCRIP sales after mass

We are selling SCRIP after mass once a month, on the third weekend of the month. Next sales , July 17/18, Aug. 21/22. You can otherwise buy SCRIP at the Regis office or at the Parish Office over the summer.

Next Dates for Mass on the Grass:

July 3 (Fourth of July), July 24 (eve of Feast of St. James), Aug. 14 (Summer Fest)

Underwear Drive!

It's not too late to donate to the underwear drive for homeless kids of the Eau Claire School District. The drive goes through June. Bins are at the entrances.

Boys: 2T-3T, 4T, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 (Boxer Briefs please), Girls: 8, 12, 14 (Briefs and Bikini), Mens: medium (boxers and boxer briefs)

Growing Through Grief Group ~

"All Are Welcome" as we create an environment of hope, support, respect, coping skills, care plans and mutual trust for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. This is a place to share positive discussions on a topic that is emotional, physical, sensitive and private. What is said in this group, stays in the group.

For more information or to join a group contact Pat Hanson at 715-835-9811, or St. James Parish office 715-835-5887. Our next group for Growing Through Grief starts on July 9 at 1:15 PM in the gathering space

**Parish Bike Rides:**

Fr. Tom leads these, and three rides already passed. It's been fun to have some new riders this year. These rides are about 7-10 miles long and include an ice cream stop. Hills are

kept to a minimum, but some are unavoidable. We leave at 12:00 from the 11th street parking lot and return by 2:00 or 2:30. Summer dates: **June 27; July 11, 25; Aug. 1, 22.**

Mass Intentions & Schedule

Weekday masses are at 9 :00 AM Tuesday-Friday.

Rosary and Adoration are available after the Tuesday Mass until 10:30 AM. Social distancing is still required.

Sat.	June 19	4:30 PM Devin Bien
Sun.	June 20	8:00 AM Theresa Maenner
		10:00 AM People of St. James
Tue.	June 22	Liturgy of the Word w/Communion
Wed.	June 23	Liturgy of the Word w/Communion
Thu.	June 24	Liturgy of the Word w/Communion
Fri.	June 25	Liturgy of the Word w/Communion
Sat.	June 26	4:30 PM Pat Johnson
Sun.	June 27	8:00 AM Deceased members of
		Albert and Mary Bauer family
		10:00 AM People of St. James

Parish library

Did you know we have a parish library? In the small room next to the gathering space kitchen, there is a bookshelf with a variety of books to borrow. Help yourself!

Please check with Jacky or Christine before leaving any other books. Thanks much.

Social distancing in church

You may have noticed that we are gradually removing the ropes on every other pew. Unvaccinated people are still encouraged to keep social distance and to wear masks. We will leave the center back section with every other pew roped off for those who can't or won't be vaccinated and others who prefer to socially distance.

Sermon on the Amount

June 6, 2021

Sunday Adult Envelopes (144)	\$11,050.50
2020 same week (128)	\$17,025.50
Students	\$2.00
Plate	<u>\$101.00</u>
Total	\$11,153.50

Year to date Adult Env./CPL Income through May 31, 2021:

Actual (July 1-May 31)	\$607,947.64
Budgeted (July 1-May 31)	\$572,310.00

Long term maintenance & facilities improvement fund
and Past*Present*Future Campaign income for June 6 was
\$260.00 for a total since July 1, 2020 of \$63,452.20.

Parish Staff

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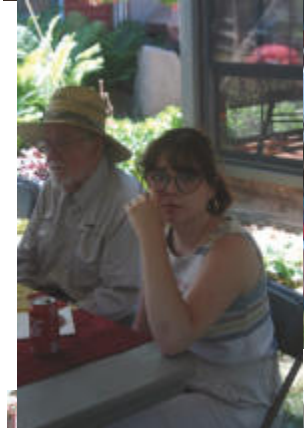
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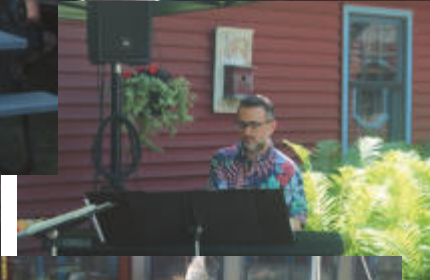
Bulletin deadlines: end of day Mondays.



Congratulations Adalynn Reyne and Awald Joseph Ulwelling on your baptism!



Photos from the parish music ministry party!



BLOOD DRIVE UPDATE

There were 36 presenting donors who gave a total of 36 units of blood. We reached our goal for this drive. The next drive at St. James is Aug. 9. Thank you much to those who participated!

ONGOING FOOD DRIVE

Did you know we run an ongoing drive for the St. Francis food pantry?

Bins are located at the entrances.

Food is picked up every week to be taken to the pantry.

KIDS FUN!! St. James the Greater will host our first Bible Buddies for preschool and elementary aged kids. Come to the Gathering Space Wednesdays around 9:45 for a fun time of VBS songs, Bible stories, snacks. Parents are welcome to stay but don't need to if your child feels comfortable. Toddlers are welcome to participate if a parent can stay with them. Pick up at 11:30 on the church playground. June 16, 23, 30 and July 7, 14 from 10-11:30 AM

Come once or all Wednesdays; whatever works for your schedule! We just ask that you sign up on the parish website so we know how many snacks to buy. Any questions contact Kelly Beaudrie at beaudrie.kelly@gmail.com or 715-828-8313



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