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

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JUNE 13, 2021



## Reading I: Ezekiel 17: 22-24

The prophet uses imagery of cedar trees to make his point. The “new twig” from the top of the cedar represents a future king from the House of David. The other cedars represent the kings of other nations.

## Reading II: II Corinthians 5: 6-10

When we walk through life in faith, we are given needed courage, and our lives bear fruit. Thus do we become prepared for a favorable judgment by God.

## The Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34

The metaphors in Our Lord’s parables allowed Him to speak about God and His kingdom, which got His hearers’ attention in ways other teaching techniques could not.

## CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Heloiza Asaro upon the recent death of her son, Thiago Domingues da Silva. Please keep the family in your prayers.



- 5 p.m.: The Visco Family, Nancy Wood,  
Jo Wolfe and Thiago Domingues da Silva  
10 a.m.: Luella Faso, Julio Seda, Frances Hernandez  
and Richard Tolliver

## LAST WEEK’S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday, June 5: **52** in the church.  
10 a.m. Sunday, June 6: **100** in the church;  
**12** in the hall. Total: **112**.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

May 30-June 6: Totalled \$ 5,400.80  
Envelopes: \$3,022.00 – Online: \$ 2,378.80  
THANK YOU!

## THE POWER WITHIN A TINY SEED

“Legalese puts me ill at ease.” That little ditty is my own creation, with the point that the language found in many a legal document that strives to be specific tends to be mind-numbing instead.

By contrast, the time of Our Lord was long before pen or paper was available to most people, and speech was the only medium through which to exchange ideas. A good teacher had to use a special talent to get and keep the audience’s attention. Our Lord, the Master teacher, made it look easy. St. Mark underscored this when he wrote what we hear today: “With many such parables He (Jesus) spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.”

Even we - as modern listeners to Jesus, jaded as we may be by being talked at by hired actors reading teleprompters in an attempt to sell us yet another product we don’t really need - can relate to a lesson of what a small seed planted can produce.

Mark augments that parable with the preceding one Jesus told about the power of the land to yield fruit.

The Lord tells His first listeners and us that this is the way it is for God’s kingdom. It is



not a physical place, but a community of God’s friends living His way. Church history chronicles how the Catholic Church has grown to embrace billions, even though it sprang from an unremarkable band of Twelve. This growth, fertilized and watered by the Holy Spirit, is only still here by His willing it. What has kept it alive ultimately traces back to God’s design. The proof is in that very history, which could be called at times a record of human folly.

The prophet Ezekiel’s image of a tender shoot planted atop a cedar on a high mountain, and Jesus’ picture of a tiny mustard seed planted in the earth, tell us both of God’s power and our own worth in His eyes. Each of us is an integral part of God’s grand design, and Faith in Him helps us to believe it. We make a big mistake placing our faith elsewhere. But our cooperation with God can bring about something truly wonderful.

Sir Donald Malcolm Campbell, the British car and boat-racer and holder of several world speed records, lost his life while racing a speed boat on one of the lakes of Scotland. The boat exploded and rapidly sank. The only thing that ever surfaced was a toy stuffed animal, Campbell’s alleged “good luck charm.” The toy was powerless to help him in the final and fatal crisis of his life.

Very realistically and in clear, easy-to-understand language, there is no better demonstration of faith than a person planting seed in a field.

**God love you and give you His peace,  
Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!**

### **RELIGIOUS ITEMS WANTED**

Do you feel funny about throwing out broken rosary beads or crucifixes?

We have a solution. The week of **July 12** (a family tragedy has postponed the date from the week of June 21), St. Mary Recycle Mission will be stopping by St. Paul's. That will give you plenty of time to clean your home of **unwanted religious goods** and then drop them off at the church office.

Kimberly Walters spearheads this Lancaster, PA,-based rescue-and-recycle mission that was born in a Dumpster more than 20 years ago when usable items cleared from a church basement were found. Since then, hundreds of thousands of items have been collected, cleaned, repaired and sometimes repurposed before being provided to churches, convents and schools worldwide. Sometimes it's a poor parish that reaches out for altar basics it cannot afford. Other times, a church might be facing replacing everything that a natural disaster claimed.

So gather your medals and holy cards, vestments from the family priest (any condition), altar ware, framed pictures, small prayer books (please, no library-type books) and even your broken rosaries.

There will also be a collection box in the hall through the collection date for your convenience.

### **END-OF-LIFE EDUCATION**

Sr. Charity, the assistant director of Respect Life with the Archdiocese of New York, shares that:

Peace at the end of life begins today.

"Care & Prepare" is a 30-minute educational video with essential information on Church teaching, practical guidance in navigating medical decisions and advice on legal preparation for the end of life.

For more confidence in facing difficult decisions, watch: [bitly.com/careandprepare](https://bitly.com/careandprepare)

### **RELIGIOUS ED RE-REGISTRATION**

Yes, we actually have to talk about fall when summer hasn't even officially begun. But you know the harsh reality: September will be here before we know it. And on September 14, Religious Education classes resume.

To prepare, re-registration for children currently enrolled in our Religious Education program will take place 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, and Wednesday, July 28.

For children who have not yet participated in our program but are either entering first grade or relocating from another parish, please contact Jessica Carpino, religious education coordinator, at 361-5816.

### **A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE**

A recent lecture and workshop on human trafficking in Connecticut was prompted by the feast of St. Josephine Bakhita in February 2021. (St. Josephine Bajkhita was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold and tortured repeatedly.) Congregations of religious sisters worldwide marked her feast day by raising awareness and asking for prayers for the end of this tragedy.

"Human trafficking is the trade of humans for the purpose of forced labor, sexual slavery or commercial sexual exploitation. It is a violation of people's rights and dignity. Human trafficking is among the top three illegal sales in the U.S. - drugs, guns, humans. Human sex trafficking is so lucrative because you can keep using the person, whereas once drugs or a gun are sold, those items are gone."

To learn more about how to act locally to break these chains, visit:

<https://www.globalsistersreport.org/news/social-justice/column/act-locally-help-break-chains-human-trafficking>

Or for one-click access to this and all the other reflections, go to [www.stpaulsbullville.org](http://www.stpaulsbullville.org); then click "Read More" under the Social Justice heading on the home page.

### **SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**



In the spirit of St. Peter Faber, one of the founders of the Jesuit order in the mid-1500s who understood the importance of commerce, our bulletin publisher has created the FindingFABER app. As an extension of the print ad, advertisers get a free account from which to offer information and promotions. Consumers download the free app so they can readily support local bulletin sponsors.

