

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

JUNE 13, 2021

SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS for June 20th 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 38:1, 8-11

No matter what storms may rage, God has set bounds to them.

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Because Christ has died for us, the life of one is to be lived for the life of all.

Mark 4:35-41

It doesn't matter what we are threatened with, as long as we remember that Christ is with us to put an end to our fear.

WEEKDAY MASSES June 15 - 18

Tues: 5:00 pm +Joseph Karas, Sr.

Wed: 8:40 am +Alice Metzger

Thurs: 5:00 pm +Margaret Hiltner

Fri: 10:30 am **Maple Manor** +Rallan Beck **(No Public is Allowed)**

WEEKEND MASSES June 19 - 20

Sat: 5:00 pm St. Edward's - Nekoma People of the Parishes

7:30 pm St. Alphonsus +Joe & Ella Kram

Reader: Colin Fetsch

EMHC: Carol Hoffarth

Sun: 8:30 am St. Alphonsus +Bill Scheffer

Reader: Kitty Bachman

EMHC: Dennis Karsky

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

St. Michael's - Wales **NO MASS AT WALES TODAY**

10:30 am St. Alphonsus +Frank & Lucy Agnes

Reader: Zack Schaefer

EMHC: Darlene Rutledge

Musicians: Bob & Cantor

Fellowship Hall Host: Dennis & Diane Schill

Fr. Michael Hickin's cell phone: 701-891-1238

Website for St. Alphonsus Parish - <http://www.stalphonsuslangdon.com/>

Confessions: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays after Mass or by appointment

Weekly Reflection for June 6, 2021: This week's reflection of the parishioner's relationship with God and with the parish

Adult Envelopes	\$5,758.00
Intentional Givers	\$2,876.67
Plate	\$430.00
Children	\$5.00
Fuel	\$15.00
Total	\$9,084.67

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The ministry of Oscar Romero is itself a parable of the mystery of the kingdom of God which Jesus announces – the kingdom which encapsulates humanity's deepest hopes. Jesus' first parable today tells us that just as seed grows without the knowledge or activity of the farmer who sowed it, so God's kingdom will grow in the same unstoppable way. The seed has an inner dynamic to grow and become a rich harvest. It's a wonderful expression of the power of God at work in our world, irrespective of human efforts either to encourage or to thwart that growth. It conveys absolute trust in God's power to achieve God's purposes and realize God's plan, which is the flourishing of the kingdom in all its fullness – a kingdom of love, justice, peace and freedom. The parable contains a hope-filled promise: the harvest time will come. This image of reaping the harvest is drawn from the prophet Joel, who affirmed his absolute certainty that, no matter what, God's plan will be accomplished.

Jesus' second parable expresses a related truth about the kingdom. This time Jesus draws imagery from the prophet Ezekiel, who spoke of God's kingdom becoming like a mighty cedar towering above all others, offering protection and security to all peoples, represented by the birds of every kind which can rest in its shade. Jesus uses the example of the mustard seed to respond to those who question his vision of the future greatness of the kingdom he is ushering in. Although the kingdom has only small beginnings – rooted in the life and ministry of one man, Jesus – just like the mustard seed, it has the potential of greatness within it and can become the biggest of all shrubs, able to offer welcome to all.

Taken from *The Living Word*

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil." - 2

CORINTHIANS 5:10

We are all accountable for all of the gifts God has given us – our time, our talent and our treasure; everything we have and everything we are. Each of us is accountable not only for our own life but for the lives of others as well. One day God will ask each of us what did we do with the gifts we were given. How will you respond?

SUMMER CLASS - Back in February, while on the treadmill at the Activity Center, I was listening to an audio book on mindfulness.

Its one thing to believe that God is Father-Son-Holy Spirit, quite another to be aware of this belief in the day to day.

Mindfulness is about working on our awareness.

"The popularity of mindfulness in the western world has skyrocketed in recent years.

It's on the cover of magazines and appears on the evening news. Celebrities swear by it, scientists study it, monks still practice it and business leaders use it to thwart burnout."

Forbes, Sept 29, 2017.

There is a debate abroad about whether mindfulness is in harmony or at odds with Catholic spirituality. Like gardening, it's a technique, a skillset.

Ten years ago, I read *Into the Silent Land*, a thorough introduction into our ancient Catholic practice of contemplation. The mindfulness tradition finds itself quite at home there.

To discover a bit more what mindfulness is about, I decided to take the plunge and offer a summer-long course open to anyone in our local community.

WHAT: THE MINDFULNESS TRADITION: LISTEN, DISCUSS, PRACTICE

WHERE: LANGDON ACTIVITY CENTER

WHEN: 10:00 A.M., TUESDAY & THURSDAY, JUNE-AUGUST

COST: FREE WILL DONATION

We will listen to a lecture series followed by discussions with optional shared practices. Our lecturer, Prof. Mark W. Muesse, delivered 24 thirty-minute lectures on *Practicing Mindfulness: An Introduction to Meditation* in 2011 for "The Great Courses" series. We'll watch a lesson on DVD, and then have an open-ended discussion, basically comparing the lesson to what we know of Christ and his way of life.

We can also set up opportunities, according to the possibilities and desire of participants, to put the wisdom learned into practice and learn from one another's experience.

A small group has begun to meet, enjoy and learn from one another and our lecturer, Prof. Mark W. Muesse. His 24 thirty-minute DVD lectures on *Practicing Mindfulness: An Introduction to Meditation* will forever change the way you see yourself. Join anytime. Quit anytime. See if it's for you. 2 lessons down; 22 more to go.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

OFFICE HOURS: The week starting June 14th Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:00am – 12:00pm

ABSENT PASTOR - June 21-25, I will be attending a conference of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests in Minneapolis. Fr. McDermott will be here for Thursday, June 24 and Friday, June 25 Masses. Tuesday & Wednesday of that week we will have to cancel our daily Masses. Sorry about that.

Langdon Presbyterian Church will be having a summer luncheon on Wednesday, June 16th at 12 noon, lunch is \$10.00. Speaker will be Sue Mackey, with a silent auction also

TRUST, THE ANTIDOTE TO IGNORANCE - Kids ask lots of questions. It can be fun to satisfy their hungry minds. Older they get, the harder it is to do. Definitive, black-and-white answers gradually prove ineffective. 15 seconds on a smart phone often shows how complex matters are.

As we mature, it's healthy to keep curiosity alive, enjoy fresh discoveries, and learn to be at peace with 'not knowing'.

Jesus' parables today speak profound truths in ordinary language. That's his genius.

In the first parable, the farmer scatters seed and lets nature take its course. Harvest comes at last.

If we get discouraged by slow progress, Jesus offers an insight.

God's Kingdom spreads and grows even when we don't see it or understand it. We have a part to play in bringing about love and justice, just as the farmer has a role to play in the coming of the final harvest. But Jesus warns us against overestimating our role. As St Paul wrote, 'Neither the one who plants, nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.'^{1Cor 3:7}

The 2nd parable reminds us that God works in surprising ways. The tiny mustard seed becomes a large shrub. Insignificant beginnings can lead to wonderful results. The Kingdom of God is like that. It starts off small, seemingly insignificant. Often faith appears small. Our efforts don't seem to add up to much. Things often don't look like they're getting better. The mustard seed holds the secret to a bountiful tree with many branches for many birds. But for today, we just believe it.

Jesus does his flock a favour. He teaches them to be content with a small contribution. Leave the Big Picture of a world-transformed to him. Appreciate little things and small gestures.

When we trust the seed of faith, the littleness of what appears, we're not congratulating our ignorance, we're investing in Someone who knows best.

These two short parables teach us to see how every person makes a difference. Everything we do counts.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

**God our Father, from eternity You called Your only begotten Son
to be the High Priest of the human race.**

Pour Your Holy Spirit upon the Diocese of Fargo.

Purify the hearts of all to hear their personal calling.

In an extra outpouring of grace, multiply vocations to the priesthood.

Lord Jesus, give us holy priests:

To serve your Holy People;

To study your Word and share it generously;

To offer the sacrifice of the Mass

and feed hungry pilgrims with the Bread of Life;

To lead the little ones to You;

To strengthen the faith of believers;

To shower sinners with forgiveness;

To comfort the suffering;

To hold the hands of the dying;

To spread Your Kingdom everywhere and always.

Mary, Mother of our High Priest, pray for us;

Obtain for us an increase of holy priests.

All this we ask in the Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus, Our Lord. Amen.