

JULY 19, 2020

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew is filled with lessons both cautionary and consoling for the Christian steward as Jesus uses several parables to describe the kingdom of heaven and our role in it.



First, He compares it to a field where both wheat and weeds have been sown. Both weeds and wheat are permitted to grow and only at harvest time are they separated, or “judged” — the wheat gathered into the sower's barn and the weeds finally destroyed. So it will be for each of us at the end of our time on earth. It is a sobering reminder of the justice of God.

Next, He says the kingdom of heaven is like the small portion of yeast that is mixed in with flour for the making of bread. The yeast makes up an insignificant fraction of the ingredients, yet it is vital to the outcome — without that tiny bit of yeast, the bread simply will not rise. Similarly, He compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, “the smallest of all the seeds.” But when it is full-grown it becomes the largest of all the plants, a sturdy and hardy bush where “birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.”

So often, the prayers we pray, the service we offer, the gifts we give — in comparison to the immense needs around us — can seem laughably small. But, as Jesus makes clear through the images of yeast and mustard seed, that is not the truth! God sees and “grows” our offerings of time, talent and treasure in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

In justice, in gratitude, in love, let us remain faithful to the mission entrusted to our care for the building of the kingdom of heaven.

— *Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship*

PARISH CALENDAR

Monday, July 20

8:30 a.m. - Helen & Edmond Michaud †
The Stasiak Family

Tuesday, July 21

8:30 a.m. - Bernadette Lynch †
Rosemary McNamee †

Wednesday, July 22

8:30 a.m. - Joseph Kukovica †
Tom Roselli †

Thursday, July 23

No Mass

Friday, July 24

8:30 a.m. - Kevin Canough †

Saturday, July 25

5:00 p.m. - Leonard Michaud †
Special Intention for Aton Oblak

Sunday, July 26

9:00 a.m. - Maria Bak †
11:00 a.m. - Mass for the People

ARE YOU BEING CALLED?

*“The Spirit too helps us in our weakness,
for we do not know how to pray as we ought.”*

Do you approach the Lord in prayer with the confident strength given by the Holy Spirit asking that He make known your unique vocation? If God may be inviting you to consider the priesthood or consecrated life, call Fr. Greg at our parish office 905 684 5603 or email frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com.

CITY OF ST. CATHARINES BY-LAW

In view of the new by-law which came into effect on July 17, 2020, Bishop Bergie directs the following:

- All parishioners in the City of St. Catharines are asked to comply with the new by-law by wearing a mask when entering a church. Exceptions pertain to those with medical issues and those under the age of 10.
- No one will be denied entry into a church if they fail to comply.
- All are reminded that it is strongly recommended that Communion is by hand. Communicants are instructed to remove their masks while the person ahead of them is receiving Holy Communion.

SPECIAL INTENTIONS

Do you know of someone in need of prayers for healing? Please contact the church office to add them to our weekly intentions.

“LIFE IS...WHAT HAPPENS WHILE YOU ARE MAKING OTHER PLANS.”

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