



Ordinary Time 2020

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 19--Hamburg, IA.

It is a great pleasure in the middle of these languorous summer months to sit back and listen to stories. The crowds in the Gospel were able to do just that, for Jesus taught them by telling parables. Parables made his lessons about the kingdom of heaven memorable, in ways in which straightforward narration would fail. Now it is our turn to listen. Let us savor them, ruminating on their rich images and considering their meaning in our lives.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13,16-19; Psalm 86; Romans 8:26-27;
Matthew 13:24-43

Theme: The deceptive face of evil

There is a parable being said about Good and Evil. One day, Good and Evil met upon the shore of the sea. They said to each other, "Let us disrobe and bathe in the sea." After they bathed in the sea for some time, Evil came to the shore and clothed itself with the garment of Good and walked away. Later Good too came out of the shore and found that its clothes had been taken away by Evil. Feeling ashamed to go naked, Good garment itself with the clothes of Evil.

To this day, both Good and Evil walk around in their disguised clothes. Only some who know the face of Good and Evil are able to identify their true nature in spite of their garments.

Today's Gospel reading shed's light on the theme of Evil. In everyday life we see evil in the form of tragic lust, ruthless murders, and inordinate selfishness. Jesus in the parable of the wheat and weeds clearly affirmed the reality of evil. The weeds are not only useless but also harmful.

Attributes of Evil

Evil is real

We may not know how evil originated, but we know that evil is there around us. Most of us may be bad, we may have bad character or nature, but we may not be evil; when bad qualities are left to crystallize over a period of time, it could become evil. When simple desire becomes tragic lust or when simple, harmless selfishness becomes inordinate selfishness trampling upon the rights and freedom of others, it becomes evil. Evil is real, it has a soul, but it has many faces.

Evil is deceptive

Evil can disguise and fool us. In the parable, which our Lord narrated, the darnel, which was a weed, looked exactly like the wheat. In its size and shape, the darnel looked like wheat. There was only a slight color variation. But when eaten the darnel (weed) was poisonous.

Evil has a seed of destruction within itself. Evil has a day of judgment, a day of harvest, on that day it will be gathered and burnt.

Why God does not destroy evil?

If God were to do so, none of us would be alive. All of us are mixture of good and bad. We must constantly work towards holiness. The image is of a God who chooses to demonstrate control by means of kindness and patience. This is a God who governs not by power or force but by compassion.

The parable defines the kingdom as one that embraces both wheat and weeds, both good and evil. The owner confronts two problems: (1) how to save the wheat and (2) how to outwit the enemy. He resolves the first by permitting the wheat and weeds to grow together until harvest. He resolves the second by using the weeds as fuel. The owner realizes that violence (killing the weeds) will only endanger the common good. In the kingdom, the common good demands patience and forgiveness.

Swift action plus compassion make the owner a symbol of the kingdom: strength through leniency. Power is given to help others. Power, if destructive rather than constructive, must be carefully examined. May, we by the assistance of God free ourselves from evil, and thus move towards God who is the giver of eternal life. Our God is kind and merciful, let us not take God's leniency for granted. Shalom!

Some ways to keep calm during a pandemic

Posted by: [Kathy Johnson](#)

Things are tough right now. With coronavirus circling the globe, impacting nearly every citizen on Earth, the world is a weird place right now. We're all facing uncertainties about what the future will hold. We don't know for sure what will happen with our health, the health of our loved ones, our jobs, our communities, and more. It's unnerving, to say the least.

During times like these, it's okay to be overwhelmed, scared, or anxious. In fact, it's *normal*. You're not alone in feeling how you feel.

These are strange times, but keeping these things in mind will help us keep calm (and maybe even gain something positive from this experience). Staying optimistic is challenging during difficult times, but it is so important. I hope these reminders will stick with you in the days and weeks to come...

1. THIS WON'T LAST FOREVER.

Whatever you're going through right now, no matter how difficult, will not last forever. The impacts of your situation may impact you for a long time (they might even change your life dramatically), but nothing is forever. Things will change. Be grateful for the good times and be accepting of the bad ones.

2. GOOD THINGS CAN COME FROM BAD TIMES.

You don't know for sure what the future will hold. I urge you to read (or re-read) the parable of the Chinese farmer. It reminds you that you have no idea what good fortune could come from your bad fortune. Yes, bad things happen, but often they lead to good things. Keep believing good things are coming.

3. DISTANCE CAN PROVIDE CLARITY.

A situation that changes up your daily routine can distance you from your normal day-to-day life. This can be overwhelming and unsettling, yes, but that distance may also give you clarity on how your activities *really* impact you. What do you feel relieved to be without? What do you miss the most? Notice these things, and work to adjust your life in the future accordingly.

4. YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHANGE.

Change begets change. If something disrupts your life suddenly, it might be a sign that you need a fresh start. A good time for a new life is when things have been completely transformed without your say so. If you want it to be, a disruption can be like a New Year, a clean slate, a fresh start.

5. CONNECTION IS INCREDIBLY VALUABLE. TREASURE IT.

When times are toughest, you see who the people in your life really, truly are. You notice who is there for you and who is not. You notice who might need your attention and care, who is responsive to your love and affection. Tough times show true colors and seeing those colors can help you determine who you want in your life.

6. LITTLE THINGS REALLY *DO* MATTER.

If you're missing something you were used to seeing, doing, or being, you'll start to notice the little things you miss in particular about that person, place, or thing, things you might not have paid much attention to before. Use this as a sign to be grateful for what you *do* have now and a reminder to appreciate the little things once you're back in your normal routine.

7..UNEXPECTED CHANGE OFFERS A NEW PERSPECTIVE.

When you're suddenly swung around, your life changed without permission, you're presented with a different view of your life. This new vantage point can be overwhelming or upsetting at times, but it is a gift. It's so rare that we're forced to step out of our patterns and routines. Pay attention to how you feel and what you now see.

8. PRACTICING POSITIVITY WILL MAKE YOU STRONGER.

It's great to be optimistic when things are going well. But it's also *easy*. Staying positive when things aren't great (and I mean *really* not great, not just, like, "I had a bad day. This sucks.") is hard work. It comes naturally to some, but most of us have to practice. This is the time to practice positive thinking.

9. WHO YOU ARE IS MORE THAN WHAT YOU DO.

When you're removed from your well-trod patterns and routines, it can be startling to realize that you're more than what your job is, who you're related to, and all of the items on your to-do list. A dramatic change forces you to slow down, look around, and do some self-reflection. Look within. Work on self-love.

10. IT'S OKAY TO FEEL HOW YOU FEEL.

In any difficult situation (or any situation at all!), it's important to remember that it's okay to feel how you feel. Feelings happen, but they aren't facts. You are allowed to feel any feeling you feel. If and how you *act* on that feeling is what can be helpful or harmful, but feelings on their own are okay. Accept your feelings and choose actions carefully.

11. GOOD THINGS CAN HAPPEN (EVEN IN BAD TIMES).

Bad things happen during good times. Good things happen during bad times. If you're generally in a bad place (or the world is), but something wonderful happens, embrace it. I know it might feel strange, but the world needs more joy, no matter how small. Don't turn away from joy and happiness in difficult times.

12. YOU MUST PLAY THE CARDS YOU'RE DEALT.

If nothing else, a dramatic change or difficult situation will serve as a reminder that a great deal of life (where we're born, who raised us, where we live, the current time period, other people's actions and reactions) is not under our control. We have to do the best we can and know that we can only work with what we have access to.

13. TOUGH TIMES TEACH YOU ABOUT YOURSELF.

Going through something difficult or life-changing is one of the greatest ways to find out more about yourself. You know how sometimes people bond with each other while going through a challenge? You can do that with yourself, too. It sounds odd, but you really can. Use this time to discover who you are and what really matters to you.

14. PRODUCTIVITY ISN'T LIFE'S SOLE PURPOSE.

Any disruption at all can worsen productivity, but let this low productivity be a reminder that something is off, and that's okay. There is no reward for being the most productive in a day (though you would not be remiss to think that there is, given that we're taught at a young age that productivity is crucial for happiness). You don't have to be productive all the time. It's okay to relax.

I know things are tough right now. For some they are much tougher than others, and we never know exactly what other people are going through. Be kind to one another. Be kind to yourself. Do the best you can with what you have around you and do your best to stay calm. But also know that it's okay to freak out. It is okay to be worried and overwhelmed. Allow yourself to be where you are and strive to make your mental health a priority right now.



START
YOUR
day
WITH
PRAYER

God,
Please enlighten my mind with
truth, inflame my heart with love,
inspire my will with courage,
enrich my life with service. Pardon
what I have been, sanctify what I
am, and order what I shall be.
Amen.



RCIA – Adult Faith Formation

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith or joining the Church should kindly call the secretary.

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 obstacles. 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.

Appreciation

I am short of words to express your kindness and prayers on the occasion of my birthday. I was deeply touched by your kind words and the outpouring of love. They will remain my found memories in my life. God Bless and keep you! Fr. Raphael



Congratulations to our First Holy Communicants!

They received the Holy Eucharist on Sunday July 12th.

Front row from left: JJ Hirner, Jr., Anna Zavadil and Archer Mitchell.

Back row from left: Josef Whitehead, Cash Jones and Bryan Snyder.

Below they are pictured with Joe Hirner.



**“Don’t allow anything to interfere with
your love for Jesus. You belong to Him.
Nothing can separate you from Him.”**

ST. MOTHER TERESA

Do Something Beautiful for God



Readings for the week of 7-19–20

Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Monday: Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 12:38-42

Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-8 [8a]/Mt 12:46-50

Wednesday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [2]/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Ps 36:6-7ab, 8-9, 10-11 [10a]/Mt 13:10-17

Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6 [5]/Mt 20:20-28

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



7-25—Cale Phillips

7-27—Amber Spurlock

7-29—Bill Green

7-29—Maelynn Moody

8-5—Robbie Travis

8-6—Audrey Goodman

8-10—Luke Sheldon



7-3—Dave & Kate Roberts

7-12—Tim & Donna Whelan

7-18—Randy & Wendy Duncan

7-26—Joe & Robbie Travis



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

Alan Briggs

Your Contributions

July 12, 2020

Tithes—\$660.00

Plate—\$20.00

Thank You!!



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