



14th Sunday IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” - Mk 6:4

Our Lady of Peace Church

Sunday, July 4, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends.

It is in weakness that we are strong

Our readings for this Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time take an honest, realistic look at the human condition, which in the Bible includes a mighty struggle between what God wants people to do and what they choose to do instead. As a matter of fact, biblical scholars have identified a cycle that repeats itself over and over again. First, there is a time when conditions are good and people are reasonably well-off and happy. Inevitably, this leads them to forget about God and to become enamored with the values of the society around them. At some point a disaster of one sort or another then strikes, and the people are shaken to the core of their being. It is then that they begin to remember God, to pray for deliverance, and to promise that they will repent and change.

Our first reading is from the Old Testament prophet Ezekiel 2:2-5. The prophet is given his marching orders from a God who is very disappointed in the actions of the people. “As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking to me say: Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day. Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you. But you shall say to them: Thus says the Lord God! And whether they heed or resist—for they are a rebellious house—they shall know that a prophet has been among them.”

Our gospel passage, Mark 6:1-6, is an account of Jesus returning to his “native place”, and the reception he gets is not very positive. “When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offense at him.” Jesus, standing in the long line of Jewish prophets who were rejected by their people, responds, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” Mark concludes, “So he was not able to perform any mighty deeds there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.”

Our middle reading, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, gives us some intriguing personal insights into the great missionary and preacher, Paul. The Apostle refers to a particular cross he has been forced to carry, though he does not specify what it is. Rather, he understands his suffering as an invitation to humility. And unlike so many others, rather than rebelling against God and God’s prophets, Paul chooses to obey and remain faithful. His logic is interesting: “That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, an angel of Satan, a thorn in the flesh was given me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.’ I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

Paul has discovered what so many never seemed to learn. While we probably would not choose illness, suffering or setbacks, it is precisely then that we tend to remember most how much we need God, and that we are not in ultimate control. It is a hard lesson that many would prefer to avoid, but Paul’s words are worth considering: when I am weak, then I am strong. When I am weak, God gets through my defenses, my lack of attention, and my pride. I know then how much I need God, and our relationship grows.

Mission Cooperative Collection at Our Lady of Peace

Due to uncertainties created by **Covid-19**, the Diocese has given permission for us to take care of the **Annual Mission Cooperative Plan** ourselves. This year we have been assigned to the mission of the **Piarist Fathers in Central Africa**. Here’s some information about the Piarist Fathers mission. In the Central African region, the Piarist Fathers, following the example of their founder, are responding to severe human and social crisis at all levels. In the English speaking part of Cameroon in particular, a civil war has been going on for four years. About 32,500 lives have been lost, 550 villages burned down, 3,000 people imprisoned and the worst of it is that about 1 million children have not been to school for four long years. The negative consequences of this war are enormous: malnutrition and hunger, fear and trauma, violence begetting violence, separated and displaced families with many orphans and widows. The only thing that is keeping the people alive is their faith. Despite all odds, the Church remains the only institution that is present to give hope to the people. It is therefore for the humanitarian, pastoral and educational needs of these people that we are making this mission appeal.

To assist with this mission appeal, please place your contribution in an envelope with your name and parish envelope number on it, and place it in the collection basket, or mail it in, any time during the month of July. Thank you for your generous support! Please make all **checks payable to Our Lady of Peace**.



Saturday, July 3-Rosary at 3:15P
 4:00P *Lorraine Coyle*
 by Carol Gloski & friends

Sunday, July 4
 8:00A *Alice Riendeau*
 by her children
 10:00A *Henry & Phyllis Boucher*
 by their children

Saturday, July 10-Rosary at 3:15P
 4:00P *Ken Stratton*
 by Sue

Sunday, July 11
 8:00A *Jimmy Brodie* 1st anniversary
 by Sandy
 10:00A *Fran & Betty Rosewarne*
 by Louise Boucher Croll

DAILY MASS

Monday, July 5
 8:00A *Blessings for our Community Meals'*
guests who are so grateful

Tuesday, July 6
 8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*
 by Paul

Wednesday, July 7
 8:00A *Dennis Choleva* 5th anniversary
 by Charlotte & family

Thursday, July 8
 8:00A *Jim Gaffney*
 by the Routhier family

Friday, July 9
 8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



KIDS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL FOR THE SUMMER
 Many of those who attend the Monday Community Meals come on foot so things that are small and easily carried are helpful. We can use **fruit bars, granola bars, fruit roll ups, boxes of raisins, juice boxes, boxes of gold fish crackers, pretzels, animal crackers and single-serving potato chips, peanut butter and crackers and cheese in small packages, peanuts in small bags, Rice-a-Roni & Knorr noodles, canned meals like Dinty Moore beef stew & Campbell's chunky soups, applesauce, and fresh fruit like bags of apples or oranges.** All easy to carry and healthy, too!



LUCKY NUMBER CLUB
 Supporters help our parish Justice and Peace Commission to meet the needs of poor and vulnerable neighbors. Membership is \$60.00 a year or \$5.00 a month. For information call the rectory 413.863.2585.

Our Lady's Window

July 9 *Dennis Choleva* 5th anniversary
 by Charlotte & family
July 10 *Edward Demers*
 by Nancy & Tami



Please remember in your prayers all who have died recently
 +Elaine Deslauriers +Mary Conway
 +Bryan Malloy +Sandy Weller

WOMEN'S GROUP will meet on Tuesday, **July 13** at 6:00P. We are looking for Christmas Bazaar craft ideas and/or someone who could lead a group craft project.

PARISH COLLECTIONS
 Weekend & through the mail

Regular	6/20	\$3,335.00	On-line	6/27	\$919.00
Regular	6/27	\$2,134.00	On-line	6/27	\$504.00

Thank you for your generous support of our parish!



RECTORY WILL BE CLOSED on Monday, **July 5**. We wish everyone a safe holiday!



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