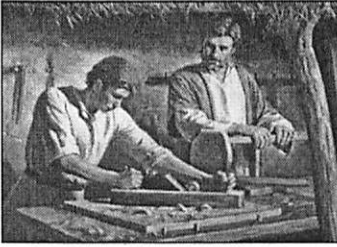


July 4th - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, July 3

9:00am *St. John Parishioners*
4:30pm

Sunday, July 4

8:00am † *Medina Ermitanio*
10:00am *Fabiola Shugarte (bday)*
12:00pm *Alma Valerio (hng)*

Monday, July 5

9:00am *YMI Brothers*

Tuesday, July 6

9:00am *Knights of Columbus*

Wednesday, July 7

9:00am *St. John Vounteers*

Thursday, July 8

9:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*

Friday, July 9

9:00am

Saturday, July 10

9:00am † *Albert & Michael Gragnani*
4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

From the Desk of the Pastor

The Prophet Ezekiel received his calling during the tumultuous years that followed Babylon's first assault on Jerusalem ending the spring of 597 B.C.E. The reigning king was taken captive to Babylon and another member of the royal household was put in place as a vassal king to secure and enhance the interests of Babylon. Israel finds itself humiliated, and on the apparent verge of being obliterated.

This invasion gives rise to a nationalistic movement. The only other formidable power in that region to match Babylon is Egypt.

The Hebrew people then begin to look to Egypt for hope and security.

It is in this context that prophet Ezekiel is sent to challenge the Hebrew people, (in our first reading), to turn away from their rebellious ways in searching for material security, and look for hope in a right relationship with God. God, who loves us beyond measure, wants us to love him and trust him. The lesson will not come easily to the Hebrews.

The Gospel today presents Jesus, fully divine and yet fully human, learning about how people love--- or do not ---.

The people of his hometown, to his amazement, reject him.

Jesus calls us to a higher standard. Here the nature of the love that will be asked of Jesus begins to show itself. Jesus continues to respond to the call to love, even when he is rejected.... *Greater love has no man than to lay down his life for his friends....*

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

Sunday masses are celebrated at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en espanol

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 8:00am to 1:00pm. The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church

The Parish Office has moved

Effective Monday, **June 21, 2021**, our Parish Office has been relocated to the Rectory, at 19 St. Marys Avenue. Our telephone number and hours of operation remain the same, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. We are greatly appreciative of your support, and patience during this time of transition.

Happy 4th of July!

The Parish Office will be **closed on Monday, July 5th** in observance of Independence Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, July 6th.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the **Reserve Fund** of St. John the Evangelist. This account was established to help fund the on-going major maintenance and needs of the Parish of St. John. Thank you for your continued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

June 21st - June 27th, 2021

Tues. On-line giving\$ 5.00

Weekend Offering.....\$2,690.66

Peter's Pence.....\$ 729.00

At the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus returns to his hometown of Nazareth to teach in the synagogue. At first, everyone is impressed. "Look at the carpenter's son," they might have been saying. "Look how well he turned out." "Hear what a great speaker he is." But then things start to go downhill. Jesus begins to speak like a prophet. He even comes quite close to revealing that he's the long-awaited Messiah. All of a sudden, the home-town comments seem to change. "We grew up with this guy." "He's the son of Joseph." "Who does he think he is?" In fact, the rejection of Jesus in his hometown is the origin of the saying, "No prophet is welcomed in his native place."

But it's not just that Jesus appears different than they remembered. Jesus comes with a startling message. He tells the village that God wants to save not only the Jewish people but the rest of the world as well: the outsiders—their enemies—the "unclean ones." This was not a popular message. In fact, Jesus is almost killed in Nazareth because of it. Loving our enemies is a difficult thing to do. It's probably one of Jesus' best known, but least followed, teachings. Jesus is calling his followers to a kind of love that is more than mere sentimentality. It's one that hurts, one that requires sacrifice, and one that is not often very popular.

Jesus' kinfolk know him to be a carpenter, an artisan who works in wood, stone, and metal. He probably learned this trade from his father. Mark describes Jesus as the son of Mary, which is an unusual designation. Adult males were more typically identified with the name of their fathers. This Gospel tells us that Jesus is hampered from performing miracles in Nazareth because of the people's lack of faith. Jesus is said to be surprised by this. He did not predict or foresee this rejection. In this detail we find a description of the very human side of Jesus. Who is Jesus? His kinfolk in Nazareth might know the carpenter, the son of Mary, but they do not know Jesus, the Son of God. Mark is foreshadowing Jesus' rejection by his own people, the people of Israel. By showing that Jesus himself was rejected, Mark consoles and reassures his first readers. He also prepares us to accept this possible consequence of Christian discipleship. Will your faith be strong enough to keep on believing in Jesus, as our Savior or will you falter out of fear and rejection?

MY
GRACE
IS SUFFICIENT
FOR YOU,
FOR MY
POWER
IS MADE
PERFECT IN WEAKNESS

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9