

The Work of the People

The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I thank all who, through their contributions, have supported the roof repair project. The roofers were fortunate to have good (although hot) weather and have finished as much of the project as they are able. A large nest of bees was discovered on the north church roof and so the slate could not be repaired at the present time. An exterminator will remove the nest when the weather turns cool in the fall and the roofers will return to block and entrance and repair the slate. For now, the roofs are solid and we will remain dry.

The first reading for this Sunday, from the Book of Wisdom, is addressed directly to God. We can sense the wonder of the inspired writer, who recognizes that God's power is seen most clearly in God's gentleness and mercy. And God's people must strive to become more like God – our justice, too, must be joined with great kindness.

As we continue our reading of St. Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome, we come to a wonderful passage about prayer. We are weak, and we struggle to pray as we ought. But we do not need to be discouraged or afraid, since the Holy Spirit, dwelling in each of us through baptism, is praying, not with words, but with "groanings" beyond the power of speech – language God understands better than any other.

In last Sunday's Gospel, we had the parable of the sower; today we have a series of parables: the weeds and the wheat, the mustard seed, and the yeast. Each of these parables gives us a glimpse of what God's reign is like. It is not tidy: rather, good and bad grow together, like the weeds and the wheat, and there is no way to remove the one without also destroying the other. God's Kingdom starts small: like the mustard seed, something tiny, almost infinitesimal, leads to extraordinary results. And the Kingdom is mystery: like yeast in dough, it is invisible, yet makes all the difference.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Naked and You Clothed Me* by Deacon Jim Knipper who is a permanent deacon of the Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

The crowd listening to these parables knows all too well that the mustard seed is an invasive weed. It is the last thing anyone wants in their field!

No one in their right mind would ever sow mustard seeds. Well . . . no one, unless you are God. Remember, in these parables Christ is describing God's love. And like the sower who casts the mustard seeds that are rejected by most, this parable reminds us that God's love encompasses all and reaches even those that are rejected . . . those who are on the fringes . . . those who are broken. God's love reaches the divorced, the gay,

the depressed, the homeless, the jobless, and the addicted. Our personal weeds grow together with our wheat. But no matter how many mustard seeds we have, God's love reaches each of us and fills us with forgiveness. And the best news yet? It is freely given by God to all of us and can't be earned.

There is nothing we can do more of or less of in order to gain more favor or more love from God. All we are called to do is to be open to this incredible gift of God and, in turn, to reach out to others with this same love.

But all too often, as we are reminded in the parable of the wheat and the weeds, we allow our egos to take over. We focus on what we want and what we think, based on our own reference points, judging who are the worthy and unworthy—rejecting others, rejecting ourselves, and thus rejecting God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Mi. 6:1-4, 6-8/Mt. 12:38-42

Tuesday: Mi. 7:14-15, 18-20/Mt. 12:46-50

Wednesday: Sg. 3:1-4b or 2 Cor. 5:14-17/Jn. 20:1-2, 11-18

Thursday: Jer. 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Mt. 13:10-17

Friday: Jer. 3:14-17/Mt. 13:18-23

Saturday: 2 Cor. 4:7-15/Mt. 20:20-28

Sunday: 1 Kgs. 3:5, 7-12/Rom. 8:28-30/Mt. 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Parents plant values in their children anticipating the tiny seeds of honesty, respect, commitment and fidelity will grow with their child and one day become "a safe haven" to many.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Parishioners at an Erie parish recently received an email from a scam artist claiming to be their pastor and requesting financial help. Be cautious about sharing personal information:

In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information - including a request for gift cards of any type - exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.

WORSHIP

Monday, July 20
 8:00 am + For healing of Jonathan (Grams)
 St. Anthony of Padua Novena After Mass
 Tuesday, July 21
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Wednesday, July 22
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, July 23
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Friday, July 24
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Saturday, July 25
 4:30 pm + Harold W. Schmidt (Friends)
 Sunday, July 26
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Gary Parkin (Parishioner)
 11:30 am + TRADITIONAL LATIN MASS
 Katherine Wesdock (Alan Wolfe)

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.

REMINDER:

Parishioners are

REQUIRED

to wear a face mask in church

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

PARISH
 EVENTS
 HAVE BEEN
 SUSPENDED
 UNTIL
 FURTHER NOTICE

ROOF PROJECT

Work has begun on the roof project. Thanks to all who gave so generously to help pay for the project. As happens often, more damage was discovered and so the project will cost more than originally projected. If you can help financially, we would be most grateful.

“Lord, may you always be the center of my life.”

CHILD PROTECTION
AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Know the Warning Signs of Abuse: Those who abuse children look like everyone else. They don't look like scary people that we should know to avoid. Rather, most abusers are known to the child, such as the parent, sibling, parent's paramour, parent's spouse, other relative or babysitter. One of the most important ways to ensure the safety of children in our environments is to know the warning signs of adults who present a risk of harm to children. Among these signs are when the person (1) always wants to be alone with children in areas where no one can monitor the interactions, (2) allows children to do things their parents would not permit, (3) is always more excited to be with children than with adults, and (4) discourages others from participating in activities involving kids. For more information and resources visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/>

STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Offertory	\$330.00
Maintenance	10.00
Candles	10.00
TOTAL	\$350.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$5,365 Paid: \$4,965

STEWARDSHIP—ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$928.00
Maintenance	572.00
Roof Donation	40.00
Candles	16.00
Rice Bowl	10.00
Peter's Pence	10.00
National Needs	5.00
CSA	110.00
TOTAL	\$1,691.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$25,450 Paid: \$21,867.50

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
