

Dear Padre,

Why did Jesus always speak in parables?
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?

Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1–16	1 Kgs 21:17–29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6–14	Sir 48:1–14	Gonzaga, Religious	2 Chr 24:17–25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38–42	Mt 5:43–48	Mt 6:1–6, 16–18	Mt 6:7–15	2 Kgs 11:1–4, 9–18, 20	Mt 6:24–34	Jb 38:1, 8–11
				Mt 6:19–23		2 Cor 5:14–17
						Mk 4:35–41



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021
VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

June 16, 2024
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Ezekiel 17:22–24 / 2 Corinthians 5:6–10 / Mark 4:26–34



With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.
MARK 4:33

Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The adage that "life is what happens to us as we're busy doing other things" seems to be a rewording of this week's Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God's reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we're busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. "We walk by faith and not by sight" reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we'd never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life's events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

Reflect

*Think of three of your blessings:
How much did you have to do
with their coming about?*

Sunday, June 16, 2024: Eleventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Adoration at 9:00 a.m. before weekly Thursday Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Rosary is the first Sunday of the month at 9:00 a.m. before Mass.

Website: www.stjudeparishgobles.com Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Very Rev. Fr. Robert Creagan email: frcreagan@stakalamazoo.org

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510
Gobles, MI 49055

Email: deaconjimbauer@gmail.com

For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.

St. Jude Parish Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Office will be closed on Wednesdays until July 10th

Office Email: st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper: Lauren Gilbert (269) 628-2219
Choir Director: Laura Woods (269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator: Jennifer Price (269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator: Jennifer Rossell (269) 744-2582

Mass Intention for today: The People of Saint Jude

NEXT SUNDAY, JUNE 23, 2024

READER: Pat Sage

ALTAR SERVERS: Rocky, Noah, Bo, Bella

Extra-Ordinary Ministers: Karen Boyer & Jennifer Price

Mass intention for Thurs., June 20, 2024: Kristine Cusack by Kathy Sarto

Mass intention for Sun., June 23, 2024: Linda Lukas by Leonard Lukas

Weekly Collection Information

Collections:	Target	Received	Over-(under)	Attendance
June 9, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 2,320.50	\$ 420.50	144
Year to Date:	\$ 93,700.00	\$ 93,640.81	\$ (59.18)	5933

We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight

Our readings today inform us about the kingdom of God—how it is established, how it grows, and how it will reach its fulfillment.

In the first reading, Ezekiel uses the image of a cedar tree planted at the top of a mountain to prophesy that God will restore Israel under a new king from the line of David. We know that Jesus is this new king, the long-awaited Messiah of Israel. But his kingdom is not the political dynasty the people hoped for. Jesus came to proclaim the kingdom of God.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells two parables about the kingdom of God:

- The first, he says the kingdom is like a man who has scattered seeds. He does not know how it grows but harvests it when it is ripe.
- The second, Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. Though it is a small seed, it grows into a large plant that can shelter birds in its branches.

In both parables, there is a profound contrast between small or humble beginnings and great conclusions. Yet, it is the element of mystery in the process, the divine guidance, that truly captivates. Jesus' description of the man sleeping and rising and watching his plants bear fruit of their own accord is not an accurate description of agriculture. Anyone who has grown a backyard garden knows that weeding, watering, and pruning are to be done before the plants bear fruit. The emphasis of the parable is that God is the source of growth, a mystery that we can only stand in awe of.

Where are we in these readings? Somewhere between the planting and the harvest. Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection are the seeds that have been planted. These seeds are scattered and sown each time we hear the word of God or celebrate the sacraments. The kingdom of God is already here. But we also know that Christ will come again. As Paul writes in the second reading, we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

Until then, we continue to walk by faith, not sight, knowing that what God has in store for us is greater than anything we could imagine. The work of the present is to build God's kingdom, trusting that he will provide for its growth, even when we cannot see it. We are called to do good and avoid evil so that we will be ready for harvest.

*The Sanctuary Candle is lit this week in memory of **ANDY KELLER**
By request of Marie Keller*

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL: Fran Sage, Father Richard, Zane Miller, Pete & Barb Percival, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

Mark Your Calendars - The Parish Picnic Is Coming Soon!!
Sunday, July 14th, After Mass

*This will be a special year with some new and exciting activities!
Lots of wonderful prizes and gifts to bid on!
Amazing food and entertainment!
Bishop Lohse will be attending this year!
(Keep watching the bulletin for more updates)*

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JUNE - spaghetti sauce, salt, corn starch, baking soda, baking powder, Jello/pudding, deodorant, shampoo. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have questions, call 269-501-0224.

SENIORS TOGETHER—The next Seniors Together gathering will be on Thursday, June 20, from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Fletcher's Pub, Texas Corners.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE - Parenting is a lot like the story of the farmer in the gospel parable today. All growth is the Lord's work. We have no control over the process. In fact, the farmer doesn't even understand it, for the seed grows even when he sleeps. As parents we can influence our children, but nothing we do can guarantee results.

THE BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL - Thank you so much to the parish families who have made a donation or pledge. Our total commitment to the Bishop's Annual Appeal so far is **\$15,178 or 85%** (towards our goal of \$17,962). We are moving closer to our goal of **100% participation**, but we can't make it without you. Please prayerfully consider. No gift is too small.

FROM THE DIOCESE

COME JOIN US FOR A CURSILLO MASS WITH BISHOP LOHSE! -The Cursillo Movement of the Diocese of Kalamazoo English and Spanish invite everyone to come celebrate the Eucharist with Bishop Lohse on Sunday, June 23rd at 2:00 pm at St. Augustine Cathedral. There will be a reception following Mass in the Crowley Center.

DID YOU KNOW that women facing a difficult or unexpected pregnancy often say they don't want to choose abortion but feel they have no choice due to lack of support and financial, relationship, and other pressures? We can address some of those pressures by supporting Caring Network, the pro-life agency of the Diocese of Kalamazoo. Visit www.ccdok.org to donate.

STAYING IN TOUCH WITH GRADUATING SENIORS - Serving as a bridge between high school and campus ministers, Newman Connection contacts every CYM, DRE, and High School in the Diocese to collect names and contact information for graduating seniors. The most important piece of information collected is where these seniors are going to college, allowing Newman Connection to provide the senior's contact information to the appropriate college campus minister. These campus ministers are encouraged to reach out to the young adults who will be coming to their college in order to maintain a Catholic connection from the get-go of their college careers. For more information on how to implement this process, visit newmanconnection.com or contact Cassie Campton at ccampton@newmanconnection.com.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NURSES - The National Association of Catholic Nurses is pleased to announce the start of a local council in our diocese. The main goals of the council are to provide spiritual nourishment, ethical support, networking and friendship with fellow Catholic Nurses. Join <https://NACN-USA.org>, and as a member of the national association, you will be automatically enrolled as a member of our local council and will receive updates on council formation. Questions? Contact Janet C. Munday, BSN, RN, Regional Director, at JanetMunday@gmail.com

Anyone aware of child sexual abuse should report the matter to the appropriate law enforcement agency and make a report to the Michigan Department of Attorney General at 844-324-3374.

Bishop Lohse has pledged to provide professional counseling or therapy to victims of clergy sex abuse in the Diocese. Victims can receive 24-hour care via the crisis hotline set with Catholic Charities at 800-873-8336.