

July 12, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

• *ST. PIUS X*
(*OLON SPRINGS*)

• *ST. ANTHONY*
(*GORDON*)

• *ST. MARY*
(*MINONG*)

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:
"A sower went out to sow...Some seed fell among thorns,
and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell
on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or
thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

— Mt 13:3, 7-9

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Parish Staff

Pastor

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<https://www.stspiusmaryanthony.com/stewardship>

Office Hours: (usual hours)

Tues - Fri 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Closed Monday & Weekends

Office Staff

Luanne Gasperek—Bookkeeper/
Secretary
378-4431 - ext 2

New Parishioners

Call the office (378-4431) to
register full or part-time.

Religious Formation/Church Services

715-378-4431 - ext 3

RCIA

715-378-4431 - ext 3

Office E-mail: stpiusx@centurytel.net

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Web Links

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Mass Schedule

All public masses are cancelled until further
notice. See website for other options to par-
take in the mass.

<https://www.stspiusmaryanthony.com/>

Visitation of the Sick

We are most eager to help
anyone who cannot celebrate
Mass with us because of illness,
handicap or age. If you wish to
receive the sacrament please
call the rectory. Please notify us
of any hospitalizations so that
we may be of assistance.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Due to the Covid-19 virus
the Sacrament of Reconciliation (only
through a screen- 6 feet away) will be at
St Pius in Solon every Wednesday from
12-3 pm and parishioners must call Fr.
Kinney directly if they are coming to that
service or choose to arrange for a time
that is more convenient

The second collection this
weekend is for the Building
Fund.

Please patronize our advertis-
ers and thank them for their
generous support.

Daily Masses

There will be no public masses until further notice but Fr. Kinney will be holding private masses every day except Monday. Mass intentions will be said by Fr. Kinney during those private masses.

Mass Intentions: Tuesday, July 14th, Kevin Kinney—from Rev. James Kinney
Sunday, July 18th, Dot Zumwalt—from Friends of Dot
Sunday, July 19th, Don Leinwander—from Polly Leinwander & Family

From the Pastor's Desk

J. Andrew Edwards, on last Sunday's scripture, gives us a remedy for curing pride of nation vs. God's meekness

We tend to like politicians from humble origins. Sure, we are often enamored with royalty, but such fascination typically reflects interest in an imagined, romantic version of the past. Today, we value political leadership achieved through democracy, the will of the people, and that usually means we like our leaders to be ordinary people. Even when a leader is not like the rest of us, he or she is likely to spin a narrative that emphasizes more humble origins. Any actions or statements with a whiff of an air of superiority are best avoided; they are political gaffes that can ruin a campaign.

Just think of the appeal of the classic film *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*. Under Frank Capra's direction, Jimmy Stewart's everyman aw-shucks his way into the US Senate. In fact, it is his very character as a normal guy-on-the-street that throws the corruption and ambition of DC politics into sharp relief. We want our leaders to be like us

Such political values have not always been so prevalent, however. For many throughout history, the demonstration of power—rather than humility—has been the key to political success. People have often wanted someone in charge who would get things done and lead their people into victory. Even divine power has, on occasion, been claimed for those in charge of kingdoms and empires, as this or that dynasty was believed to have been blessed or ordained by God.

We flinch at—or at least give pause to—such assertions today, but they are not unheard of. We want to be on the right side of history, after all, and if we think that God has chosen our leaders, then we may pat ourselves on the back, as our will and God's will appear to be the same. Our own political preferences are also God's, so we must be right—right?

Wrong! The scriptures frequently call out such hubris. The prophets exposed the kings for exercising power without justice, and Jesus and the apostles proclaimed a new kingdom altogether. In our reading from the prophet Zechariah, for instance, we hear that a king shall come to Jerusalem, “a just savior . . . meek, and riding on an ass.”

“Meek” is not a word we often use, but in this context, it means “lowly” or “humble.” That this king would ride on a common donkey rather than a mighty horse gives the impression that this is not the kind of leader who is enamored of his own power. Granted, he will successfully expel the invading empires (“banish the chariot from Ephraim and the horse from Jerusalem”), but he will do so by proclaiming peace rather than by waging war. What a leader that would be—meek, humble, and down-to-earth, yet one who can get things done and do so without conflict!

Can you imagine? What a respite from the ugliness of our political battles that would be! Such a leader would be a breath of fresh air, or a welcome salve for a wounded nation.

In our gospel reading, Jesus reveals that he provides such rest. “Come to me all you who labor and are burdened,” he proclaims. “Learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.”

Such a message should indeed provide relief in our acrimonious political atmosphere. Not that Jesus would run for the US Senate—his kingdom is not of this world. But when we feel exhausted from political campaigns and commercials, by the sorry state of our world, and by our failure to communicate with one another within our common polis, we may find solace in our Lord Jesus Christ. This is not escapism, as politics are indeed of the utmost importance in securing a just and peaceful world—but as Christians we must also admit that all our actions reside within the larger sphere of God's grace.

As St. Augustine opened his *Confessions*, our hearts are indeed restless until we find our rest in God. Jesus, although he was God, exercised and modeled humility for us all. And in that humility, we may rest from our own pretensions to greatness. God is not on our side over against their side; he is on the side of the poor and the powerless over against their oppressors. And in that we may find our rest.

06/28/20	Solon	Gordon	Minong
Envelopes	280.00	191.00	1065.00
Loose Change			
Fuel			
Building Fund	20.00	4.00	
Catholic Herald			
Haiti	20.00		22.00
Nat'l Concerns	55.00		10.00
Total	\$375.00	\$195.00	\$1097.00
CSA Goals	\$10,531	\$6,789	\$13,639
CSA Results (5/4/2020)	7572.00	5582.50	6905.00
% of Goal	72%	82%	51%
Electronic Donations (Monthly)	565.00	235.00	308.17

Pray For our friends and neighbors who are ill or homebound. If you know someone who should be put on or removed from this list, please call the office.

Janet Henrkson	Joseph Treb
Dawn DenHartog	John Poole
Patty Cosgrove	Patricia Burgraff
Tamara Frie	Virginia Bartelt
Marlene Lucas	Darlene Flamang
Linda Sanders	Patti Joswick
Daryl Erickson	Joe Kaufman
LaVerne Treb	

Readings for the week of July 12, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14 [Lk 8:8]/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 [23b]/Mt 10:34-11:1
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8 [cf. 9d]/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15 [14a]/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21 [20b]/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16 [cf. 17b]/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14 [12b]/Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 [5a]/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Communion Service

Sundays from 12:30–2:30 pm at St. Pius. Reservations are required and **MUST** be made before 4 pm on Fridays by calling the parish office, 715-378-4431 ext 2 or ext 4.

Update from Nicaraguan Mission

Our tri-parish has provided some financial support to this mission and below is a brief synopsis from them:

The Joseph Ukpo Hospitals and Research Institutes is a Catholic mission that is creating hospitals and research institutes in South-east Nigeria that provide high quality healthcare for free to the poor and underserved while also conducting research to advance the entire field of medicine. Since commissioning our first site in June 2018, we have provided free care at over 6,500 patient consultations through our outpatient, inpatient, and surgical services. In addition to this, we have provided free care to over 3,500 patients through our mobile clinic outreaches since our mission began. Since we are volunteer based, we are able to have extremely low operating costs and provide care at routine visits like testing for and treating malaria for an average cost to us of around \$6 per patient.

Recently we have been focusing heavily on the COVID-19 outbreak. Our team has played a major role in coordinating the region's response, making masks to distribute, continuing to care for patients, and even conducting research to steer national action. We recently started a multi-center COVID study to see how prevalent COVID is in our region since not many tests had been done. Our preliminary results were so drastic (25% of participants tested positive for having had the virus at some point), we published these initial findings and already the state's public health department held an emergency meeting and made a statement encouraging certain actions in light of our findings! (For those interested, here is the link to the pre-print: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.02.20145441v1>)

Also, here is the link to our website for more information: <https://www.juhri.org/>

Kids Corner

Hey Kids!

Have you seen the beautiful banner hanging in St. Pius of the **first Native American saint, St. Kateri Tekakwitha**? Kateri was born in 1656 to an Algonquin mother and a Mohawk father. She got smallpox when she was four years old. Her mother, father, and the rest of her family died in that smallpox epidemic so she was an orphan and lived with her uncle. Kateri's face was so scarred from the smallpox that the other kids made so much fun of her face that she covered her face with a blanket. But all those scars didn't keep Kateri from doing lots of good things for other people. She chose to be baptized and took the name of "Catherine." But now you could take the name "Kateri" for baptism or when you get confirmed because Pope Benedict canonized her a saint in 2012 and her feast day is July 14th. She is the **patroness of ecology and the environment, people in exile and Native Americans**. So how could you celebrate Kateri's feast day in a really special way this year?