

The Work of the People
The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have had some real summer weather this year and I think that I am starting to wilt with the heat. It seems as though the leaves on the trees and plants are doing the same. Thank goodness we had some rain to help. I have even witnessed the leaves beginning to change into their autumn hues. Liturgically, we are moving into the later Sundays in Ordinary Time as well.

In the First Reading for this Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Jeremiah again undergoes one of many sufferings as a result of his fidelity in proclaiming God's prophetic word to the people. His words of God's judgment and punishment for their sinfulness are continually rejected as the people take their anger out on Jeremiah personally, often endangering his life. Jeremiah, despite constant danger, trusted in the Lord and faithfully spoke God's words.

Addressing the opposition to their faith, values, and lifestyle, the author of the Letter to the Hebrews counsels the faith community to consider the sufferings and opposition that Jesus experienced during his lifetime and learn from it so "that you may not grow weary and lose heart." Jesus endured the Cross, despite its shame, and rightly took "his seat at the right hand of the throne of God." In similar manner, we too are to shed all sin and all that burdens us and persevere in the faith, running steadily towards the prize, total union with Jesus at God's right hand.

Luke's Jesus knows that his mission and ministry will bring opposition, rejection, and suffering. It will divide families, cause disruption and havoc in community groupings and bring division instead of peace. Aware of all this, Jesus longs to "set the earth on fire" with God's Kingdom, proclaiming a way of relating that is countercultural and contrary to the normal way of thinking and acting. As disciples we too are challenged to take up the same mission and ministry.

The reflection for this week is from Marie-Louise Ternier-Gommers who is a writer, editor, and workshop and retreat leader with more than twenty-five years of diocesan ministry experience.

Jesus is and always will be the Prince of Peace. But the peace Jesus gives is not an absence of conflict.

Quite the contrary, as we hear today. The peace of God is like a sword that divides families,

and even churches. The division is caused by our refusal to embrace that costly commitment to discipleship. The strife comes because of our refusal, not because of God's vindictive wishes. Jesus knew what that human refusal did to the prophets who came before him, such as Jeremiah. Jesus knew that such human refusal of fullness of life would deal him a similar lot. And sometimes it seems that in 2,000 years of Christianity, our human refusal still condemns Jesus to death, without having to point fingers at those outside the Church.

"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" Even though Jesus is wary of the baptism he is yet to undergo, which is his death, and even though he knows full well our capacity to refuse God's fire of love, he nevertheless continues to beckon us into this fire.

For the passion of God is a fire that does not destroy. The passion of God is a fire that brings life in overflowing measure. To let God's fire run through every vein of our being, we are to be committed totally. God's fire purifies, cleanses, and sets us ablaze. Jesus shows us what that blazing fire of love looks like.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Rv. 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/1 Cor.15:20-27/
Lk. 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ez. 28:1-10/Mt. 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez. 34:1-11/Mt. 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez. 36:23-28/Mt. 22:1-14

Friday: Ez. 37:1-14/Mt. 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez. 43:1-7ab/Mt. 23:1-12

Sunday: Is. 66:18-21/Heb. 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk. 13:22-30

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday, August 15, is the celebration of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Because this year it is on a Monday, it is not observed as a Holy Day of Obligation. We will have Mass for the Assumption at 8:00 am on Monday at St. Anthony.

FAITH FORMATION CLASSES Religious Education

Registration for all classes will be on September 11, 2022, directly after the 9:30 Mass, in the Parish Center. All parents are expected to attend this class. Handbooks and class books will be handed out and discussed at this time.

Thank you

WORSHIP

Monday, August 15
 8:00 am + Michael Milligan (Barb & Family)
 Tuesday, August 16
 8:00 am + Frank & Grace Schreck
 (Jerry & Betty Galvin)
 Wednesday, August 17
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, August 18
 8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (Carol & Family)
 Friday, August 19
 8:00 am + Robert Wronko (Joan Rembielak)
 Saturday, August 20
 4:30 pm + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Sunday, August 21
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Geraldine Ciesielski
 (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

Note: Wed. 8 am Mass at St. Bernadette Mission will be schedule for Wed. 8/24/22

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 16
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Thursday, August 18
 6:00 pm - Finance Council Mtg.
 6:45 pm - Parish Council Mtg.
 Saturday, August 20
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, August 21
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 ALTAR SERVERS**
 Saturday, August 20 - 4:30 pm
 Payton Leandro
 Sunday, August 21 - 9:30 am
 Max Marteeny

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$612.00
Maintenance	60.00
Candles	20.00
Assumption	30.00
Latin America	30.00
TOTAL	\$752.00

**COLLECTION FOR
 THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Catholic Church in Latin America is more than ever facing challenges in the work of evangelization. Shortages of resources and pastoral workers, as well as poor infrastructure make simple things like attending weekly Mass difficult for many. As members of the same family of faith, we are called to help our sisters and brothers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Collection for the Church in Latin America, scheduled to take place in our Diocese on the weekend of August 21-22, is one way to support them. Your participation in this collection is a meaningful and practical expression of solidarity with people in these regions. The proceeds are used in dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, seminaries and other Catholic institutions. The collection also assists in the formation of priests, religious, lay ministers, missionaries, catechists and youth ministers.

Please be generous toward this collection. Take this opportunity to share your faith with our sisters and brothers in need. Your financial support, and just as importantly, your prayers, will truly make a difference.

For more information on the Church in Latin America, and the many projects funded by the collection, please visit www.usccb.org/latin-america.

Be assured of my own prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie

SAMUEL GROUP

If you are a young adult age 20-30 and wrestling with big questions about your future, you are not alone! The Samuel Group is for young adults who seriously desire to discern God's will for their lives. The Samuel Group is a seven-month journey that includes: monthly gatherings at St. Mark Catholic Center, spiritual direction, prayer, talks, small group discussion, and accompaniment. The goal is for each participant to grow in self-knowledge and to hear and respond to God's call with an open heart. Applications are due September 1.

Please visit the website for informational video and application details:
<https://www.eriecd.org/youth/samuelgroup.html>

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,364.00
Maintenance	261.00
Candles	50.00
CSA	340.00
Assumption	5.00
Latin America	5.00
TOTAL	\$2,025.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$31,883 Paid: \$26,631

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
