

saint John fisher chapel

UNIVERSITY PARISH

July 11, 2021 ● *The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

A Kean Perspective: "God's Plans and Adaptations"

I love our first reading this weekend with the prophet Amos. He is a simple farmer who challenges the forces of his day. He represents an element of the History of Salvation which is a lesson for all ages: the way of the Lord and His plans are beyond the fixed things of this world. What do I mean by that? Amos is chastised by the chief priest who represents all the priests in the temple of the town of Bethel. They trust in the security of their structure while Amos trusts in the security of his faith in God.



Though it may be hard for us to imagine today, Bethel, which is about 20 miles north of Jerusalem, was once the main town for the Jewish people – it had a continuous history and importance going back to the time of Jacob.

Jerusalem rose in importance because of King David many centuries later. Of course, both cities were important but with a quick study of history, it becomes clear how Bethel easily held a stance of superiority over Jerusalem. You can hear that tone in Amaziah's chastising of Amos. Amaziah grew proud over the beauty of Bethel's temple, the structures, the caste of priests, and the dominance of the northern Jewish lands over the southern parts – but their fervor of faith was waning. Amos called for faithfulness to their covenant with God and for Israel to be in right relationship with Him rather than boasting about their shrines.

This is a lesson for all generations: Jewish people and Christians alike. We build the Kingdom of God by being in right relationship with the Lord. Buildings and structures are nice, but they must be places which help us to grow evangelizing hearts. The gospel reinforces that point when it emphasizes the direction Jesus gave to His disciples in going out to proclaim the Good News of salvation.

Think of the incredible network of Catholic churches that our Archdiocese used to have in the City of Detroit and its suburbs. They are still beautiful, but now there are only a few. Our Archdiocese adapted its missionary charge in the early years of the 1700s to carve out of the woods and meadows places of worship for the French and native Americans, the first parishioners in southeast Michigan. During times of great immigration, the growing brick and mortar of the Church took shape with, I might add, a corresponding explosion of vocations to staff those churches. Today the Church in our area is undergoing a different kind of shift. However we adapt to our ever-changing Archdiocesan structure, we do so with hearts that remember Amos and the commission given to the first disciples. We maintain simple hearts of faith and a simple message of the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our future structure is called the "Family of Parishes." This is not just another program; this is our adaptation to the lack of priests. Like the clergy of the mid 1800's, priests will be connected to groups of parishes, ministering to them like a circuit rider or circuit judge. Some families will be large with up to 7 sites, some will be smaller like ours (which begins a year from now) with only three. As we get a taste of this with our responsibilities between St. Joseph Parish and St. John Fisher Parish, I hope to do so with the faithful heart of Amos.

—Fr. Jim Kean

ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL

UNIVERSITY PARISH

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MASS TIMES

Tuesday:

12:15pm Mass

Wednesday:

12:15pm Mass

Thursday:

7:15pm Mass

Friday:

12:15pm Mass

Saturday:

8:30am Mass

Sunday:

10:00am & 6:00pm Mass

CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday, 1:05-1:50pm (Drive-thru)

Thursday, 6:00pm in Church

Saturday, 9:00am in Church

PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration

1:00pm every Tuesday

6:00pm every Thursday

Parish Rosary

8:00am every Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Amos 7:12-15

Psalm: 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: Mark 6:7-13

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

7/11/21 at 10:00am - Fr. Andrew Mabee
at 6:00pm - Archbishop Vigneron 25th
Anniversary of his Episcopal Consecration

7/13/21 at 12:15pm - Hugh Macmillan

7/14/21 at 12:15pm - Repose of the soul of
Matiss Kivlenieks

7/15/21 at 7:15pm - Repose of the soul of
Officer Frank Nastasi

7/16/21 at 12:15pm - Charles Giroux

7/17/21 at 9:00am - Giovanna & Libeto Recchia,
Sam & Anna Leto

PARISH CONTACTS

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“A BIGGER BOAT”

Fr. John Carlin

Every once in a while, people will come to me for confession without having examined their conscience. Sometimes this is because they really didn't want to put the effort in to examining themselves or their sins, because it is hard work; it does take effort to examine our conscience and courage and humility too, to look honestly at ourselves, admit our faults, and decide to amend our lives. But sometimes I think it is because people have genuinely never been taught how to examine their conscience or it's been a long time and they are not sure what to look for. Don't let this keep you from going to confession! If you haven't examined your conscience in a while or don't remember the prayers — don't worry. The priest is there to help you. There are many times I have helped penitents to remember their prayers or identified their sins. Nevertheless, the sacrament of confession will be more fruitful/grace-filled for you if you can examine your own conscience — which is why we are doing this series.

The examination I use most often with people are the 10 Commandments. By walking through the 10 Commandments and asking myself if I've broken any of them, I start to identify my sins and know what to confess. The whole of Church moral law is contained within these 10 Commandments or “declogue” (“ten words”) revealed by God to His people. Obviously, there are more than just 10 possible sins we can commit, but the 10 Commandments show us the root of the sins so that we can see how even the smallest of sins, in some way, breaks one or more Commandments. This is why, you can sometimes find an examination of conscience that breaks open the Commandments in more detail so that we can remember to confess not only lying, but also cheating, gossip, or detraction; not only stealing, but also envy, selfishness, or doubt; not only murder, but also wrath, judgment, or unforgiveness: every sin is related somehow to these 10 Commandments.

Another tool that can be helpful in examining our conscience is 1 Cor 13, that beautiful passage in Scripture that describes what love is: “Love is patient, love is kind...”. This passage not only helps us to understand what love is (rather, *Who* Love is, because Love is a person), but can be used as an examination of conscience. All you have to do is take out the word “love” and put in your name, “Eusebius” for example

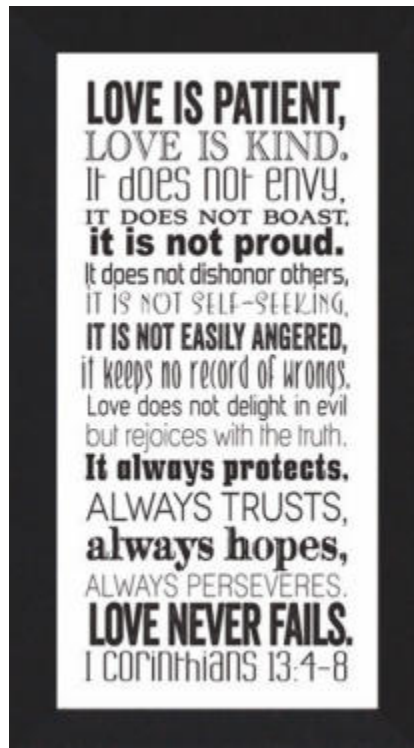
(I was gonna go with “Mahershala-hashbaz” to be more scriptural, but “Eusebius” seems more relatable!). ‘Eusebius is patient, Eusebius is kind. Eusebius is not jealous...’ — well, sometimes Eusebius doesn't live up to that. Doing this can help us to recognize the ways we are not being loving, to repent of them and to do better.

Another tool to help us examine our conscience is recognizing that there are two kinds of sins — sins of commission and sins of omission. Sins of commission mean that we did something wrong (lying, stealing, murder...) whereas sins of omission mean that I didn't do something good when I was given the opportunity. As we continue to grow in the

spiritual life, our sins of commission become less and less and it becomes harder to recognize my sins because I am not doing the ones that I used to confess. Then it becomes more helpful to reflect on my sins of omission, for, just as our sins of commission decrease as we grow in the spiritual life, conversely our sins of omission increase because we become more aware of all the little opportunities God gives to us each day to love Him and our neighbor.

I hope you find some of these tools to be helpful in examining your conscience so that you can grow in your relationship with God and live in the freedom of His love.

God love you!



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