

“The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...”

The Gospel reading consists of parables, one of which Jesus explains. The two that seem easy to understand compare the kingdom with a mustard seed that begins small and then grows large enough to welcome all manner of birds for nesting, and of a bit of yeast that completely transforms the entire batch of dough. The parable about the weeds in the field of wheat needed explanation. Any farmer would have recognized the situation described. We don't always know where they come from, but weeds seem to crop up everywhere. What should one do? Lest wheat be inadvertently pulled up, let both wheat and weeds grow till the harvest. That is the time of separation.

So, what's the meaning of these parables? Like the mustard seed, the kingdom—the new way of living that Jesus came to inaugurate—consists of small acts of unselfishness and genuine love. But it grows and grows until it is opened to all manner of people. Like the

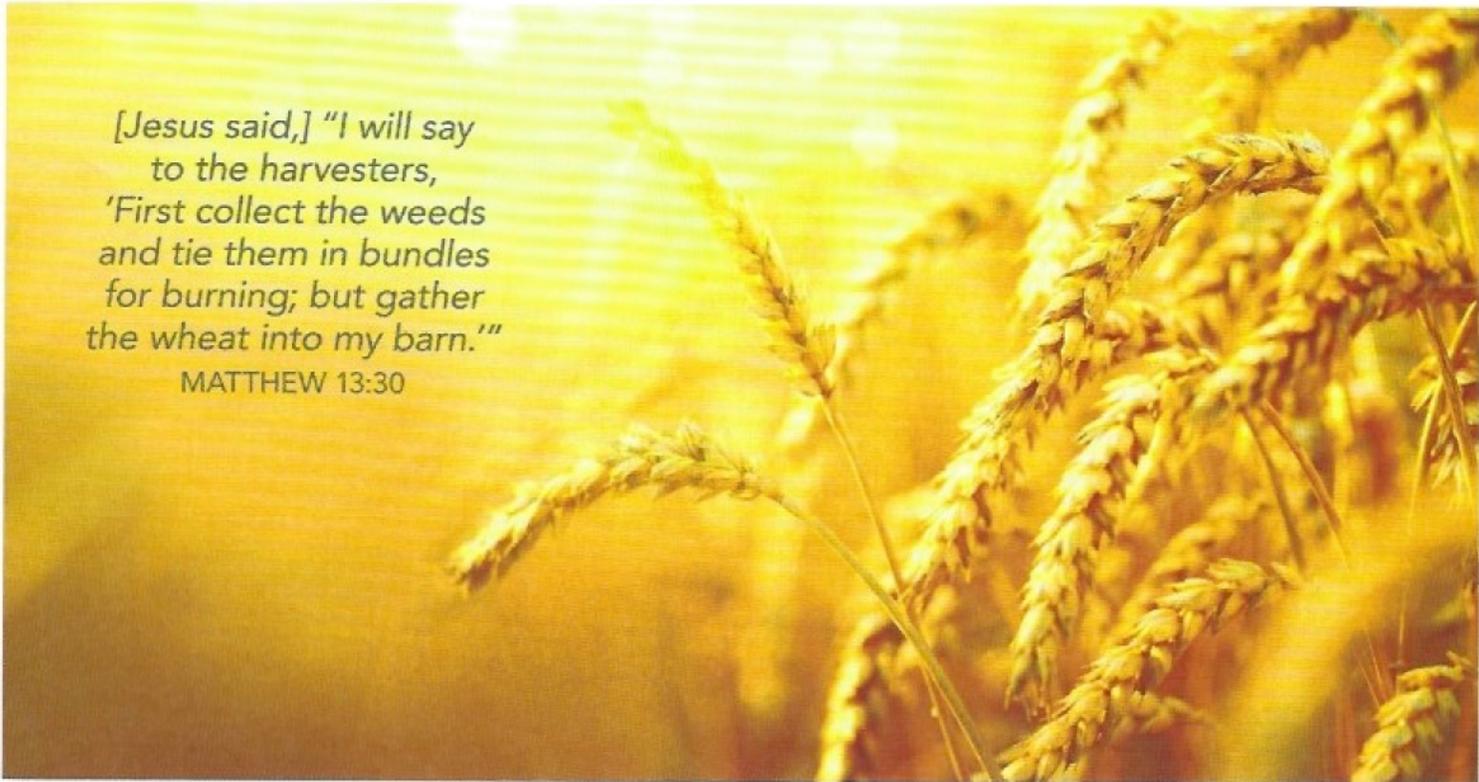
yeast, as insignificant as it might appear, this kingdom can transform all of society.

The parable of the wheat and the weeds is about the last judgment. But it also insists that the field (society), even the Church, is made up of both good and bad. It is very dangerous to try to get rid of what might be considered bad seeds, bad citizens, or bad members. One might pull up the wrong ones. There will be a time of judgment, and it will be in God's time, and in God's hands.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *We belong to this kingdom. Are we open to all manner of people? Do our lives transform society?*
- ★ *How do you interact with people you think are living wrongly?*



*[Jesus said,] "I will say
to the harvesters,
'First collect the weeds
and tie them in bundles
for burning; but gather
the wheat into my barn.'"*

MATTHEW 13:30

**Parish of the Visitation
and St. Raymond
St. Andrew's Church**

Fr. Garry Giroux, Pastor Office: 315-384-4242
315-389-5401

Rev. Andrew J. Amyot, Pastor Emeritus at PVS 315-384-2064
Dcn. Lawrence Connelly, Retired 315-384-4879
Dcn. John Levison at SA, PVS 518-594-7610
Dcn. Phil Regan at SA, PVS 315-353-9917

Masses: Saturday: St. Andrew's~ 4:00pm
Sunday: Church of the Visitation~ 10:30am
Confessions: Saturday: St. Andrew's Church from 3:15pm to 3:45pm

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

- Sat July 18 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**
3:15pm - 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** Intentions of the People of the Parishes
- Sun July 19 - 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Madeleine & Sheldon Cummings by Jack Cummings
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Donald & Dawn LaBarge by the Bryne Family
- Mon July 20 - 7:45am **ST. ANDREW'S** – Paul Cutler by The Cutler Family
A Soul in Purgatory by The Cutler Family
- Tues July 21 - 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Deceased Members of the L.M. Murphy Family by Rita
9:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Dorothy Elliott by Thomas Fiacco
- Wed July 22 - 9:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Dominic Germano by Lois Ploof
Souls in Purgatory by Ron LaRue
- Thurs July 23 - 7:45am **ST. PATRICK'S** – George Delosh by the Knights of Columbus
8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Donald LaShomb by Natalie & John LaBarge
- Fri July 24 – 8:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Laura Lavigne by Albert & Margaret Smith
- Sat July 25 – **Sacrament of Penance** 11:30am – 12:00pm **ST. PATRICK'S**
3:15pm - 3:45pm **ST. ANDREW'S**
4:00pm **ST. ANDREW'S** – Nick & Elizabeth Orologio by Nancy & Jim Besaw
- Sun July 26 - 8:30am **ST. PATRICK'S** – Bill Demo by the Richard C. Demo Family
10:30am **CHURCH OF THE VISITATION** – Intentions of the People of the Parishes



“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart ...I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.”

Please remember to keep social distancing, wear your mask and call to reserve a seat at the weekend Masses – Thank you!

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp burned this week at The Church of the Visitation for Nancy Richards by Duane & Family.

You can memorialize the sanctuary candle for an offering of \$10.00. Please contact the parish office.

GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING – TITHING

How much time have you spent this week in prayer for others and for the work of the Church?

Parish of the Visitation and St. Raymond

July 11 – 12, 2020 – \$1,966.00
Adult Env. \$1,507.00/Plate \$45.00
Maintenance \$239.00, Sanctuary Lamp \$20.00
Mission Co Op \$130.00, Catholic Charities \$15.00
Catholic University \$10.00

St. Andrew's Church

July 11 – 12, 2020 – \$1,808.00
Adult Env. \$1,554.00/Plate \$130.00, Holy Land \$5.00
Maintenance \$67.00, NCC Subscription \$27.00
Missionary Co-Op \$15.00, Catholic Home Missions \$5.00
Catholic Communications \$5.00

SOCIAL MEDIA CONNECTIONS

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/norfolknorwoodraymondville/>

Website: <https://norfolknorwoodraymondville.org>

Email: visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com

Office for the Parishes: 3 Morris St., Norfolk, NY 13667, 315-384-4242

All mail to Visitation Rectory, PO Box 637, Norfolk, NY 13667

Email: visitationchurch@centralny.twcbc.com **Website:** norfolknorwoodraymondville.org

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm, **Parish Secretary:** TBD (Amy Mudry)

Religious Education: Director of Faith Formation - Carol O'Brien Gonthier



July 14, 2020
Memorial of
St. Kateri Tekakwitha
Lily of the Mohawks

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

You know some of her history. Born in a Mohawk village in Auriesville, Kateri Tekakwitha was the first Native American to be canonized. Perhaps you remember that there was a nice contingent from the North Country and St. Regis parish in Akwesasne that attended the canonization ceremony in Rome back in 2012.

Did you know that this saint from our neck of the woods contracted smallpox in an epidemic in the 1600s? Her parents and younger brother died from the epidemic and her face was scarred. This woman, so much in love with God, had an urgent desire to visit the sick and receive the Eucharist. Members of her family and community were violently opposed to her conversion to the Catholic faith. Minutes after her death, her facial scars vanished and her face appeared radiant.

I thought that today, the Feast Day of the Lily of the Mohawks, would be an appropriate occasion to share these thoughts. Like St. Kateri, we know first-hand the worries, the uncertainty, and the suffering caused by a horrific disease that continues to haunt us. Let me begin by first assuring you of my continuing prayers for you and your loved ones. We pray for those who have tested positive with the virus, those who are currently suffering from it, and we ask God to look kindly upon loved ones who have succumbed to the COVID-19 virus. We are mindful of individuals who have suffered the death of a loved one and were unable to celebrate a Funeral Mass with everyone who desired to attend. It's been heartbreaking. Of course, our hard-working healthcare workers are in our prayers, as well.

As you know, our parish life has been particularly affected. Our churches are now open, albeit, with noticeable changes. I am so grateful to our pastors, staff and parishioners who worked hard to implement guidelines and introduce liturgical

adaptations to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Thank you for cooperating with the measures we have taken to provide a safe environment in which to gather for public worship.

My sisters and brothers, now is the time to come back to Mass. Now is the time for healthy adults and children to reengage with your parish family. We are a Eucharistic people. Of course, we need to observe all the guidelines that have been issued. We don't want to risk setting back the progress we have made.

With that in mind, we know we don't social distance Jesus. He is essential! Please contact your parish office to confirm Mass times in your parish, both daily and Sunday Masses. Also, inform your pastor if someone desires a home visit, seeks to celebrate the Anointing of the Sick or wants to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, but is unable to come to Church. It is crucial that we tend to our ministerial life, as best we can, while observing the precautions, and help refuel our parishes so that they are running on all sacramental, liturgical, and pastoral cylinders. I am humbled and grateful for your remarkable financial support of your Church during these uncertain and worrisome times. Your faith and your support are so inspiring!

Some of our parishioners have underlying health conditions or are of a vulnerable age where the prudent decision might be to remain at home for the foreseeable future. In these cases, I continue to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. The Sunday 8:00am Masses will continue to be livestreamed from St. Mary's Cathedral.

Let us continue to pray for each other as we seek the intercession of the Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and St. Kateri for healing and peace in this time of trial and testing. See you in Church!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Terry R. LaValley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

RESUMPTION OF PUBLIC MASSES

Our parishes have implemented and put into action the safe distancing plans. Please note the signs and directions posted throughout each church and posted on our Facebook site and websites. It is our hope to bring together all who are able to attend Mass.

MASS AT HOME

Participating in Mass at home is participation in a real and valid liturgy. Even though we are not physically together for Mass, we are united in our love of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are in God's presence as we listen to God's word in the Scripture and acknowledge the Lord's presence in the Eucharist. Area Masses being offered can be found at this link

<https://www.rcdony.org/livemass>

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

In times of crisis, when it is not possible to receive the Body of Christ, it is acceptable to make an Act of Spiritual Communion. Spiritual Communion is a deep routed desire to receive Jesus and to remain close to Him even though we are unable to be physically present with our faith community. It also applies to situations when we are present in community but cannot receive the Eucharist.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte- On Sunday, July 19th, Knights of Columbus from throughout the Diocese of Ogdensburg will participate in their 72nd annual pilgrimage to St. Anne's Shrine in Isle LaMotte, Vermont. State Deputy Wally Wych will welcome Most Reverend Terry A. LaValley, who will celebrate mass at 12:15 p.m. Families are welcome to bring a picnic lunch to enjoy on the grounds following mass. The Peru Knights will not be serving lunch this year, and the Shrine's cafeteria will not be open.

Beautiful St. Anne's Shrine is located on the shores of Lake Champlain only a few miles from the Rouses Point Bridge. The Shrine's religious history began in 1666 when the French erected a fort and chapel on the site. The chapel was blessed in 1893, and a beautiful statue of St. Anne, the mother of Mary, was erected.

For more information, please call Pilgrimage Coordinator Peter Keenan at 518-643-9241.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

How can I be 'good steward' during the predicted hotter summer? According to world top scientists the greatest human contributor to carbon emissions is refrigeration. (Drawdown, ed. Pau Hawkins 2018) Turning the air condition and freezer a few degrees less cold this summer can reduce the carbon emission that causes warming of the climate globally. Those without the resources to adapt to the heat are bearing the heaviest burden. How can we make a difference?

"Be assured that you are pleasing in the sight of God and that I shall help you when I am with Him."

~ St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Secretary Needed

Our parishes are seeking to hire a secretary to work in the Norfolk church office for 15 hours per week, Monday – Friday 9:00am - 12:00pm daily.

The position involves general secretarial duties that necessitates computer skills, particularly with Microsoft Word and Excel. Bookkeeping will now be done by Whalen, Davey, and Looney, CPA's. For a job description and application please phone the parish office (315-384-4242).

We hope to fill this position in the near future.



SUMMER LUNCHEON SERIES

Virtual Presentations from the Diocese of Syracuse

Our colleagues from the Office of Evangelization in the Diocese of Syracuse invite us to join them virtually via Zoom for different speakers each Wednesday at noon during the month of July: **July 22:** Danielle Cummings - Chancellor, Diocese of Syracuse. **July 29:** Kevin Frank - Executive Director, Brady Faith Center. Registration is required. For more information and to register go here:

<https://events.syracusediocese.org/view/4904/summer-luncheon-series>

RESERVATIONS FOR WEEKEND MASSES

To ensure we are compliant with the limits imposed by social distancing at our Masses, parishioners *must* call the parish offices to make a reservation for the Mass they wish to attend. When the limits have been reached for one weekend's Masses, you can then reserve for the following weekend's Masses.

Please call 315-384-4242 to reserve at either the 4:00pm Mass at St. Andrew's, or the 10:30am Mass at the Church of the Visitation. Call 315-389-5401 to attend the 8:30am Mass at St. Patrick's. Leave your name, Mass you wish to attend, and how many.

All persons at risk due to age, a weakened immune system or other health concerns should remain at home for their own safety. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

COURAGE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

40 Years of Courage: A Legacy of Hope

ANNUAL CONFERENCE July 25 – 26, 2020 ONLINE THIS YEAR! For more information and to register:

<https://couragerc.org/conference2020/>

PVSR PRAYER LINE – LET US PRAY

Please remember in your prayers all of our parish family and friends who suffer emotionally, spiritually, or physically especially for; *Gail, Pat O'Brien, Leo Bond, and All who have been affected by Covid-19.* If you wish to have someone listed for one month, please contact the Parish office at 315-384-4242.

*Anyone from **Our Catholic Parishes** may request to have a person included in the bulletin for prayers. We will adhere to the practice of including a name for one month before removing it. Prayer can always be requested again at any time.*

ST. ANDREW'S PRAYER LINE

Members of our Parish who would like a member of their family or a close friend put on our Prayer Line are asked to call either Doreen Valade @ 315-212-5729 or Ann Miller @ 315-353-2950. Please be sure the person we will be praying for agrees to this before you call. Everything you share with us is kept confidential.

PRAYER DURING CORONAVIRUS

Mary Immaculate, our Mother and our Patroness, we ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our diocese, our nation and our world,
for our families and loved ones,
the protection of your Maternal mantle from this
dreaded virus.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us to love one another and to be
patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace and healing Presence
of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you are our compassionate mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.
Keep us in the embrace of your arms,
Help us always to know the love of your Son,
Jesus our Lord
AMEN.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER

Did you know...Although Virtus Training remains a requirement, the Bishop suspended all "live" VIRTUS (safe environment) training sessions until further notice due to the coronavirus. If you need to complete VIRTUS training for your employment or volunteer ministry, contact the Safe Environment Office to make arrangements to complete this required training in an online format. For more information, visit: <https://www.rcdony.org/safe-environment.html#virtus>

RETURNABLES

Stepping Stones is still collecting returnables and appreciate those who have continued to drop them off at the rectory garage. If you need them picked up please let us know. Keep them coming!

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING AWARENESS WEEK

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As we do every summer, our Church is participating in **Natural Family Planning Awareness Week**, (July 19—25). No, that doesn't mean we have another special second collection. But...we do ask for something from the faithful: take the time for some reflection and prayer on Natural Family Planning.

You might think, "I don't have time to study God's plan for married love. I have plenty of worries and concerns on my plate right now." Fair enough. Perhaps I can work on my philosophy of life when it comes to doing God's will or doing my will. This year's theme is "*Live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love.*" God's plan, not mine.

But, so often, we rebel against any idea of a plan by God. We have our own plans, our own designs. For instance, today I will determine whether I want to be male or female. I'll design me in my own image. Science and technology will help me. We will call it "freedom." Or...We will define marriage according to our own pleasure, not divine designs. We will call it "equality."

Too often, we feel most at home back in the Garden walking in the footsteps of Adam and Eve. I can do what I want, never mind what my Creator says. Pride presents itself front and center. I know better than God. 'If you do exist, God, don't call me, I'll call you when I want something, and you best respond to my request according to my personal plans.' No matter how unpopular, no matter what everybody else thinks, we are called to live the truth and beauty of God's plan for married love. The truth is God does have a plan that is beautiful, life-giving and practical.

Authentic family planning honors God's design by supporting the love-giving and life-giving nature of sexual intercourse. It promotes openness to new life and the value of the child. It helps to enrich the marital bond between husband and wife. Authentic family planning builds healthy and holy families. Through NFP, married couples celebrate and reverence God's vision of human sexuality.

Please visit our *NFP* office at our diocesan website: www.rcdony.org to learn more about this important element of the Church's teaching on marriage. We are truly blessed to have Suzanne and Angelo Pietropaoli serve as our diocesan directors of Natural Family Planning. Please contact them at the *NFP* office at 518-483-0459 or via email at apietropaoli@rcdony.org for more information or assistance in this important ministry that makes for stronger marriages and healthy, happier families.

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

Dear Padre,

In Scripture, we hear about the “reign of God” or the “kingdom of God.” How does this notion of “kingdom” fit with modern Catholicism?

Recently I heard a father tell his son: “I am the master of my domain!” The ten-year-old son was acting up and the father issued a statement clarifying that he, the father, was in charge, and the son was not!

When we hear “reign of God” or “kingdom of God,” we are reminded again that God is “master of our domain.” We acknowledge that it is God who runs the show. Remember when Jesus first began to preach, he asked the people to repent because the kingdom of God was at hand (Matthew 4:17). This “kingdom” is the reign of justice and compassion that had been the core of the Jews’ hopes for centuries preceding Jesus. This reign comes now in the person of Jesus. His preaching and work proclaim the birth of this new regime. It is a kingship where God, in the person of Jesus, now lives among the people (Luke 17:20–21).

What virtues must we practice as members of the kingdom? These are outlined by Jesus in the beatitudes given in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:3–10). Jesus pronounces that those who are blessed are those who live such a life as Jesus chose for himself. Our rewards are also outlined here. God will comfort us, fill us with good things, and make us children of God.

It is our task, then, to proclaim the kingdom of God by living like Jesus. One of the ways we do this is through the Sunday liturgy. It is there that we both hear how Jesus lived and prayed for “your kingdom come.”

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

There are no unemployed people in the kingdom of God. Everyone is called to do their part; and there will be a reward from divine justice for everyone in the end...the salvation that Jesus Christ acquired for us with his death and resurrection, a salvation which is not deserved, but donated.

—ANGELUS, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017



Calendar

Monday

JULY 20

Weekday

Mi 6:1–4, 6–8

Mt 12:38–42

Tuesday

JULY 21

Weekday

Mi 7:14–15, 18–20

Mt 12:46–50

Wednesday

JULY 22

St. Mary Magdalene

Sg 3:1–4b or

2 Cor 5:14–17

Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

Thursday

JULY 23

Weekday

Jer 2:1–3, 7–8, 12–13

Mt 13:10–17

Friday

JULY 24

Weekday

Jer 3:14–17

Mt 13:18–23

Saturday

JULY 25

St. James,
Apostle

2 Cor 4:7–15

Mt 20:20–28

Sunday

JULY 26

Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7–12

Rom 8:28–30

Mt 13:44–52

or 13:44–46