



11th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God? It is like mustard seed ... once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.” - Mk 4:30a, 31a, 32

Our Lady of Peace Church June 13, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



An invitation to place our trust in God

First, to situate us in the Liturgical Year, you may recall that we have seasons that surround the two major feasts of our Christian faith: Lent/Easter Season and Advent/Christmas Season. In both instances we have a time of preparation, when the liturgical color is purple; and the celebration of the feast and its accompanying season, when the color we wear is white or gold. Everything else throughout the year is known as “Ordinary Time”—in the sense that we are looking at our faith in general and not focusing on a particular event—and the way you can tell is that the liturgical color is green.

Although we have already been in Ordinary Time for three weeks (Easter Season concluded with the Solemnity of Pentecost), it may have been hard to tell because on the last two weekends we celebrated two major tenets of our faith, the Holy Trinity and the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) and the color was white. This weekend we celebrate the Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time and we finally get to see the telltale color, green.

Our first scripture reading is taken from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel 17:22-24 and, interestingly enough, the passage focuses on something green: trees. One of the most majestic trees in ancient times was the cedar, which was used in the construction of temples and palaces. The prophet, speaking in the name of God, begins: “I, too, will take the crest of the cedar, from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot, and plant it on a high mountain; on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it. It shall put forth branches and bear fruit, and become a majestic cedar.” The reference to a mountain height in Israel points to the city of Jerusalem to which pilgrims would “go up”.

The prophet next refers to the life-giving blessings associated with the tree: “Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it, every winged thing in the shade of its boughs.” And finally, we find that God will bring about a reversal of the normal way in which we human beings think. “And all the trees of the field shall know that I, the Lord, bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, and make the withered tree bloom. As I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do.” This is a theme we find regularly throughout the Bible, beginning with God’s choice of Israel, when the people were lowly slaves in Egypt, and were nonetheless chosen to become a great nation, special to the Lord.

Our Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 92, continues the imagery of the trees, applying it to the just and lowly. “The just one shall flourish like the palm tree, like a cedar of Lebanon shall he grow. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be, declaring how just is the Lord, my rock, in whom there is no wrong.”

In our gospel reading Jesus teaches by the use of a parable, describing the kingdom of God that he is inaugurating using the symbolism of agricultural growth. “This is how it is with the kingdom of God; 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. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.” A second parable presents another image of God’s kingdom. “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds of the earth. But once it is grown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.” We find here an obvious reference to the Ezekiel passage, with which Jesus’ hearers would, of course, be familiar.

The emphasis throughout these passages is on the action of God. Even with small beginnings, even when life seems desperate and there is no easy way forward, that is precisely when God can make the miracle of growth happen. What a timely message of hope for these difficult times! Even during a time of pandemic and of economic and social problems, God is with us—and especially with the poor and the lowly who cry out for justice. When times were the toughest for Israel and for the early Church, that is precisely when incredible flourishing took place. In the words of Psalm 92, “It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing to your name, Most High, to proclaim your kindness at dawn, and your faithfulness throughout the night.”



The latest diocesan guidelines allow us to bring Holy Communion to the homebound while adhering to appropriate precautions. We who visit are fully vaccinated and the homebound must also be vaccinated. To request a visit, please call Marguerite at 863.2585 ext. 103.



Saturday, June 12-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Stanley & Lorraine Wasileski*
by Mark & Liz Smith

Sunday, June 13

8:00A *Living & deceased members of the Ladies of Ste. Anne*

10:00A *M. Rita Lorange*
by Jim & Mary Gene Devlin

Saturday, June 19-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*
by Marcia Caloon

Sunday, June 20

8:00A *Don, Mary, Dick & Sheila Creek*
by the Creek family

10:00A *Harry & Mary Konvelski*
by their family

DAILY MASS

Monday, June 14

8:00A *Irene Caouette*
by the Petravage family

Tuesday, June 15

8:00A *Helen Gochinski*
by reunion committee of the Class of 1942

Wednesday, June 16

8:00A *Judith Cade*
by her family

Thursday, June 17

8:00A *Julianna "Babe" Sak*
by Gary

Friday, June 18

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

June 17 *Carolyn Prunier*
by Marie & Marcia

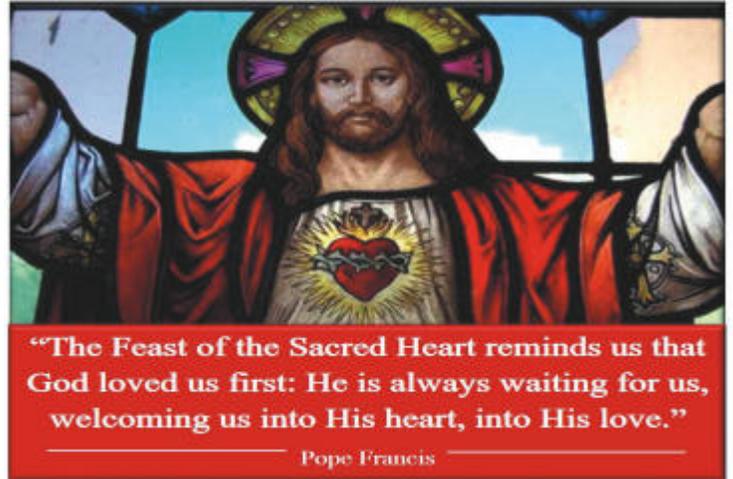
LUCKY NUMBER CLUB UPDATE Congratulations to the winners for February: Sylvia Pervere (1st), Barbara Bodenstein (2nd), Carolyn McDaniel (3rd); for March: Joanna Saunders (1st), Pat Haigis (2nd), Lawrence Graves (3rd); for April: Michelle Blanchard (1st), Ken & Kimberly Kuninski (2nd), Harold Lively (3rd); for May: Arthur & Jeanne Encarnacao (1st), Louis Socquet (2nd), Gladys Lapinski (3rd). Supporters help our parish Justice and Peace Commission to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable neighbors. For information call the rectory 413.863.2585.

PARISH COLLECTION

Weekend of June 5

Regular collection & mail \$3,818.00
On-line \$1,178.00

THANK YOU!



The Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus recalls Christ's love for us. Here are five facts that you may not know about this important feast of Our Lord.

- The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus took centuries to become a universal celebration**
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus goes back to the 11th century. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had multiple visions of the Sacred Heart between 1673 and 1675. However, it wasn't until 90 years later in 1765, that the feast was officially celebrated in France. In 1856, Pope Pius IX made the feast of the Sacred Heart into a universal celebration.

2. The first feast of the Sacred Heart was actually celebrated in 1670

Even before St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had her visions of the Sacred Heart there was a recorded celebration of this feast. St. Jean Eudes composed the first Office and Mass of the Sacred Heart. The first feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated on Aug. 31, 1670 in Rennes, France.

3. The feast takes place on the 19th day after Pentecost

The feast of the Sacred Heart is scheduled to be celebrated on the Friday after the octave (eighth day) of the feast of Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi is traditionally the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. However, in the United States, Corpus Christi is instead celebrated on the following Sunday. Despite this, the feast of the Sacred Heart still takes place 19 days after Pentecost.

4. Jesus made 12 promises to those who honor the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque.

5. Congregations, states, churches and groups are consecrated to the Sacred Heart

In 1873, President Gabriel Garcia Moreno issued a petition that led to Ecuador becoming the first country consecrated to the Sacred Heart.



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