

The Bells of St. Mary's The Church of the Immaculate Conception

Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

From Rev. Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP

Fifteenth Sunday of the Year

Today being the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate Christ who came to sow the seed of the WORD OF GOD in our hearts and the world. Through this celebration, the Church urges us to re-evaluate our relationship with the WORD OF GOD, which His ministers and Christ representatives sow in our hearts. We must also re-evaluate our souls' fertility and how much fruit we allow this WORD to bear in our life.

See, how appropriate it is this middle of summer to hear readings from Scripture that speak of the fruitful earth. Even during this pandemic, we still see the green color coming out of our garden. The summer rain and sun nourish trees and grass and flowers. Now, what can we learn from this amid what all we are facing now?

Isaiah's poetry and Jesus' parable tell us in complementary ways the power of God's Word. Like we hear in the Scripture from the Hebrew says, "For the word of God is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword and pierces even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and of joints from the marrow, and is able to discern thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12. The word of God has indeed proven itself to be sharper than any two-edged sword. It separates the truth from the lie by sharply cutting to the quick. It can cause someone to sharply change the direction of their life when its admonition is applied in one's life. Just as a sword can save a life so can the application of bible truths.

First Reading Isaiah 55:10-11 extols its fruitfulness, the Lord promising that it will flower just as the fertile earth does when watered by rain or snow. " ... do not return there till they have watered the earth" (verse 10). God cares for our world by sending rain to make it fruitful. He cares for us by sending us His Son, the word made flesh.

Matthew, the evangelist, compares the Word of God to a seed falling into the ground. It might seem (from Matthew 13:1-23), that Jesus taught in parable to prevent His hearers from understanding. But such a purpose is entirely alien to the character of Jesus. Jesus used parables as an effective way of teaching. Those who were open to Him received more. Those who had closed their minds against Him received less. The fault lay not with Jesus but the receiver.

Second Reading (Rom 8:18 - 23) tells us about the glory which awaits us in the next life. That it far outweighs anything we could suffer in this life.

The above passage again serves as a summary of this prophet's message to a people who suffered greatly during years of exile from their homeland. The worship of human pride and its misguided agendas led them only to ruin and hardship. Mortal plans are no match for God's plan. If people learn to trust God's Word about all world, everything will go smoothly.

Just take a look at the cycle of life used by Isaiah with the rain and snow. They fall from the heavens, enabling the growth of plants and trees, which abundant in oxygen, fruits, and vegetables, and rivers and lakes, which they full of life-giving water. They evaporate to return to the heavens where the cycle can begin anew. Jesus tells the crowds of the cycle (period) that starts with a seed. When it falls onto the fertile soil, it produces fruit. What originated as a handful of seeds can now feed dozens. The cycle keeps going. Our Lord Jesus explains to His disciples that the seed is the word of God. When the seed lands on fertile soil, the word digested by someone who understands it, takes it to heart, and spreads it on to others, making more disciples inspired by this same word.

At the beginning of His Gospel, John identifies Jesus as the Word. Jesus came down from heaven, gathered disciples for His mission, suffered and died our sins, then returned to the Father in glory. The rain, the seas, and the word, Jesus Christ: all have come down to earth as gifts from God, giving us life and nourishment, sustenance and delight, purpose, and mission in our journey through life.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK of July 11 to July 19, 2020

Saturday, July 11, 2020
12:05 pm - Special Intention * Nonaj Family
5:00 pm - Missa de Populo
7:30 pm - Felipe Gonzalez + * Juan Gonzalez

Sunday, July 12, 2020
7:30 am - Available/Disponibile
9:00 am - Guadalupe Reyes + * La Familia Reyes
11:00 am - Daniel Marrero + * Jenny & Family

Monday, July 13, 2020
8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Tuesday, July 14, 2020
8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Marta Motta + * George Motta

Wednesday, July 15, 2020
8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Thursday, July 16, 2020
8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - For the Survivors of the Pandemic * Anna Linus
7:00 pm - Gonzalo Sanchez + * Grupo del la Ultreya

Friday, July 17, 2020
8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Saturday, July 18, 2020
12:05 pm - Diana & Gustavo Gordillo Aniversary
5:00 pm - Available/Disponibile
7:30 pm - Anita Martinez + * Sus Hijas

Sunday, July 19, 2020
7:30 am - Available/Disponibile
9:00 am - Eugenia Diaz + * Rafael & Noa
11:00 am - José Urribarri + * Jenny Brown

+Indicates deceased

PRAYER

A PRAYER TO HELP US ALL THROUGH THIS COVID-19 CRISIS:

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, **Our Lady of New York**, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen. We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.



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Scroll to Immaculate Conception St Mary's Church

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**Dear Parishioners,
Please observe social
distancing and wear a mask
while inside the Church!**

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: *Isaiah 55: 10-11*
Just as rain and snow come down from heaven and do not return until the whole earth is watered and fruitful, so shall the word of the Lord go out to do God's will and accomplish God's purpose.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 65: 10, 11, 12-13, 14*
The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.

Second Reading: *Romans 8: 18-23*
Paul told the Romans that the whole created world eagerly awaits the revelations of God's children. The world will be set free and take part in the wondrous freedom of God's children.

Gospel: *Matthew 13: 1-23*
Jesus told the parable of the sower. When disciples questioned him about it, he explained how those who hear the word and understand it will bear fruit and yield a hundred or

Stewardship



Sat/ Sun, June 27-28 Collection
5:00 pm, 7:30 am 11:00 am Mass
\$1,236.00
Today 's section collection is for Black and Indian Mission
Next week second collection is for Church Property Insurance.

St. Vincent de Paul Society New Officers

President: Gabriel Cardoso
Secretary: Dianne O' Rouke
Treasurer: Aaron Tapia
Procurator: Angelica Maritza Oliva

Ways To Support

Continued Financial Support:

We urge all who can to please consider joining the online We Share automated giving program by going to: <https://icmary.churchgiving.com/>



Please, continue to bring your collection envelopes or any contribution you wish to make to help support our parish, by mailing or dropping your envelope at the Parish Office.
Thank you and God bless!

Religious Education Program

We have a new registration form of our Religious Education program on the website.

All children from Group 4, 5 & 6 Sat., July 18, at 9:00 am

First Holy Communion Celebration
Sat., July 25, 2020
at
10:00 am - 3rd Graders
3:00 pm - 4, 5 & 6

Archdiocesan Appeal



Update of 2020 Appeal Goals

Pledged: \$33,772.00
Paid: \$27,980.00

Thank you very much for your contributions towards our Annual Cardinal's Appeal
We are just 16% away to reach our parish goal.

June Update of Renew & Rebuild

Pledges: \$420,984.30
Paid: \$234,186.50
Left: (\$186,797.80)

Thank you for all your generosity!

Mass for our 2020 Graduates

Join our Parish Community next Sunday, July 19, 2020 at 11:00 am Mass to celebrate our graduates for their academic achievements!

First Holy Communion

Our young ones will receive their First Holy Communion on Sat., July 25 at 10:00 am and at 3:00 pm. Please, pray for them.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Walsh will be here on Sat., September