

The Work of the People

The Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We come to the final Sunday in June, 2020 and, with that, we have lived through half of this present calendar year. I remember back in January of 2020 thinking that 2019 was a very challenging and, in some ways, stressful year. I was happy to turn the page of the calendar and move into a new year with renewed hope. Obviously, I had no idea of what was to come. So, here we are nearly in July and some are still taking the pandemic seriously and some are ignoring it. I don't agree that ignoring it will make it go away.

On a more hopeful note, on Monday, June 22 we celebrated Confirmation for the three young people who were candidates in our parish. It was a small and quiet celebration but one, nonetheless, that was very meaningful. I respect and applaud these three for their commitment to the process and to the responsibilities of living in our world as a Christian. Congratulations to Isaac Levis, Robert Moats, and Andrea Walker.

This weekend we celebrate the Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. A central theme of today's readings is accepting death to receive life. What a paradox! In the First Reading, we hear the story of the Shunammite woman's son. Because of her great hospitality, the prophet Elisha promised her a son. Today's reading does not include the sequel. The woman later gave birth to a son, but then the child died so she went to find Elisha and made him return with her in order to heal her son and bring him back to life.

In today's Second Reading, Paul reflects on Christian Baptism. He says it is like going down into death with Christ so that the baptized can come into new life with him. The Greek word baptizo means "to dip" or "to submerge." Paul's hearers would have understood this powerful metaphor of life out of death, because early Christians practiced adult Baptism by immersion.

Today's Gospel consists of two sets of short sayings attributed to Jesus. The first set centers on the cost of discipleship, while the second focuses on hospitality. The themes are appropriate because this reading is part of what was traditionally called the "mission discourse." The saying that embraces the whole of the mission discourse is "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."

The reflection for this Sunday is from J. Peter Nixon who holds a Master's degree in theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University.

Even by conservative estimates, there are upwards of 70 million people around the world today who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, poverty, threats of violence and other catastrophes. A concern for these people has been a defining mark of Pope Francis's pontificate. Last fall, at the unveiling of a life-size sculpture of migrants and refugees in St. Peter's

Square, Pope Francis insisted that as Christians, "we cannot remain insensitive, our hearts deadened, before the misery of so many innocent people."

The rising tide of nationalism around the world seems to have made it more difficult for us to take the Holy Father's words to heart. We fear the impact of these desperate millions on our culture, economics, and politics. I know deacons and priests who, having preached on the subject, have had congregants walk out during their homilies or received angry letters afterward.

Such a reaction is often a "prophet's reward." As Jesus suggests today, the radicalism of the Gospel may lead us into solidarity with those who are outside the bonds of family, tribe, and nation. Such solidarity may be costly and demand risk and change on our part. But our Lord does not promise a settled and comfortable life. He calls us to take up the cross and follow after him.

The woman from Shunem can show us the way. Going beyond the bounds of normal hospitality, she creates a true dwelling for the prophetic Word, allowing it to transform her everyday life. The result is a blessing beyond her expectations.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 12:1-11/2 Tm. 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt. 16:13-19
 Tuesday: Am. 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Mt. 8:23-27
 Wednesday: Am. 5:14-15, 21-24/Mt. 8:28-34
 Thursday: Am. 7:10-17/Mt. 9:1-8
 Friday: Eph. 2:19-22/Jn. 20:24-29
 Saturday: Am. 9:11-15/Mt. 9:14-17
 Sunday: Zec. 9:9-10/Rom. 8:9, 11-13/Mt. 11:25-30

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Today's gospel challenges us to resist the individualism of our culture. Everything we are and have is pure gift which we are expected to share especially to the "lowly ones." What has been freely given needs to be shared freely. No strings attached.

*"Jesus,
 I believe you are always with me!
 Help me to cast aside all gloominess
 and find joy in your presence!"*

WORSHIP

Monday, June 29
8:00 am + John Auer
Tuesday, June 30
8:00 am + For the Healing of Joe Miller (Jeanne Miller)
Wednesday, July 1
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, July 2
8:00 am + Irene Laubach (M/M Nelson Allen)
Friday, July 3
8:00 am + Robert Wronko (Joan Rembielak)
Saturday, July 4
8:00 am + Dec. of Coronavirus Pandemic
(Dale & Carole Schoiack)
Sunday, July 5
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Edward Kargol (Josie Osiecki)

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 MASK

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

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

PARISH
EVENTS
HAVE BEEN
SUSPENDED
UNTIL
FURTHER
NOTICE

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Marriage advice from 1886: "Let your love be stronger than your anger... Believe the best rather than the worst...Remember that true friendship is the basis for any lasting relationship. The person you choose to marry is deserving of the courtesies and kindnesses you bestow on your friends."
(Jane Wells, 1886)

CHICKEN BBQ

Westbury's Chicken BBQ is offering drive-thru take-out meals! Meals are available on the first come first served basis starting at noon on Sunday, July 19, until 4:00 pm or until they run out. The cost is \$10/meal.

*"Holy Spirit,
help me to hear you speaking
through the people you will
place in my path today."*

STEWARDSHIP - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Offertory	\$405.00
Peter's Pence	10.00
TOTAL	\$415.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$5,525 Paid: \$4,675

STEWARDSHIP—ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Offertory	\$2,066.00
Maintenance	219.00
Peter's Pence	20.00
Candles	43.00
St. Anthony CSA	150.00
TOTAL	\$2,498.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$23,300.00 Paid: \$18,577.50

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
