

The Work of the People
The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the first reading for this Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Ezekiel offers his prophecy in the form of a poem about trees. God is portrayed as the one who tends to the grove of trees.

While teaching the crowds about the Kingdom of God in today's Gospel, Jesus uses parables so that they might understand its meaning. He offers his disciples private explanations of their meaning. The Gospel reading begins with Jesus describing how a sower scatters seed on the land and then one day discovers the land bearing fruit, so the sower knows it is harvest time. Such it is with God's Kingdom. Whether we sense it or not, God is at work in our midst.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Mary Stommes who is editor of *Give Us This Day*.

It's surprising how memory works, how the most insignificant of moments can stick with us, allowing us decades later to return to the place and time and remember it as if it were yesterday. As if it somehow matters.

Like the time when I was about four, no more, and my mom was talking to her sister on the phone—when phones were on walls, and attached by cords, and anyone with ears to hear could hear what was said. And what do I remember about this particular conversation? Mom's final words: "I better let you go. I hear your baby crying in the background." (What were you expecting? Something memorable? . . . "I better let you go. We haven't told the kids yet, but we're taking them to Disneyland, and I really must start packing.")

Why would my ears perk up at the mention of a baby crying in the background? Quite simply, because I could picture a baby crying in a crib. Or a baby crying in a bedroom. But what in the world, or where in the world, was the "background"? Sometimes preschoolers like to know these things. "What's a background?" I asked Mom after she "let Polly go." And she explained it to me in words I was able to understand. Background. I learned a new word, while my hungry little cousin no doubt was already being fed.

Lest we forget, there are hungry little ones in the background of today's Gospel too. The anawim—the humble of the earth, the lowly and poor. Jesus was one of them. He'd have learned that as a child, listening to Mary sing her Magnificat day in

and day out, as surely she must have. "Mom, who are the lowly? How will God lift them up? How will God scatter the proud in their conceit? And what does scatter mean anyway?" How could a mother tell her tender child that he himself was the one-Word answer to all those questions? (Probably not: "You're it! Though I know not how. Go ask your Father.")

Decades later, Mary would "let Jesus go" to begin his public ministry. He did so insisting that in the Kingdom of God, no person is ever relegated to the background, most especially the poor and lowly. He knew that there was no better way to "scatter the proud in their conceit" than to "scatter the seed" of his word on hearts far and wide. He knew that just one seemingly insignificant word—pick a word, there are so many to learn—would have the power to make us suddenly remember as God remembers.

We're it! Smallest of seeds though we are, we'd better go. God's people are crying in the background, and they really matter.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 6:1-10/Mt. 5:38-42
 Tuesday: 2 Cor. 8:1-9/Mt. 5:43-48
 Wednesday: 2 Cor. 9:6-11/Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: 2 Cor. 11:1-11/Mt. 6:7-15
 Friday: 2 Cor. 11:18, 21b-30/Mt. 6:19-23
 Saturday: 2 Cor. 12:1-10/Mt. 6:24-34
 Sunday: Job 38:1-4, 8-11/2 Cor. 5:14-17/Mk. 4:35-41

THANK YOU

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who sent cards, offered Masses and prayers, made a contribution to the House of Prayer, and came to the funeral home and funeral Mass at the time of my mother Kathleen's death. The show of support for me and my family at this difficult time is very much appreciated. It is at times such as this that I can very tangibly see the love of God at work in the generosity of all of you.

*"Jesus,
I thank you for the mercy
You show me each day."*

WORSHIP

Monday, June 14
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, June 15
8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission)

Wednesday, June 16
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Steve Scott (Shawn Pfefer)

Thursday, June 17
8:00 am + Daniel Baker (Rita Baker & Family)

Friday, June 18
8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (PNA Lodge 1540)

Saturday, June 19
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Members of St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission

Sunday, June 20
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Steve Scott (Pauline Baker)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Jim Rasavage (Carrie/Jimmy/Gail)

JERUSALEM AND THE WEST BANK VIRTUAL EVENT

All are welcome to join a virtual event hosted by Catholic Relief Services regarding CRS' work in Jerusalem and the West Bank. Join the Social Justice and Life Office of the Diocese of Erie on June 16 at 7 pm to hear from Bill O'Keefe, executive vice president of Mission and Mobilization for Catholic Relief Services. To register, visit <https://form.jotform.com/2115259191129054>. Please direct questions to Patrice Swick, director of the Social Justice and Life Office, at pswick@ErieRCD.org.

NEEDED

Seton Catholic School in Meadville, PA is looking for an energetic, knowledgeable full-time music and Art teacher. This is a permanent position starting in the 2021-2022 school year. For more information, contact Christine Hess, Principal, Seton Catholic School at chess@seton-school.com or call 814 336-2320.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, June 15
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, June 19
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, June 20
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

PIE SALE

There will be a Pie Sale on Saturday, June 26th at the Cambridge Springs 1st United Methodist Church from 9 am - 12 noon. All proceeds will benefit the Cambridge Springs Volunteer Fire Dept. If you wish to donate a pie for sale, please drop it off Friday, June 24 at the 1st Methodist Church from 10 -12:00 or 1 - 4 pm. For more information please call Wendy Burdick at 398-4049.

2021 DIOCESAN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgy on Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 pm at St. Jude in Erie. Please contact the parish office at 814 398-4234 from 9am - 3 pm. DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JULY 30TH.

ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT RAFFLE

Proceeds benefit Seton School
Donated by Dr. Paul E. Schok
Estimated value of \$5 - \$6,000
Tickets can be purchased at Seton School
Or St. Agatha Parish office.
Purchase tickets online via
Venmo to-@seton-school or
PayPal paypal.me/setonschool
Drawing held June 25th. Only 600 tickets sold!

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$455.00
Maintenance	76.00
Starter	20.00
Peter's Pence	30.00
Candles	27.00
TOTAL	\$608.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$6,590.00 Paid: \$6,165.00	

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$1,390.00
Maintenance	371.00
Candles	97.00
Ascension	10.00
International Needs	10.00
TOTAL	\$1,878.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,125.00 Paid: \$20,409.00	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
