

Readings for the week of June 16, 2024

Sunday:

Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16
(see 2a)/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34

Monday:

1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7/
Mt 5:38-42

Tuesday:

1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16/
Mt 5:43-48

Wednesday:

2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24/
Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:

Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7/Mt 6:7-15

Friday:

2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20/
Ps 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18/Mt 6:19-23

Saturday:

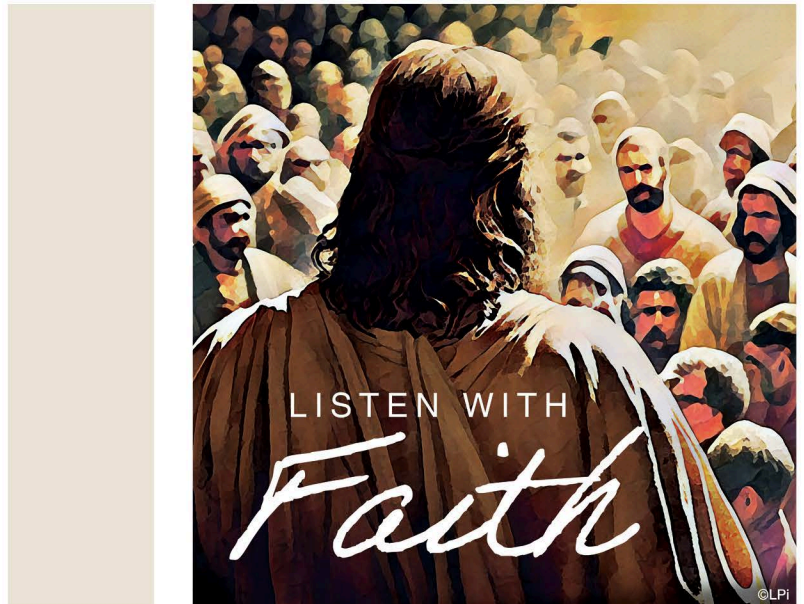
2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32,
33-34/Mt 6:24-34

Next Sunday:

Jb 38:1, 8-11/Ps 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29,
30-31 (1b)/2 Cor 5:14-17/Mk 4:35-41



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

My mother and father fell in love with each other rather quickly. It was only a span of two months between their first meeting and quiet betrothal. They waited for a significant period of time before going public with the happy news. It simply wasn't time. Love's strength and speed can sprout scandal in public. Until the big reveal, they gave the outside world only little hints, gestures, and riddles.

Something like this — but even more wonderful — is at play when Mark says of Jesus, **“he did not speak to them without a parable, but to his disciples in private he explained everything.”** Jesus is the long-awaited messiah-king, but his identity as the Lord and Son of God is so new, surprising, and scandalous to human ears that the big reveal would have to wait. Thus, his parables are riddles, meant to conceal more than reveal. Even the disciples — who hear things explained directly — barely grasp what he is up to. It's only at the cross that Jesus' love for Israel and the world is explicitly revealed. Until then, much stays hidden and comes in riddles.

So it goes with us, too. I wonder at times why doesn't the Lord just speak to us directly in prayer about what we should do, or how to fix our problems. Or why doesn't he reveal himself directly to powerful leaders who are slow to act? Why does he allow life so often to be confounding, contradictory, and crazy? Because it simply isn't time yet. One glorious day, it will be. Until then, he teaches us in riddles, and only sometimes explains them.

— *Father John Muir*

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Living Parables

Whenever someone begins a sentence with, “This parable means...” I roll my eyes. (Sometimes I do this inwardly, to be polite. But I still do it.)

We have a tendency to treat the parables like our mom’s favorite casserole recipe. *Ah yes, we think as we sit down to dinner, smiling as we inhale the aroma of childhood. Good ol’ mushy-chicken-rice-thing. I recognize you. I know exactly what you are. I don’t even have to think about you.*

Parables are often presented as an example of how God stoops to meet the limits of human understanding: truth, but in a cute little story! And while it’s certainly true that the parables of Christ — each word, each detail, each character — are painstakingly crafted to suit the imagination and intelligence of man, we need to be careful how we think about that.

Sometimes we have a tendency to think of parables as simple and formulaic. We consign them to the genre of bedtime stories, whose point is to soothe, to lull. But these are stories that are meant to keep us awake. They are meant to keep us wondering.

When Christ spoke of the mustard seed, he was speaking the truth in words that his disciples needed to hear two thousand years ago. But he was also speaking to you today. And he was speaking to you tomorrow, and next year, and three years from now, and on your deathbed. If you read this parable on each of those occasions, you will hear something different each time. The parable, you see, is something alive.

It doesn’t change, exactly, because the truth never changes. But people change, and what they need to hear changes too.

Don’t ever make the mistake of thinking you can finish Jesus’ sentences.

“With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.” — Mark 4:33

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do the Gospels differ in their details? I was surprised to learn that not all of the Gospels tell the same stories, for example, the Nativity. Doesn’t this take away from their credibility?

Answer:

Take any event that happens, from family trips to national politics and ask two or three different people to explain what happened. You will get a different version of the same story. People tend to tell the story from their perspective, and past experience shades what we recall and how we recall it. Our choice of words and what details we leave in or out is also influenced by the audience who is listening to our tales.

The Gospel writers are no different. Each one tells the story of Jesus from their own perspective. Versions differ in some details, not because one is true and the other is not, but because each Gospel writer, or Evangelist, has a different theological point to communicate as well as a different audience for whom he is writing. He picks and chooses the details of his Gospel based on what message he is preaching, what his audience may already know, and what message they need to hear. The various details of the Gospels point more to their authenticity as a record of the church’s experience and understanding of Jesus. In a good study Bible, the background notes for each Gospel contain a lot of information that helps us better understand each Evangelist and his message.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And all the trees of the field shall know
that I, the LORD,
bring low the high tree,
lift high the lowly tree,
wither up the green tree,
and make the withered tree bloom. (Ez 17:24)

Psalm:

Lord, it is good to give thanks to you. (Ps 92)

Second Reading:

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away. (2 Cor 5:9)

Gospel:

"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." (Mk 4:31-32)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Faith can start small, Jesus tells us — as small as the tiniest seed on earth. But it's up to us to surround that seed with good, nutritious soil, to nourish it with sunlight and water, and to tend to it lovingly so that it will grow.

Observances for the week of June 16, 2024

Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day

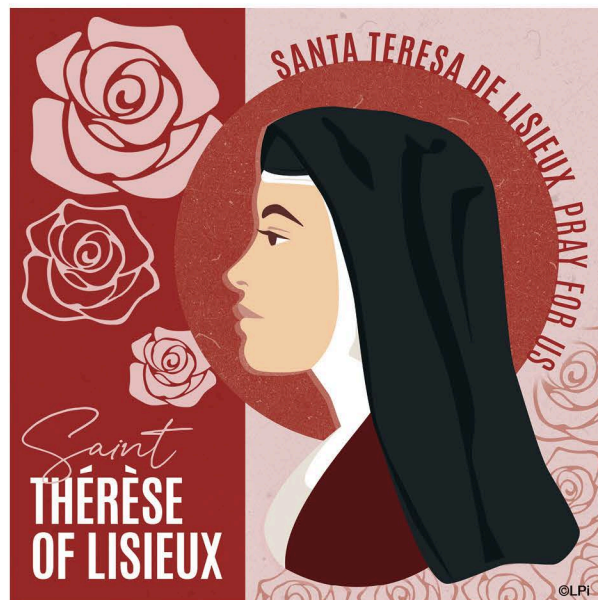
Wednesday: St. Romuald, Abbot

Thursday: World Refugee Day

Friday: St. Aloysius Gonzaga, Religious

Saturday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Sts. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs

Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) was a French Carmelite sister whose autobiography has inspired Catholics across the world to deepen their relationship with God. She died at 24 from tuberculosis and is currently the youngest person to be named a Doctor of the Church.

Prayer for God's Increase

Dear God,

Work here! Bring growth and increase to the work we are doing in Your name. Bless us as we follow where You invite, and work where You direct.

Amen.

“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.”

- Mk 4:30-32b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

During their captivity and exile in Babylon, God assured the Israelites He would restore them into a mighty majestic cedar tree. How do you find comfort in times of despair?

Second Reading:

Paul teaches the Corinthians to aspire to please the Lord, no matter your present circumstances. What could you do this week at home or at work to please the Lord?

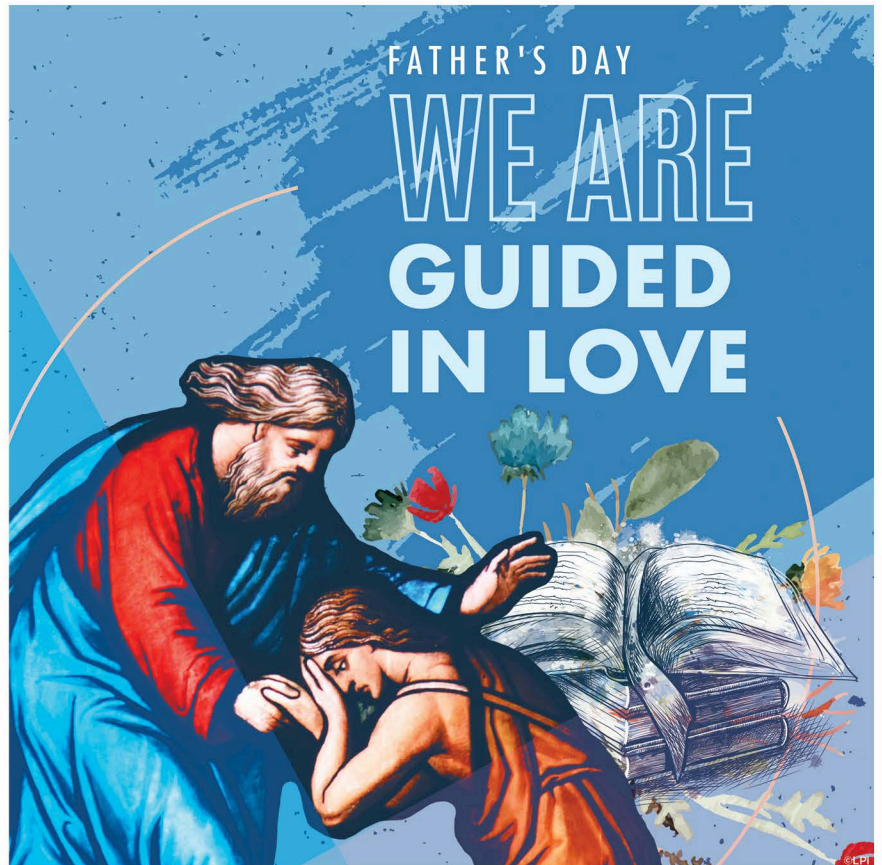
Gospel:

We hear how Jesus often spoke in parables about the kingdom of God, stretching people’s thinking and imaginations. Where do you see the kingdom of God at work?



Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn’t be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.





I GIVE THANKS TO YOU.

PSALM 92

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land...Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.” - Mk 4:26, 28-29

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.