I, the Lord,
bring low the high tree,
lift high the lowly tree,
wither up the green tree,
and make the withered tree bloom.
As I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do.

EZEKIEL 17:24

June 14, 2015

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

199 Brandon Rd., Pleasant Hill

Sunday, 6/14
- Flag Day
Monday, 6/15
- Rosary & Perpetual Help, Church 7pm
- Spanish Prayer, Church, 7:30pm
- Knights of Columbus, Parish Hall 7pm

Wednesday 06/17
- St. Vincent de Paul, Min. Ctr 7:00 pm

Thursday, 06/18
- Centering Prayer, Min. Ctr 10:00 am
- RCIA, Chapel 7:00 pm

Friday, 06/19
- No Garden Café

Saturday, 06/20
- Men’s Fellowship, Min. Ctr 7:30 am
- Sec Franciscans, Min. Ctr 9:00 am

Sunday, 06/21
- Happy Father’s Day!

To Hear the Gospel and Make a Difference
Fellow Parishioners,
If you are anything like me you are taking your first deep breath after a very busy spring and starting to let the slower summer days, unwind you. I hope this letter finds you looking forward to some vacations and weekend trips to enjoy the outdoors, or simply relishing the joy of getting home from work with several hours of daylight left to enjoy. I find that when I slow down and relax a bit, I just naturally begin to reflect on life, to reimagine my goals, and to daydream about my future plans. It’s the same reason why we get our best ideas in the shower or right before bed! This week’s Gospel is the parable of the mustard seed, and it is the perfect guide for the season of daydreams as it gives us the truest and simplest recipe for achieving our goals.

Just admit it, at least once you have picked up a magazine, bought a book, or followed a program because it promised you that you could “change your life in 3 easy steps”. We all know deep down that there is no secret, no trick to making your life better, that the only true answer is to do the work, to be disciplined and to commit to what it is we are trying to do. Forget the health gurus, the magazine covers and the self-help books. Turn straight to the truly life-changing source of wisdom, Jesus Christ. In this week’s Gospel, he gives you the best advice anyone could and no matter what your goal is this summer, no matter how grandiose your daydreams get, if you follow it, you too can change your life.

He said,
“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?
It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches.”

So how does this change your life, you are asking? Here it is in 3 easy steps:
1. Start small. Trying to completely change your lifestyle and habits all at once is a recipe for failure, pick one manageable starting place and commit to it.
2. Plant in Fertile Ground. Surround yourself with people who encourage and nourish your dreams, find a community of people working toward similar goals and allow them to inspire and challenge you.
3. Cultivate your seed. Sowing implies a method not just scattering the seed and leaving it to its own devices, but planting rows, watering and weeding. Hand sowing seeds is labor intensive and achieving your goals is too. Commit every day to your tiny practice and be amazed at what springs up.

Now if only I could get myself to follow Jesus’ advice!

Happy daydreaming,

Your Associate,

Kate Doherty
Invitation to be a Catechist (teacher): Are you willing to share your time and gift of faith with our parish children? Want to meet dedicated, generous and enthusiastic catechists? We have an opening in grades 1-3 (afternoons) and grade 7/8 (evenings). We provide in-service, curriculum and support for all in our ministry. Learn more about our Religious Education program. Call Sr. Maureen and arrange for an appointment, 686-1174 or mvianicktke@gmail.com. Come, share, decide - no strings attached.

There’s room for everyone! Grades 7/8, teens and adults. Liturgy of the Word for children in grades 1-5 is held during the 9:15 am mass each Sunday. We need more help with set-up and assistants. Everything is prepared for you. Your commitment: once a month (Sept - April). If interested, call 925-686-1174 for more information. Hoping to have our teams completed by the end of June. Thanks for your support.

Christ the King
will again be participating in Pleasant Hill’s annual fourth of July parade! If you are part of a CTK group or ministry and would like to walk with us and/or if you have a convertible car and would like to drive in the parade, please email Kate at katedoherty.ctk@gmail.com for more information. All are welcome at this fun event!

CTK youth mass is every Sunday at 6:30 pm in June. However, in July the youth mass will begin at 6:00 pm for the remaining of the year. Please join us! Everyone is welcome, 6:30 pm Sundays for the month of June, then we will change to our permanent 6:00 pm mass time from July on.


Effective July 1, 2015, the parish offices will be closing Monday-Friday at 5:00 pm. If you will be requiring a key to any of the facilities, please make arrangements to pick it up before 5:00 pm. Most Saturdays the office will continue to be open from 9:00 until 4:00 pm.

Pleasant Hill Fourth of July Commission is looking for volunteers to help with their downtown event. Please contact Peter at 415-377-5857 if you would like to help.

Join Fr. Paulson on a tour to India!

Fr. Paulson and his brother, Santhosh, will both be celebrating their 25th anniversary of ordination in 2016. Their family will mark the occasion with a special celebration on January 9, 2016. Since several of Fr. Paulson’s friends have been asking about a trip to India, he has decided to lead a trip January 3-17, 2016, in which he would like to share his cultural and spiritual heritage with you. For more information, contact Fr. Paulson at pmundamanni@gmail.com or stop by the parish office and pick up an information packet.

Church Support 6/7/15 $21,227; Bldg. fund $410.00 Online Giving $15,061.00; Nepal: $12,306; Catholic Ed: $3400.00
Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person.

- Archbishop William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, on the "Freedom to Bear Witness".

The Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness will take place from June 21 to July 4, 2015, a time when our liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year's Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

GOD'S WORD TODAY

In today’s Gospel, Jesus is presented to us as the master storyteller. He loved to use parables as a tool for comparing one thing to something else. In most of his parables, Jesus revealed who God is by comparing God’s essence or actions with something familiar to his listeners. In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus proclaims a marvelous and irrefutable truth. His small band of disciples, as insignificant as they may have felt, would one day produce a mighty kingdom whose growth was initiated by God. The seeds of this kingdom were planted by God and it is God who will harvest the fruit brought forth from those seeds. The extent of the growth of God’s kingdom cannot be predicted. We must trust the work of the Master’s hand as we, the mustard plant, grow and grow.

From Saint Margaret Sunday Missal,