

Wednesday June 12th for the 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: O Lord, let your Scriptures be my chaste delight. O Lord, perfect me and reveal those pages to me! See, your voice is my joy. Give me what I love. May the inner secrets of your words be laid open to me when I knock. This I beg by our Lord Jesus Christ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. These are the treasures I seek in your books. (St. Augustine)

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK

Mark 4:26-34

Seed Grows of Itself.

26 He said, “This is how it is with the kingdom of God;* it is as if a man were to scatter seedⁱ on the land

27 and would sleep and rise night and day and the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.

28 Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

29 And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

The Mustard Seed.

30^k He said, “To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?”

31 It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

32* But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

33 With many such parables^l he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

34 Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. Who has scattered seed in your life? In what ways have you benefited from the seed sowing of others?
2. “Our job is to scatter seeds, water the plants and leave the growth to God.” To what extent do you let this be your approach to life?
3. In what ways have you “scattered seed”? Have you seen your efforts bear fruit?
4. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/ act on.

Commentary

Chapter four of Mark’s Gospel is a series of parables used by Jesus to teach his audience about the kingdom or reign of God which he is inaugurating. Parables address two very different realities and use one to throw light on the deeper meaning of the other. Parables also force the hearers to stretch their imagination to make connections they usually would not make. In the first parable, Jesus uses the mysterious nature of seed growing to speak about the mysterious growth of God’s kingdom. A man sows seeds in the ground and then goes off to do other things. In the meantime, the seeds

gradually grow to full maturity. In a similar way, the reign of God takes root, grows and produces in secret, and perhaps in unexpected places. Growth is always the result of God secretly working in the hearts of people. The point of the mustard seed parable is that small beginnings produce great things. The full grown tree, providing a place for the birds of the sky, may be a reference to the universal nature of the Church. The final statement about Jesus “explaining things privately to the disciples” may be a reference to the slowness of Jesus’s disciples to understand his teaching.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord’s Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom
Wednesday, June 12 6:30 – 7:30pm
Weekly on Wednesday
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting
Time: June 12, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618
Passcode: 280607

