



13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

June 28-----Hamburg, IA.

Each week we are welcomed by our fellow sojourners as we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. Today we hear of a woman and her husband who offer hospitality to the prophet Elisha whenever he comes to their city, going so far as furnishing him with a place to stay. Let us furnish a place in our hearts for our Lord to stay so that we may gain strength and nourishment on our journey to the kingdom.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:8-11,14-16; Psalm 89; Romans
6:3-4;8-11; Matthew 10:37-42

Theme: Divided Loyalties

Dave was working in the Gulf when he married Mary. They both loved each other very much. And like most young couples, they felt that they would now live happily ever after. Their wedding was really a wonderful day to remember. They went on their honeymoon and the days seemed to fly ever so quickly. Soon it was time for Dave to go back to the Gulf. Mary went to live with Dave's family. Everything went off well in the beginning. Dave would send romantic letters to Mary via e-mail and would occasionally phone her up. But soon trouble began brewing. Mary could have lived happily with Dave. But she had not bargained for living with Dave's mother and his spinster sisters. Frequent conflicts arose between her and her mother-in-law and sisters-in-law. She complained to Dave that his mother and sisters were harassing her. They were, she said, picking on her for the least thing and were ganging up against her. She felt very isolated and alone. She wanted Dave to take up for her in her quarrels. Dave's mother and sisters, on the other hand, gave him their side of the story. They kept telling him that his wife was lazy, that she did not share in the household chores and kept looking for the least excuse to run off to her parents. Dave was torn between his wife and his family. taking up for one meant antagonizing the other. He played safe at first but was gradually forced to take a stand.

Beloved in Christ, like Dave most people find themselves in situations involving divided loyalties where they are forced to make a choice.

In the Gospel of today, which forms part of the missionary discourse to His disciples, Jesus points out to the fact that they will be faced with the prospect of divided loyalties in which they are called upon to make a choice. Following Jesus does not imply absence of conflict. The disciple shares in the lifestyle and suffering of the Master. No disciples can pretend to be above the teacher but ought, in fact, to be like the teacher.

It is through death that new life emerges

It is the law of nature: “In the death of the seed, the plant grows.” Only when the seed is thrown into the ground and it dies, the plant begins to grow. Today, Christianity exists only because of the early saints who laid down their lives fearlessly for their faith. If they had looked for their own safety and security, there would be no Christianity today. Rightly it is said, “The blood of the martyrs is the seed of Christianity.”

It is always true that things are achieved and preserved only because some people were prepared to lay down their lives. We wouldn't have had independence, if our founding fathers had not risked their lives and their families. We cannot have a good healthy family life, if our parents were not prepared to sacrifice their comforts and freedom for the sake of the family.

Life lost for a good cause is life gained; life spent for a good purpose is life preserved. We should put this question to ourselves: “Are we burning out or rusting out?”

Divided loyalties and Christianity do not mix. Christ invites us to follow Him to the bitter end. But then will come a turnaround. Our undivided loyalty to Christ will be rewarded abundantly. Shalom!

MOTIVATIONAL STORY FOR THE WEEK

Rock, Pebbles, and Sand



The Story:

A philosophy professor once stood up before his class with a large empty mayonnaise jar. He filled the jar to the top with large rocks and asked his students if the jar was full.

His students all agreed **the jar was full**.

He then added small pebbles to the jar and gave the jar a bit of a shake so the pebbles could disperse themselves among the larger rocks. Then he asked again, “Is the jar full now?”

The students agreed that **the jar was still full**.

The professor then poured sand into the jar to fill up all the remaining empty space.

The students then agreed again that **the jar was full**.

The Metaphor:

In this story, **the jar represents your life** and the **rocks, pebbles, and sand are the things that fill up your life**. The rocks represent the most important projects and things you have going on, such as spending time with your family and maintaining proper health. This means that if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full, and **your life would still have meaning**.

The pebbles represent the things in your life that matter, but that you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, hobbies, and friendships), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. **These things often come and go and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.**

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Finally, the sand represents the remaining filler things in your life, and material possessions. This could be small things such as watching television, browsing through your favorite social media site, or running errands. **These things don't mean much to your life as a whole and are likely only done to waste time or get small tasks accomplished.**

The Moral:

The metaphor here is that if you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life. **If you spend all of your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.**

In order to have a more effective and efficient life, pay attention to the “rocks,” because they are critical to your long-term well-being.



Readings for the week of 6-28-20

Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19 [2a]/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42

Monday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [5b]/2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8 [9a]/Mt 8:23-27

Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 16bc-17 [23b]/Mt 8:28-34

Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10cd]/Mt 9:1-8

Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2 [Mk 16:15]/Jn 20:24-29

Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 9b]/Mt 9:14-17

Next Sunday Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14 [cf. 1]/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

Happy 4th of July

There are signals indicating how different this year's independence celebration will turn out. This era of pandemic has brought a lot of changes in the fabric of our society. Let us now, dearly beloved pause for a minutes and ask for God's blessing, upon our land, political and civil leaders.

Today, we celebrate the steadfast spirit of our freedom fighters and political patrons whose effort enable us to enjoy the fruits of freedom today.

The coronavirus has rubbed us of various celebration during independence Day like parades, fireworks, picnics, barbecues, and others. However, it is gratifying seeing how many people display the American flag outside their homes or buildings.

Our country is witnessing some kind of violence and reforms in one way or another. There is also a gradual shift in Religious ideology to a more liberal trajectory. A careful examination of media reportage reveal how Party politics has taken the center stage by distorting media reporting. One needs to carefully discern and cross-check the information in order to arrive at the objective truth.

Codiv-19 does not respect or favor any person. This virus has deeply affected us in many ways. Let us not relent in our prayers and fight to overcome it.

As we give thanks for the freedom and liberties fought by the first generation of many of today's Americans. Let us pray for our leaders regardless of which side of the political divide you find yourself.

May our collective efforts seek to fortify and unite us as "one nation under God." Remember it is **United States** and not Divided States.

Happy Independence Day!

Fr. Raphael





Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA)

I would like to express my profound gratitude to you for your generous contributions towards our ADA in this pandemic. This period has affected us financially besides other setbacks. However, we are confident to sail through the storm. I would like to appeal to all families in humility to prayerfully support our parish goal. Any amount raised over our goal comes back to the parish. In the same way our failure to meet our goal will cost our annual budget.

If each member of the church should contribute, we will definitely meet our goal or have 100% participation.

I humbly entreat everyone to be part of this goal. No contribution is small. God bless you.

Fr. Raphael



*Mass Intention for June 28.
Today's Mass is in remembrance of
Ky Wakefield by Annie*

20 Fun Facts about the 4th of July/Independence Day

On this federal holiday, also known as Independence Day, marking the Colonies' adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, which declared independence from the Great Britain and its king, we thought it would be appropriate to share some fun facts about this historic day. We are already familiar with the fireworks, parades, barbecue and festivities like picnics, fairs, concerts and parties that take place on this day, but there are some things many people don't know about the Fourth.

1. Congress made Independence Day an official unpaid holiday for federal employees in 1870. In 1938, Congress changed Independence Day to a paid federal holiday.
2. Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later.
3. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies.
4. The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
5. One out of eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were educated at Harvard (7 total).
6. The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.
7. The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.
8. The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. This was also the day that the Declaration of Independence was first read in public after people were summoned by the ringing of the Liberty Bell.
9. The White House held its first 4th July party in 1801.
10. President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.

11. Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.
12. In 1776, there were 2.5 million people living in the new nation. Today the population of the U.S.A. is 316 million.
13. Fifty-nine places in the U.S. contain the word “liberty” in the name. Pennsylvania, with 11, has more of these places than any other state. Of the 59 places nationwide containing “liberty” in the name, four are counties: Liberty County, Ga. (65,471), Liberty County, Fla. (8,276), Liberty County, Mont. (2,392) and Liberty County, Texas (76,571).
14. The most common patriotic-sounding word used within place names is “union” with 136. Pennsylvania, with 33, has more of these places than any other state. Other words most commonly used in place names are Washington (127), Franklin (118), Jackson (96) and Lincoln (95).
15. Fireworks are part of the tradition of celebrating this national holiday. The U.S. imported \$227.3 million worth of fireworks from China in 2012. U.S. exports of fireworks, by comparison, came to just \$11.7 million in 2012, with Israel purchasing more than any other country (\$2.5 million).
16. In 2012, vast majority of imported U.S. flags (\$3.6 million) was made in China.
17. Barbecue is also big on Independence Day. Approximately 150 million hot dogs and 700 million pounds of chicken are consumed on this day.
18. Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.
19. Traditions place the origins of “Yankee Doodle” as a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial “Yankees” with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It is believed that the tune comes from the nursery rhyme Lucy Locket. One version of the Yankee Doodle lyrics is “generally attributed” to Doctor Richard Shuckburgh, a British Army surgeon. According to one story, Shuckburgh wrote the song after seeing the appearance of Colonial troops under Colonel Thomas Fitch, V, the son of Connecticut Governor Thomas Fitch.[2]
20. The tune of the National Anthem was originally used by an English drinking song called “to Anacreon in Heaven.” The words have nothing to do with consumption of alcohol but the “melody that Francis Key had in mind when he wrote those words did originate decades earlier as the melody for a song praise of wine.”

St. Mary's First Communion Class

This group of young people will make their First Communion on July 12 with their select group of invitees. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare worthily to approach and receive Jesus at his Holy table for the first time.



Joseph Hirner, Jr.
Jadyn Jakub
Cash Jones
Quentin Laumann
Archer Mitchell
Bryan Snyder
Josef Whitehead
Anna Zavadil

A Prayer for those who are preparing Children for their First Holy Communion

O Jesus, who hast loved us with such exceeding great love
as to give us the ineffable gift of the Holy Eucharist,
in flame us with a burning zeal to promote Thy glory
by preparing worthily the little children
who are to approach Thy holy table for the first time.

Protect, O Sacred Heart of Jesus,
these young souls from the assaults of evil,
strengthen their faith,
increase their love and endow them
with all the virtues that will make them worthy to receive Thee.
Amen.

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



6-29—Kayla Walters

7-7—Vince Hilton

7-7---Greg Phillips

7-8—Lisa Welch

7-10—Cassie Goodman

7-10—Jake Smith



Greg Andersen
Grady Secht

Reese Kemp
James Dowling
LeRoy Herscheid

Noah Howe
Mary Lou Miller
Dottie Dankof

Isacc Durr
Robert & Nancy Dalton

Todd Quick
Verona Mitchell
Joel Loggins

Kenneth Russell
Bill Long

Henry Johnsen
Lawrence DuBois
Angie Witter-Childers

Pat Sheldon
Joe Kirk

Tim Konecny
Esther McCowan
Shawn Collins

Drake Travis
Martha Gude
Bill & Gloria Green

Larry Dalton
Vickie Graham
Glen Whitehead

Ronda Shirley
Zayne Osborn
Cathy Mason
Anna Weber

Your Contributions

June 21, 2020

Tithes—\$435.00

Thank You!!



7-3—Dave & Kate Roberts

7-12—Tim & Donna Whelan

7-18—Randy & Wendy Duncan

7-26—Joe & Robbie Travis



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