

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

June 17, 2018

Welcome, Father Augustine

Please extend a warm welcome to Father Augustine John Temu next weekend for our annual missionary cooperative visit for Propagation of the Faith. He is representing the Diocese of Kogoma in Tanzania.

Since the 1960s his Diocese has experienced the influx of refugees from surrounding countries. There is an urgent need for funds to support the refugee care and service they provide which offers spiritual and pastoral services to these needy people. Your help would be much appreciated.

Bake Sale Today at Holy Family

Stop by after 8 Mass at Holy Family today to pick up savory baked goods -- take some home to pops! Thank you to all who baked for this sale!

Graduates' Reception & Coffee Hour

Drop by the reception/coffee hour celebrating this year's graduates next Sunday after the 11:15 am Mass at St. John. Come extend your best wishes.

St. Peter Coffee Hour on the 24th

Celebrate the beginning of summer by enjoying some camaraderie (& coffee!) next Sunday after Mass.

Healing Mass Next Sunday at Paul

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Hancock will be celebrating a charismatic-style Mass for Healing on June 24 at 2 pm. Experience the healing power of our Lord alive and active in the world! Individual prayers for healing and laying on of hands by Father Richard McAlear will follow Mass.

GRIEF MINISTRY

If you have suffered loss recently or a while ago, our Grief Ministry is available to help by offering solace and empathy. Mission Statement: To provide a listening ear, compassion, and possible recommendations/direction for a positive life journey moving forward with the help of our Faith! Contact Kathy: 607.376.1633, katscr74@gmail.com.

Catholic Communications Campaign

This weekend's annual Catholic Communications Campaign continues to fund efforts to connect people with Christ here and around the world. Funds collected have been utilized to launch the Catholic Pledge to End the Death Penalty and also contributed to Catholics becoming more engaged through prayer and advocacy to promote a culture of mercy and justice. (Fifty percent of this collection remains in our diocese to fund local communication efforts.) Thank you for your donation.

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

Summer officially begins June 21. Traditionally this is a time of rest and vacations. Have you planned a get-away for just the two of you? Even if you can't take a "real" vacation fantasize together about a dream vacation either at home or away. A staycation (a week at home, an intentional time of fun and relaxation for the whole family) counts also.

Catholic Charities RAFFLE

On June 30 and July 1, Catholic Charities representatives from our parish will partner with the Knights of Columbus to sell tickets for the annual raffle after all Masses. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, and there are three money prizes-- First Prize: \$1,200, Second Prize: \$500, and Third Prize: \$250. Catholic Charities celebrates over 100 years of assisting the poor and vulnerable in our area and the proceeds from this raffle help us to continue our mission. Pamphlets are available outlining the organization's continuing role. Only 300 tickets will be sold for this raffle. Thank you for your support and good luck!

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Parenting is a lot like the story of the farmer in the Gospel parable. All growth is the Lord's work. We have no control over the process. In fact the farmer doesn't understand it, for the seed grows even when he sleeps. As parents we can influence our children, but nothing we do can guarantee results.

Gospel Reflection

[After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days -- Pentecost, Most Holy Trinity, and Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ -- the Church returns to Ordinary Time.] This Sunday's Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal His identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, He warns those cured to tell no one (Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, 8:26). When preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern His message. Only to His disciples does He explain the parable's meaning in private later.

Today's Gospel consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is "how it is with the kingdom of God." A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by His life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and His group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God's kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus' part of the world would have sown; and as small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God's kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and His kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church, and the mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time all we need is faith.

Introducing ...

First Saturday Devotion at St. John

During her 1917 apparitions, our Lady of Fatima said, "Jesus wishes to establish in the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary," known today as First Saturday Devotion.

To learn more about the story of Our Lady of Fatima and requirements for making the First Saturdays, leaflets and pamphlets are available on the table at the rear of church. We encourage you to take them upon leaving church.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

"Our Father, who art in heaven ..." Note that we say "Our" Father not "My" Father since God is father to all the children of the earth. Yes, remember your own father on today, but also remember those children whose father is absent, unemployed, deployed in a foreign land, abusive, or in some other way not present. Can you be like a father to someone who needs you?

Health Services of Older Refugees

The next Telephone Teach-in is this Tuesday the 19th at 10 am. New York State has a long history of being a place of hope for refugees. Learn about: the challenges faced by older refugees, past successes & failures in developing services, how to help them to integrate and thrive, etc.

Reserve your spot by calling 800.333.4374. On Tuesday dial 1.712.832.8300, press 6258645.

~ Bishop's Appeal Pledges & Gifts ~ thebishopsappeal.org

	Gifts & Pledges	# of Parish Members	Total	Deficit
St. John:	27	324	\$6,387	\$12,955
St. Peter:	29	157	9,680	5,577

Diocesan payment statements will be mailed shortly so send your payments directly to the RCDA Stewardship & Development Office, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203 for up-to-date balances.