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# 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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AUGUST 14, 2022

## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First:** Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10

**Second:** Hebrews 12:1-4

**Gospel:** Luke 12:49-53

**FOCUS:** *Persevere in running the race, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.*

We must speak the truth even when we know there will be pushback. For example, parents know they must challenge the wrong behavior of their children even if the response is a door slammed or a foot stomped. Can parents claim to truly love their children if they don't discipline them when necessary? The same goes for pastors, teachers, coaches and anyone charged with leading others. If we care about the ultimate welfare of those for whom we are responsible, can we claim to love them if we do not challenge their wrong behaviors and attitudes?

Jesus Christ was sent by the Father on a mission. He was to establish the kingdom of God, preaching the Good News of repentance and salvation. He taught his disciples what it meant to live in the kingdom, and the behaviors and values inherent in doing so: Mercy, unconditional love, commitment to justice, concern for the least ones and more. In his teaching, Jesus was offering us the path to new life. Yet he knew not all would embrace his message, especially if his words challenged their behavior and attitudes.

In today's Gospel, Jesus says: I have come to set the earth on fire. He came to purify and refine. He came to free us from sin and all that squeezes life out of us. Those who embraced his way might, in fact, find themselves at odds with their father, mother, sister, brother or friend. Surely this was not their intent, but alienation could well result from their choice to follow Jesus.



5 p.m.: **George & Mary Olsen  
and Chris & Nic Pierce**

10 a.m.: **Asumpta Clara Vulaj, Gail Pearson  
Andres Torrents and Michael Parenti**



The prophet Jeremiah faced resistance and even persecution for the word of God he proclaimed. Faithful to God's call, he reminded the people of Israel and their leaders that corruption, greed and inattentiveness to the orphan, widow and poor were not part of God's plan and would lead only to ruin. For speaking the truth, he was thrown into a cistern filled with mud and left there to die. To his credit, Jeremiah did not back down from preaching God's word, even though he knew there could well be dire consequences. This perseverance and determination made a difference to the court official because he argued for and brought about Jeremiah's rescue.

Christian discipleship is not a popularity contest. Inevitably, there is a cost involved; yet, for followers of Jesus Christ, we trust that his path ultimately leads to life. We should, therefore, never apologize for the Truth, nor ever shrink from articulating and living it. Whether as a parent, coworker, friend or neighbor, we can ask the Lord's help in being a voice for Gospel living: Speaking the truth in love against behaviors and values that run contrary to God's commands, especially when there are offenses against the human dignity of another.

In the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, we are encouraged to persevere in running the race, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus who, himself, embraced the cross that we might have life. The passage reminds us that we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses – men and women who are our heroes for their courageous living of God's word. Let us learn from them. Living the Gospel is not always easy and may even lead to opposition. With our eyes fixed on Jesus, let us walk in his way and trust that life now and forever awaits those who are faithful.

**GRATITUDE**

Your Parish Community is

**GRATEFUL**

for your consistent contributions.

**July 31-August 7: Totaled \$ 6,455.05**

Envelopes: \$ 3,309.00 – Online: \$ 3,146.05

THANK YOU

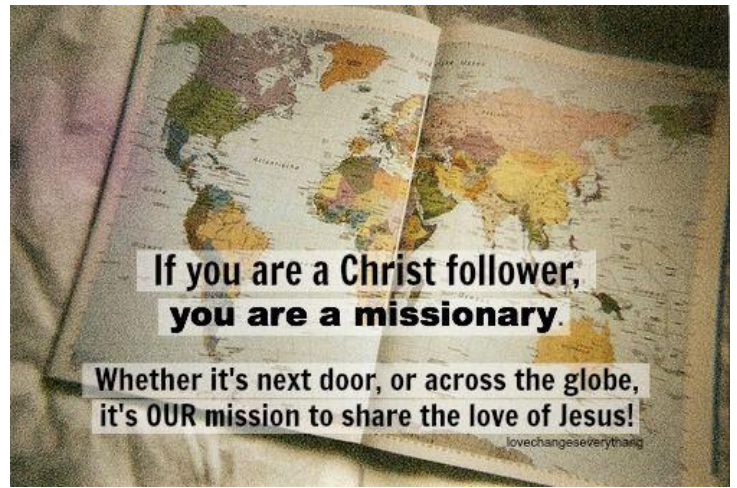
## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

*“Let us remember Paul VI’s words:*

*‘For the Catholic Church,  
no one is a stranger,  
no one is excluded,  
no one is far.’*

*Indeed, we are a single human  
family that is journeying  
on toward unity,  
making the most of solidarity  
and dialogue among peoples  
in the multiplicity of differences.”*

—Pope Francis



## PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO THE CARMELITE MISSIONS APPEAL

A special collection will be taken up this weekend for the Carmelite Missions. There will be large wicker baskets near the regular collection box for cash or checks (which should be made payable to St. Paul’s Church, with “Carmelite Missions” noted in the memo line). Donations can also be made on WeShare.

The Carmelites respond to the call to love one another through prayer and action by establishing ministries where there is greatest need. They create humanitarian programs to relieve the suffering of the poor, minister to those in hospitals and prisons, provide education, and conduct spiritual and religious formation in almost 40 countries on five continents.

We realize we’ve been asking a lot of you lately. But if you can support this worthwhile cause, we would be most appreciative.

## GOSPEL DISCUSSION UPDATE

Scripture discussion of the Gospel of Luke will resume on Zoom from 10-11:15 a.m. on Monday, September 12.

New participants are welcome! If you would like to join the group, call Gail VanTassel at 845-457-3432 so that the Ignatius Bible Study Guide to accompany this discussion can be ordered.

## SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

Girl Scout Troop 439 is again working on the Community Backpack Project, furthering the tradition of providing backpacks and school supplies to Pine Bush School District students in need. More than 250 children are typically assisted because of your generosity. Collection boxes will be in Deacon John Hall through next Sunday, **August 21**.


If you prefer, gift cards to stores that sell school supplies or checks can be mailed to: Girl Scout Troop 439, c/o Jen Myers, troop leader, 3030 State Route 52, Pine Bush 12566, and the troop will do the shopping. Questions? Call Jen at 845- 219-4001.


For more information, call (845) 561-3633 Ext. 47, email [teenintervent@adapp.org](mailto:teenintervent@adapp.org) or visit [www.adapp.org](http://www.adapp.org)


## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK


**同樂樓**  
*Larry's Chinese Restaurant & Bar*  
66 North St., Pine Bush, NY  
**845-744-8886**  
Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm; Fri.-Sat. 11am-11pm; Sun. 12 noon-9pm


## IN THE LOOP

 **SAVE THE DATE:** Fr. Sean will invite all students, pre-K through teens, to come to the altar with their filled backpacks for a special blessing on **Sunday, August 28**.

 **SAVE THE DATE PART II:** The Youth Ministry is sponsoring a fund-raising “garage sale” in the parking lot on **Saturday, September 10**. Details will be in next week’s bulletin.

 **SAVE THE DATE PART III:** Our **Parish Picnic** has been scheduled for **Sunday, September 18**, at the Town of Crawford Park on Lybolt Road in Bullville. Ticket info to follow.

 If you know someone who is homebound and would welcome a visit from one of our specially-trained Eucharistic Ministers, call Peggy Lucido, coordinator, at 845-304-2728.

 Please remember our **Food Pantry**, the use of which has almost quadrupled since pre-COVID times. We are able to keep up and provide healthier options because of our partnership with the Food Bank – and your generosity!

