

The Work of the People

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday falls within the Fourth of July celebration for 2020. Of course, Independence Day is a celebration of our freedom from the tyranny of the British king. In these intervening 244(245) years the word and concept of freedom has taken on many meanings in the hearts and minds and wills of the American people. For some, freedom has come to mean something more akin to license – “I can do whatever I want and no one better try to stop me.” Our freedom, rather, is a social contract growing out of our religious roots. It involves a careful balance between individual needs (what is good for me) and the common good (what is best for all). We don’t give up part or all of our freedom when we follow the Gospel command: “Love one another.” Jesus told us that he did “not come to be served but to serve.” Let us seek to do the same. That is true freedom.

The first reading for this Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time is from another of the prophets. Zechariah proclaims the coming of the Messiah in striking imagery. The king will not come on a warhorse, with a display of military might, but meekly, on a beast of burden. And yet, his power is beyond question, as he sweeps away the chariots, horses, and weapons of war, and proclaims peace to the whole earth.

St. Paul writes to the church in Rome that those who have been baptized into Christ are no longer “in the flesh” but rather “in the spirit.” Through Baptism, we have become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, and everything we do must take this great reality into account. We no longer live for this life only: we look to the life yet to come, which has already begun for us through Baptism.

In today’s Gospel Jesus praises God who reveals his wisdom not to the usual suspects – the wise, the learned, the important – but to those no one would expect: the little ones, the childlike. This passage ends with a wonderful invitation, as Jesus calls all who carry heavy burdens to come to him and find rest. Jesus is “meek and humble of heart,” the king of gentleness and power that Zechariah foretold.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Edward P. Hahnenberg, Ph.D. who is the author of *Theology for Ministry*.

Anyone who has spent any time on social media has encountered the “humblebrag.”

These ostensibly modest statements are really just thinly veiled boasts, drawing everyone’s attention to what is amazing about me.

It’s funny how many people say I look like Robert Redford. I just don’t see it.

I forgot to turn on the coffee before my eight-mile run this morning. Guess I’ll go back to bed.

We may find such self-promotion grating or the clamor for attention embarrassing. “Look at me! Look at what I did!”

However, there is a little bit of humblebrag in all of us. I may scoff at those who do it, but in my superiority, I take their place. “Aren’t they ridiculous” becomes another way of saying, “Look at me! Look at what I did not do!”

Either way, I want the spotlight on me.

In contrast, the readings today speak of a king who comes humbly. They speak of a yoke that does not impose extra burdens but rather lightens the burdens we already bear.

This is not to say that the life of discipleship is easy. It is just to say that the whole thing doesn’t rest on my shoulders. Indeed, what transforms humility to hubris is the arrogant assumption that I alone carry the load. I alone deserve credit for what I alone have accomplished.

In his prayer, “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,” Jesus shifts the focus to our true boast: “Look at God! Look at what God has done!”

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Hos 2:16, 17b-18, 21-22/Mt. 9:18-26

Tuesday: Hos. 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt. 9:32-38

Wednesday: Hos. 10: 1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt. 10: 1-7

Thursday: Hos. 11:1-4, 8e-9/Mt. 10:7-15

Friday: Hos. 14:2-10/Mt. 10:16-23

Saturday: Is. 6:1-8/Mt. 10:24-33

Sunday: Is. 55:10-11/Rom. 8:18-23/Mt. 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The public health concerns this year have made it necessary to adapt the format of Diocese of Erie celebrations for milestone anniversaries. In lieu of Masses with the bishop, the Marriage and Family Life Office will celebrate with prayer, certificates, online sharing, and packages sent to honorees. Couples celebrating 25, 50, 60 or more years are welcome to check with the parish office at 398-4234 to register.

*“Lord,
I believe that every situation is an
opportunity to grow closer to you.
So help me to trust in you
during the desert times.”*

WORSHIP

Monday, July 6
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, July 7
8:00 am + For Healing of Lucy (Grams)
St. Anthony Novena After Mass

Wednesday, July 8
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, July 9
8:00 am + Gary Parkin (Kathleen Parkin)

Friday, July 10
8:00 am + Mark Smith (Rose Smith)

Saturday, July 11
4:30 pm + Dec. Members of Weidner Family
(Ginger & Dick Kester)

Sunday, July 12
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Heather Dunnigan (Rick & Barbara Smith)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

PARISH
EVENTS
HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED
UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE

FRENCHTOWN HAM OR CHICKEN DINNER

The 124th annual dinner will be held on Sunday, July 26 at St. Hippolyte Church. Due to the pandemic, carry-out meals by pre-order only will be offered with designated drive through pick up times between 11:30 am and 5:00 pm. **THE DEADLINE TO ORDER IS SUNDAY, JULY 12.** Pre-order dinners by calling 333-8464, 282-3272, or 967-3813 or email hamorchickendinner@gmail.com no later than July 12. Payment in advance is encouraged. Payment can be mailed to St. Hippolyte Church, 25997 State Hwy. 27 Guys Mills, PA 16327

*“Jesus,
thank you for the needs
you are laying on my heart.
Help me to find the courage
to take action as well.”*

REMINDER:

Parishioners are
REQUIRED
to wear a face mask in church.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Every Friday 3 PM - 4 PM

Please go up the ramp to the right
and into the Daily Mass Chapel.

YOU MUST WEAR A FACE MASK

If there are several people waiting,
please observe healthy social distancing.

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel is about being missionaries. As Jesus accepted his mission, parents accept the mission of raising a family. Parents are not alone in this exhausting and difficult vocation. Today Jesus calls us to himself when he invites us to "Come to me and I will give you rest"

On June 17, after 20+ years of service, Carole Schoiack retired from her church cleaning responsibilities. For many years she had also cleaned the rectory. Thank you to Carole for her care of our worship area. We wish her well. Thank you, also to Robin Gallant who will take on these duties.

STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Offertory	\$530.00
Peter's Pence	30.00
Candles	<u>23.00</u>
TOTAL	\$583.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$5,545 Paid: \$4,695

STEWARDSHIP - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$1,148.00
Maintenance	267.00
Latin Mass	497.17
Peter's Pence	52.00
Rice Bowl	19.00
Candles	22.00
Reimbursement	2,772.95
CSA	<u>770.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5,548.12

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$23,300 Paid: \$19,347.50

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
