

Saint Patrick Church, Kankakee
~ A Viatorian Parish ~

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 12, 2020



In the Gospel parable today,
the image of the sower is that of someone
who generously, almost recklessly,
scatters seeds everywhere.

One thing that this parable shows us
is that God's grace is abundant,
that God's goodness is abundant,
and that God's Word is abundant.

The possibilities for the world and its people are numerous and wonderful.
The challenge is to share that abundance responsibly and lovingly.

Some close their eyes or ears or hearts and do not respond to the Word.
Choked by wealth and anxiety, we can easily close ourselves off
from the reality of the poor and marginalized of our world.
Upset by the structures and institutions of our world,
we can at times feel paralyzed.

The Word today reminds us that something more is indeed possible.

(Center for Concern - Education for Justice)

We hear what we are prepared to hear. In this season of the spreading COVID-19 virus, when I am locked down with my fellow elders, wondering what God wants of me, I discover that I have been prepared to hear this Sunday's Gospel – and the reading from Isaiah, too – in new ways. The setting begins with Jesus leaving a lake-side house, addressing crowds from a boat in “parables.” It is not clear, at first, what the sample parable is supposed to mean. Jesus speaks of seeds carried off by birds, scorched by the sun, choked by thorns, but then some of them take root in deep soil, yielding abundantly. What Palestinian peasants were to make of that, beyond the dramatic contrast between a series of unpromising beginnings and the abundant harvest, is hard to imagine. That captures some of my own puzzlement, as I imagine myself sequestered with fellow aging disciples and Jesus, contemplating the chaos (social, spiritual, economic, political, and ecological) that confronts us here and now.

The them-versus-us talk (crowd-outside versus us-inside) echoes my sense of being among the disciples of Jesus (that is, privileged learners sitting at the feet of our Teacher Jesus) and fits in with being part of a group of privileged “companions of Jesus” (first called “Jesuits” by our enemies) and echoes my feeling that I am old enough to know better, but that I am still full of questions for my Master. How does being quarantined in the house prepare me to prepare for resuming my call to continue Jesus' mission if and when some kind of new normal follows? The disciples (collectively) ask Jesus why he addresses the crowds in parables – a rather indirect way of asking: “What are you really getting at with all of this farming talk?”

Suddenly, all of my usual thoughts about this familiar parable of the Sower fall away when Jesus says: “Knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.” Then Jesus quotes Isaiah 6 to the effect that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in those outsiders:

Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.

Then comes an unexpected zinger, found not in Isaiah but only here in Saint Matthew and in Jesus' prayer in Luke 10:23-24:

But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

It has become standard for some scholars to summarize this application of Isaiah 6 to mean that Jesus “punishes with parables.” What I heard in my prayer today is something else: that Jesus, imitating the indirect question of his disciples, is not so much condemning the outsiders, but challenging the “insider” disciples. Having seen and known Jesus, they were indeed blessed, but they had not been converted and been healed and so had not produced fruit because they still lacked interior understanding. They had not “taken it to heart.” This comports with what we hear about the disciples five other times in this gospel – that they understand Jesus, but have little faith when it comes to acting on that knowledge.

The composers of the Lectionary have done us a great service by including for this Sunday another passage, indeed a parable, from Isaiah, in verses 55:11-12. Those two verses are a complete parable illustrating the prior four verses, 7-10, which are a call for God's people to change their ways: “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.” Then comes today's reading:

Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

What better news could come to a group of puzzled and frightened disciples self-quarantined with their prophetic Teacher, who has just informed us that we have already been given what we need for understanding, conversion, healing, and fruitful collaboration in Jesus' mission? All we need to do is to awaken to who and what we have in Jesus, our risen Lord, and to ask our questions straight on. May God help us.

(Father Dennis Hamm, S.J.)

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 11, 4:00 P.M.
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Larry Gullquist
Randy LaBeau
Patrick Benoit

Sunday, July 12, 7:00 A.M.
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Michael and Autumn Hodak
(Wedding Anniversary)

Sunday, July 12, 10:00 A.M.
15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Fritz Sullivan
Mary Jo Warmoth

Tuesday, July 14, 7:15 A.M.
Parishioners and Benefactors

Thursday, July 16, 7:15 A.M.
Intentions of
Stephen Hodak

Saturday, July 18, 4:00 P.M.
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mabel Ortman
Joe Boudreau
Andina DalSanto

Sunday, July 19, 7:00 A.M.
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Robert Roy

Sunday, July 19, 10:00 A.M.
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dorothy Vollmer
Fritz Sullivan

KANKAKEE / IROQUOIS COUNTY BACK-TO-SCHOOL FAIR REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

The annual Back-to-School Fair serving students from Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, coordinated by Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, is scheduled to be held on Friday, August 7th, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M., at Central Christian Church (310 Main Street, N.W.) in Bourbonnais. This annual summer event is a major countywide effort to help low-income families access important services to begin the school year on a positive note.

This year's Back-to-School Fair has been modified to maintain safe social distancing. School supplies will be distributed using a drive-through process, with items being placed in each participant's vehicle by Catholic Charities staff members.

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.
IN ORDER TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT,
PLEASE GO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO
www.catholiccharitiesjoliet.org**

PARISH RE-OPENING NEWS

The Re-Opening Team Members met – perhaps for the last time in the present calendar and schedule – on the evening of Wednesday, July 8th. All were quite satisfied with our first weekday Masses and felt that things had gone well as we proceeded with our first Saturday and Sunday Masses over the Independence Day Weekend.

The one topic that came up more than once in our evaluations and discussions was the limited number of parishioners who have volunteered to spend a bit of time before or after their favorite Mass to serve as Greeters, Ushers, or Sanitizing Crew Members. If you are ready and willing to act in one of those capacities, please contact the Parish Office during the coming week for further information.

By way of reminder, I will mention once again that those wishing to attend Mass on Tuesday morning and Thursday morning do not need reservations. Those planning to attend Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses will need reservations. Very simply stated, Weekend Mass Reservations can be made, beginning after 9:00 A.M. on Monday morning, by accessing our on-line Mass Reservations site at <https://bit.ly/StPatrickChurch> or our telephone site at 815-932-6716, Ext. 999. Reservations for Saturday and Sunday Masses officially close at noon time the previous Friday.

Father John

**THE ONE HUNDRED AND FORTIETH
NOVENA AND CELEBRATION OF ST. ANNE'S FEAST DAY**

The Novena will be held from July 18th through 26th
on the parish grounds in St. Anne.

Due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions,
all Masses will be held outdoors,
weather permitting.

Weekday Masses (July 20-24) will be at 7:00 P.M.

Weekend Masses will be celebrated
on Saturday, July 18, at 4:00 P.M.,
on Sunday, July 19, at 9:00 A.M.,
on Saturday, July 25, at 4:00 P.M.

On Sunday, July 26th, the Feast of St. Anne,
Masses will be offered at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M.,
followed by the traditional procession
with the Relic of St. Anne
around the village.

For our Spanish-speaking sisters and brothers,
a special procession with the Relic will begin at 1:00 P.M.
from the Camino y Esperanza Retreat House in Wichert
via country roads back to St. Anne Church
for a Mass in Spanish at 2:00 P.M.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
will be offered after Masses celebrated
from July 18th through 25th.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
will not be administered on the
Feast Day of St. Anne.

All participants, throughout the Novena,
are asked to bring their own masks
and lawn chairs for seating.
Social Distance guidelines
will be followed.

There will be no sales of religious articles
or food throughout the Novena.

If you are unable to travel to St. Anne in person,
all Novena Masses will be on-line at
www.stannestanne.org

Please call 815-427-8265
for further information.

**After reading their letter below, please be sure to stop by this weekend
and visit with our guests from Blest Art Inc.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Blest Art will be visiting Saint Patrick Parish this weekend on behalf of the Christian families in Bethlehem, Palestine. Our mission is to support those families in the Holy Land.

For centuries, the Christians in and around Bethlehem have earned a living by carving religious olive wood art to sell to visiting pilgrims. Fewer pilgrims are journeying to the Holy Land today, therefore making it increasingly difficult for those Christians to support their families. As a result, there has been a dramatic rise in Christian emigration from the Holy Land. Now, less than 1% of the population in the Holy Land is Christian.

Blest Art Inc. helps the struggling Christian families of Bethlehem by marketing their artwork in the United States. Thanks to this work, many Christian families maintain their livelihood and their ancestral homes in the land of our Lord.

When Blest Art visits your parish, we will have hand-carved nativity sets, statues, crosses, rosaries, and many other pieces of beautiful olive wood art. We kindly invite you to visit our display and to consider purchasing a piece of art from the Holy Land. In doing so, you will help support the many families who depend on this form of art for their living. Your purchase will make a difference in the lives of many Christian families.

We gladly accept cash, checks, and all major credit cards. Please note that we do not ask for, nor do we accept, any donations.

Thank you in advance for your purchase when you come to visit us.

Jeryes Qumseya and the members of Blest Art Inc.

Please visit our display

at Saint Patrick Parish

Saturday and Sunday

July 11th and 12th

after all Masses

Rigo's Place
 164 N. Schuyler
 Kankakee, Illinois
 815-802-1200
 Lunch • Dinner • Catering

Let's Make It Happen...
Peoples Bank
 of Kankakee County
PeoplesBankDirect.com
 (815) 936-7600

HOME REPAIR & SERVICES
 Offered By Henza Enterprises
 3rd Generation of Master Carpentry & Remodeling
 St. Rose Parishioner - ask for Richard Sr.
 815-935-8897 • Cell 815-383-3243

EYE PHYSICIANS OF KANKAKEE
 Total vision care for the family since 1971
 (815) 933-5202
 Deland J. Burns, MD
 Steven J. Burns, MD

Rivers Area CREDIT UNION
 Keep on Your Financial Feet
JOIN TODAY
 All people living in or working in Kankakee, Will & Iroquois Counties can now join our credit union!
2 Rivers Area Credit Union
 296 W. Jeffery St.
 Kankakee, Illinois 60901
 815-935-2270
 www.2riversacu.com
BILINGUAL SERVICES AVAILABLE

Rectory Offices (815) 932-6716 fax (815) 932-2585
 Parish E-mail..... stpatskan@ameritech.net
 Parish Website..... stpatrickkankakee.com

CLERICS OF ST. VIATOR

Pastor Fr. John N. Peeters, CSV
 In Residence Fr. Richard J. Pighini, CSV
 Fr. Donald R. Wehnert, CSV

CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME

Adult Ed. / Faith Formation..... Sr. Theresa Galvan, CND

TATRO Painting & Decorating, Inc.
 Jason C. Smith • Cell: 815-370-9096
 Wallpapering • Drywall • Taping
 P.O. Box 432 - Clifton, IL 60927
 Fax 815-918-5094
 tatropainting@gmail.com Insured

This Space Available
 Call 815-932-6432

This Space Available
 Call 815-932-6432

Administrative Assistant Denise Schiel
 Business Manager..... Linda Born
 Pastoral Associate..... Marilyn Mulcahy
 Director of Music Amy Schneider
 Youth Ministers..... Ken & Michelle Barrie
 (815) 427-8130
 Director of Religious Education..... Eileen Kregor
 (815) 932-6716

MASS SCHEDULE

Daily 7:15 a.m.
 Saturday..... 7:15 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
 Sunday..... 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Appointments..... Please call to schedule appointments.
 Reconciliation Saturdays 3:00 – 3:30 p.m.
 and by appointment.
 Baptism..... Parent Session required.
 Please call for an appointment.
 Marriage..... Appointment should be made at least six months prior to desired date of wedding.

Clancy-Gernon
 Funeral Homes, Inc.
 Kankakee • Bourbonnais • Manteno • St. Anne
 815.932.1214

Richard S. Nicklas
 D.D.S. - General Dentistry
 497 S. Wall Street
 Kankakee, IL 60901
 (815) 932-6251

ADULT LIVING FOR THOSE WHO *Seek More*
 Westwood Estates | Independent Living
 Assisted Living | Memory Care
 Miller Rehabilitation
 www.RiversideSeniorLife.com
 Miller Rehabilitation 815-936-6500
 Riverside Senior Life at Kankakee 815-935-3273
 Riverside Senior Life at Bourbonnais 815-935-3332
RIVERSIDE SENIOR LIFE COMMUNITIES

All Saints Cemetery
Mt. Calvary Cemetery
Maternity BVM Cemetery
 Mausoleum Crypts
 Ground Burial
 Cremation Niches
 Memorials
 Catholic, Convenient & Caring
 815-933-2342

DISCOVER THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE
 Contact me today: **John Blazeovich**
708-646-6705
 john.blazeovich@kofc.org
 Rely on the Knights of Columbus to protect your family's future.
 LIFE INSURANCE DISABILITY INSURANCE LONG-TERM CARE RETIREMENT ANNUITIES
CALL 708-646-6705 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Pierce-Pristach-Lemenager
 Insurance Agency
 588 E. Court St. - Kankakee
 (815) 932-7443
 Fax: (815) 932-7256
ADVANTAGE COPIER
 815-933-5597
 Sell & Service: Copiers, Faxes, & Printers
 Tom Clocksin • Kevin Clocksin
 Visit Our Copy Center
 401 S. Dearborn Ave., Kankakee, IL

HOLOHAN HEATING & SHEETMETAL INC.
 MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
 Air Conditioning Sales & Service
 575 W. Seneca Ave., Kankakee
 www.holohanheating.com
 (815) 932-7711

Adcraft Printers, Inc.
 www.adcraftprinters.com
815.932.6432
 1355 W. Jeffery • Kankakee, IL
KEEP IT LOCAL!
 Why shop out of town?
 Patronizing local businesses benefits the entire community.

When you buy from a mom or pop business, you are not helping a CEO buy a third vacation home

You are helping a little girl get dance lessons, a little boy get his team jersey, a mom or dad put food on the table, a family pay a mortgage, or a student pay for college.

SHOP LOCAL

OUR CUSTOMERS ARE OUR SHAREHOLDERS, AND THEY ARE THE ONE THAT WE STRIVE TO MAKE HAPPY.

Thank you for supporting the little man!
YOUR FRIENDS FROM ADCRAFT PRINTERS

This Space Available
 Call 815-932-6432

JOE'S AUTOMOTIVE
 Big & Small We Do Them All!
 560 S. Washington Ave.
 Kankakee, IL 60901
 815-937-9281

Make your ad stand out with color!
 Full color ads are now available
 Call 815-932-6432 for more information!

Stor-loc
 Modular Drawer System
 www.storloc.com • 800-786-7562

I'M Praying For Our Country
 Will You Join Me? Amen

MW Martin Whalen
 OFFICE SOLUTIONS, INC.