



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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!" - Mk 6:2

WEEKEND OF: July 3-4, 2021

Parish Mission Statement:

**“St. Mark’s Roman Catholic
Church . . .
Called by God’s love to live the
life of Jesus in our world.”**

MASS TIMES

Monday Through Friday: Daily Mass at 8:00 am

Weekend Masses:

Saturday at 5:00 pm

Sunday at 8:30 am & 11:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:30 pm till 4:30 pm

CHURCH ADDRESS

St. Mark’s Church

54 Kuhn Road, Rochester, New York 14612

CONTACT INFO

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Website: www.stmarksgreece.com

Parish Email: rstmarkc@dor.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Denise O’Toole, Financial Director, ext. 202

Pregnancy Support

Pregnant and in need of support? We’re here for you!: optionline.org, Call 1-800-712-4357, Text: “HELPLINE” to 313131

Experiencing a prenatal diagnosis? You are not alone:

Be Not Afraid: www.benotafraid.net

Looking for hope and healing after abortion? Reach out today:

supportafterabortion.com, call or text: 941-202-4030, email: help@supportafterabortion.com

Stewardship Corner

PLEASE continue to support our parish during this time as best as you are able, so we can continue to be able to pay our monthly bills.

An easy way is through Online Giving (though you can still mail in your checks). Please see below to register! God bless you and keep you safe!

Secure Online Giving at:

<https://stmarksgreece.weshareonline.org>



The Prophecy of You and Me

Prophet. There’s a heaviness to this word. It’s weighted down with meaning. We think of prophets and we think of Charlton Heston with wild hair and a booming voice, reaching out his hand to work wonders of nature by the grace of God. We think of prophets and we think of ancient Biblical history — someone far away, someone so removed from our everyday life. A prophet is someone who knows something we don’t.

When I let you in on this secret, it might scare you at first: in a way, God is calling you to be a prophet. He is calling me. He is calling anyone who hears the truth of the Gospel. However, there is no need for the megaphone and the wild locusts. This prophet gig might not be what you’re thinking.

What does a prophet do? He hears and testifies to the truth, even when it’s uncomfortable, even when it’s unpopular, even when it results in, as Paul says, “weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints.” A prophet doesn’t have to be smart or rich or ordained; heck, he doesn’t even have to be particularly willing.

All a prophet has to do is listen to the truth. The truth we receive from Christ, through the Gospel and the sacraments, is a mighty gift. But it is a gift that we are not meant to simply keep for ourselves. In possessing it, we are compelled to also pass it on, to share it, to let the Spirit set us on our feet.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WEEKLY CONTENT GUIDE

July 4, 2021 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

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. (Ez 2:4-5)

Psalm:

Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy. (Ps 123)

Second Reading:

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me. (2 Cor 12:9)

Gospel:

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)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of July 4, 2021

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 [2cd]/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15 ab [cf. 2b]/Mt 9:18-26

Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, 8b and 15 [15a]/Mt 9:32-38

Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-3, 10-11, 18-19 [22]/Mt 10:1-7

Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21 [5a]/Mt 10:7-15

Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40 [39a]/Mt 10:16-23

Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7 [cf. Ps 69:33]/Mt 10:24-33

Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13

Observances for the week of July 4, 2021

Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Independence Day

Monday: St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal

Tuesday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Saturday: BVM

Next Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 3

5:00 pm *William & Martha Kesselring*
By James & Joyce Kesselring

Sunday, July 4 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am *Matthew Trabold by the Cooksin Family*
11:00 am *Marilyn Timmons by Ron Timmons & family*

Monday, July 5 - NOTE TIME CHANGE

9:00 am *Natalina Racalto by Paul & MaryAnn Firlit*

Tuesday, July 6

8:00 am *Special Intention by Jim & Bev Gelormini*

Wednesday July 7

8:00 am *Special Intention*

Thursday, July 8

8:00 am *In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*
By Michele De Ninnis-Smith

Friday, July 9

8:00 am *Lucas Marrone by Jim & Bev Gelormini*

Saturday, July 10

5:00 pm *Anthony Infantino & Atansio Aguglia*
By John Infantino

Sunday, July 11 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 am *Patricia Savino by Carol & Mike Lamendola*
11:00 am *Stephen Bligh by Mary Lou, Di June and Henry Stewart*

REMINDER: *There are many open Masses and weeks available to light the Sanctuary Lamp for 2021*

This Week

Sanctuary Lamp:

In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
By Michele De Ninnis-Smith



Prayer Requests

The following members and extended members of our Parish Family have had prayer requests made for them:

*Donna Sindon, Marie Pettrone,
Sister Jody Kearney, Jane Gunzelmann,
Jeff Biss, Ann DiStefano
Amy Brewer, Jane Camiolo,
Ken & Nathan Schultz, Steve Clar
Dawn Lamendola, Timothy Glasow,
Evelyn Tisa, Skyley, Lynne Mikel, Mya Colon,
Emma Webster, Ann Gifford, Cara Mack*

Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be.

St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.



SPECIAL COLLECTION

The Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that still struggle to recover from former communist rule. Funds from this collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. Your support restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. More information can be found at www.usccv.org/ccee.



Names will remain on the prayer list for a period of three months. Please resubmit your prayer request if you would like your loved one added to the list.



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"Finding God in Life's Transitions"

Notre Dame Retreat House
Canandaigua NY

*Fall Retreat Weekends
for Men, Women and Couples*

Come and explore how to find God in the midst of life's graces and challenges. We all experience transitions throughout our lives. Especially within this past year and a half. How we cope with the unexpected; how we discern 'what next' and how we draw strength and wisdom from others will be the focus of the talks and prayer experiences throughout the retreat weekend. Give yourself the gift of retreat this year. To learn more, visit our website at www.notredameretreat.org or call us at 585-394-5700.



The papacy of St. John Paul II left an indelible mark on our homeland. Driven by a conviction to unite the Americas under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he traveled from Argentina all the way to Alaska, shaping a generation and changing history along the way. In celebration of our country this week, enjoy this film documenting the journeys of John Paul II, the "Pilgrim Pope."

HELP WANTED

Part-time Secretary Opening

If you are interested in a part-time secretarial position working in the office at St. Mark's, please email Deacon Frank at:

frank.pettrone@dor.org for further information.



GOSPEL MEDITATION - July 4, 2021 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's all so ordinary that we can easily miss it. The seagulls hunting and diving for mollusks at the beach offer a display of determination and precision as they gather their food for the day. It's simply what these creatures do. Yet, there's a magical artfulness and skill to their work that speaks volumes about the One who breathed life into their being. This is pretty much the way it is with God's presence. God comes in common ways through common things and ordinary people. Sadly, we are so engulfed in our little worlds of order and ideas to notice the beauty and wonder of it all. Many have numbed themselves to the Divine spark at the essence of all life because that's just the way it is. What's so special about it? A sunset is a sunset and a seagull is a seagull. That's precisely what they thought about Jesus too. After all, isn't he just the carpenter's son? What merit can his words possibly have?

If we're looking for God to come in an event that is so dramatic and intense that it knocks our socks off, then think again. When pondering God's relationship with His people and God's action in our lives, we have to go back to the stable and the recurring, creative, unending power of God's presence. It was a quiet, run of the mill kind of night. There was nothing spectacular or extraordinary. To the naked eye, a woman gave birth to a child and there wasn't anything extraordinary to see. We have a hard time understanding God's ordinary-ness. Jesus grew up in an ordinary town, had neighbors and did normal human things. Perhaps that's why we don't always like the Gospel. It doesn't dazzle us with extraordinary things but simply challenges us to take a different look at our ordinary stuff. That makes us uncomfortable. We prefer things as they are. Our lack of faith can even cause us to take offense at what Jesus says and does, dismissing it as folly.

God's life-giving presence continues to sustain that seagull in flight and keep all things in being regardless of whether we have the faith to see and understand this. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be hardened and blinded to what God is doing or desiring to do. While God continues to do what he has done for all eternity, faith is needed for God's presence to bear fruit. The blinders we wear and the expectations we bring to life can often prevent us from seeing graced moments that radiate with God's graceful presence. They also prevent God's transforming, healing, and hope filled vision for our world from being realized. Without faith, God won't be able to do much for us either.

LIVE THE LITURGY

God never ceases to proclaim His Word. His life-giving presence continues to sustain all things and keep them in being regardless of whether there is the faith to receive or perceive Him. Our personal agendas, preconceived ideas, misconceptions, and expectations can often cause us to be so hard of heart and obstinate that we fail to see what God is trying to do. While God remains ever present, faith is necessary for God's power to bear fruit. As we celebrate our country's independence, let us not forget the difference between liberties and freedom. While the liberties we have are most welcome treasures, only freedom from what blinds, deceives, and weighs us down can bring happiness. God is all about healing, transformation, and hope. In order for God to do what God does best, we have to invite Him in and see Him for who he is. Otherwise, God's will for humanity will be something at which we simply take offense, a common reaction when something challenges or unsettles us.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading:

Today's reading is an excerpt from the prophetic call Ezekiel received while in exile in Babylon (Ez 1:1-3:27). The Lord commissioned Ezekiel to go and confront the "rebellious house" of Israel. How do you imagine the Israelites received Ezekiel's message?

Second Reading:

Paul learned that the "thorn in his flesh" taught him to be humble and dependent upon God's grace alone. Where do you see God's grace most present in your life?

Gospel:

Jesus was "amazed" at the lack of faith his fellow Nazareans had in him, suggesting Jesus expected a different response. Why do you think the villagers of Nazareth "took offense" at Jesus?

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