



Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024

My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.

-- 2 Corinthians 12:9



Daily Mass

Week of July 8th – 12th

- Monday: 8:00 Lenore McCracken+
- Tuesday: 8:00 The Tomczykowski's Anniversary
- Wednesday: 8:00 Angela McCormick+
- Thursday: 8:00 Michael Catalano+
- Friday: 8:00 Lenore McCracken+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Mike Abell, Mark Lutz, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collection	Plate
June 30, 2024	\$5,447.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$523.00

Today's Readings!



First Reading -- First Reading -- They shall know that a prophet has been among them (Ezekiel 2:2-5).

Psalm -- Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy (Psalm

123).

Second Reading -- I am content with weaknesses and hardships for the sake of Christ (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

Gospel -- "Where did this man get all this? Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?" (Mark 6:1-6a).

An Old English Prayer!

*Give us, Lord,
a bit of sun
a bit of work and
a bit of fun.*

*Give us in all the struggle and sputter
Our daily bread and a bit of butter;
Give us health and our keep to make,
And a bit to spare for others' sake;
Give us, too, a bit of song,
And a tale, and a book to help us along.
Give us, Lord, a chance to be
Our goodly best, brave, wise and free.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the middle of the last century a group of French writers devised a theory that they called existentialism, part of which included their vision of the world as absurd. Coming from the horrors of two World Wars, shortly to be followed by another half century of cold war, their position was understandably pretty grim.

We could be pardoned if we saw the world in very similar terms. Today we witness devastating wars in Ukraine, Gaza and Sudan. In this country we face the possibility (probability?) of a convicted felon becoming president of the country. If we once thought that absurd, we can no longer avoid what may well happen. What response do we as Christians make to what appears as the absurdity of the world? Let's look at two possibilities.

Faced with rejection and hostility, Jesus was amazed at the lack of faith in those who heard his word. In a hostile and cruel world we are called to respond differently, even if it is with the anguished voice of the man who said, "I believe; Lord, help my unbelief."

Aside from faith there are human realities that give us strength such as the enduring power of art. Ancient voices assure us that life is short but art endures, and great art gives us monuments lasting longer than bronze (you can google those sayings).

All this is beautifully summed up by the Protestant theologian Paul Tillich, who urges us to have "the courage to be" in the midst of a seemingly absurd universe. "Seemingly" because faith affirms that through it all and beyond it all God is with us in the enduring humanity of his Son, who promised to be with us always, even to the end of the world.

Fr. Basil

The Mark of the Maker!

If things created are so full of loveliness, how resplendent must be the One who made them! The wisdom of the Worker is apparent in such handiwork.

-- St. Anthony of Padua



Living Our Faith Ministry!

During the summer, the Living Our Faith Ministry would like to share with you two opportunities. The first one is the **Summer Food Drive**. With no access to school breakfast and lunch programs, many local families are struggling to feed their children. You are invited to continue to donate non-perishable food items, especially family-friendly foods, to the Alameda County Community Food Drive barrel located in the entrance to the Church and in the Gibson Center. Monetary donations are also welcome and easily submitted online or through the QR Code on the flyers in the Church.

The second one is a "first" for Corpus Christi, **Community Book Discussion**. Participants are invited to read Thomas Merton's, *New Seeds of Contemplation*, throughout the summer. Then on Sunday, September 8th, from 9:00 to 10:15 a.m., we will bring our books, our notes and ourselves to the Gibson Center for a group book discussion. Thanks to the generosity of our Parish, **free** copies of this book are available to all those who wish to participate. You will find them on the credenzas in the Church. For more information and to register, please contact Nancy Midlin at: midlin.nancy@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation this summer!

Summer Silent Retreat Opportunity!

Ann Naffziger will be co-leading a silent retreat at San Damiano Retreat in Walnut Creek from Sunday, July 21st to Friday, July 26th. It is designed for both people with little to know experience on silent retreats as well as those with previous experience. Visit: <https://sandamiano.org/events/6day-silent-retreat-following-the-footprints-of-contemplative-prayer> for more information.

Treasures From Our Tradition!

In the sixteenth century, the Council of Trent, which was otherwise devoted to liturgical uniformity, was very tolerant of age-old marriage customs. The Council singled out "praiseworthy" customs and hoped they would be retained. The Second Vatican Council likewise asked for a careful evaluation of customs, admitting that not everything about wedding practice is "praiseworthy." In our revised liturgy, all of the prayers consistently stress the equality of the partners. Some familiar customs do not match this insight. Often, the groom remains hidden in a sacristy while the bride, accompanied only by her father, enters with her attendants. This is hardly equality, especially if it appears that her father is "giving her away" to her husband. This is a familiar enough scene, but increasingly couples are called to a different practice. Symbols and signs carry and communicate meaning. The challenge for couples today is to match the meaning to the symbol, and for the couple to be authentic in all they do and say on the day of their wedding. Having bride and groom both take part fully and equally in the entrance procession is exactly the kind of "praiseworthy" practice we've been looking for!

Readings For The Week July 8th -- 13th

Monday: First Reading Hosea 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22;
Psalm 145;
Gospel Matthew 9:18-26

Tuesday: First Reading Hosea 8:4-7, 11-13;
Psalm 115;
Gospel Matthew 9:32-38

Wednesday: First Reading Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12;
Psalm 105;
Gospel Matthew 10:1-7

Thursday: First Reading Hosea 11:1-4, 8e-9;
Psalm 80;
Gospel Matthew 10:7-15

Friday: First Reading Hosea 14:2-10;
Psalm 51;
Gospel Matthew 10:16-23

Saturday: First Reading Isaiah 6:1-8;
Psalm 93;
Gospel Matthew 10:24-33

Faith in Jesus Christ!

Mark's Gospel account today is built on a double astonishment or amazement: the neighbors and family of Jesus are astonished that he taught in the synagogue with wisdom and worked powerful signs. Jesus, in turn, is amazed that they have no faith in him because they know his origins, not because of any fault with his teachings or ministry. As with many of Mark's passages, we get a rather intimate glimpse here of the human part of Jesus' two-fold nature. To reinforce his point, Mark tells of Jesus' return to his native place, and further points out that he is in the midst of his own family members there. From the very people he expected the most, Jesus received the least. In the day of the Gospel's writing, Mark was attempting to illustrate a lesson to the house of Israel: the God of the covenant expected the greatest faith from the house of Israel, but often received the least. This is a good source for reflection on our part, we who are Jesus' followers today. For the wisdom of Christ to continue and for our lives to be seen as signs of his power, he must expect and be able to find great faith among us. Will he? Can he? Does he? Or is he, once again, amazed by its absence?

Saints and Special Observances!

Tuesday: St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, & Companions, Martyrs

Thursday: St. Benedict, Abbott

Saturday: St. Henry

