

SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017
17th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FROM THE PASTOR
THE KINGDOM OF GOD

The central theme of Jesus' preaching was not about himself. He was primarily focused on the theme of the Kingdom of God. The parables that we heard last week (the Wheat and the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, and the Woman and the Yeast) all addressed this theme. So do the parables in this week's Gospel (the Treasure in the Field, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Net Cast Into the Sea). What exactly is this Kingdom of God that Jesus is speaking of?

Jesus was not a dogmatic theologian who dealt in carefully crafted doctrinal statements. He was a preacher who used a multitude of images and stories to paint a picture, which allows for great openness in interpretation but is somewhat frustrating for those who want clear definitions. This is especially true in terms of the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God, or the Kingdom of Heaven, or the Reign of God, exists whenever and wherever God is King. Heaven is the Kingdom of God, for everything in Heaven operates according to God's will and purpose. The Garden of Eden, before the Fall, was the Kingdom of God, for it too operated according to God's will and purpose. Because of the Fall, and subsequent sin and rebellion by human beings, this world fell under the rule of Satan, who Jesus calls the "prince of this world." When the Devil told Jesus that all nations belonged to him and he could give them to whomever he wished, this was true.

Jesus proclaimed that he had come to restore the Kingdom of God. He would do battle with the Prince of this world and defeat him. "The Kingdom is at hand." You can reach out and touch it; it is here, in Jesus himself. "The Kingdom is within." When we surrender our lives to Christ, making him our King and our Lord, we come to know the peace and blessings of the Kingdom within our hearts. "Thy Kingdom come." Jesus taught us to pray for the Kingdom to come in the Lord's Prayer. The Kingdom is here and not yet. It is present now in seed form (hence the parables concerning the seed), but these seeds will eventually bear fruit and become the fullness of the Kingdom, when Jesus comes at the end of time.

SAINT IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Saint Ignatius is the founder of the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. As a young man Ignatius was a great romantic and warrior. He was inspired by the stories of El Cid, of Camelot, and the Song of Roland, and dreamed of finding fortune and fame in battle. After being seriously injured, he had a long convalescence and

came across the *Lives of the Saints*. As he read, his understanding of battle and glory was transformed. The same zeal that he felt for deeds of bravery and conquest on the battlefield was transferred to the deeds of holiness and sanctity in the battle of the soul.

Ignatius would become a priest, and would establish for himself a way of living that began to attract other young priests. This was the beginning of the Jesuit order. He would also develop a process of spiritual discernment that is known as the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius. Those exercises continue to guide Jesuit spirituality and have deeply influenced virtually all retreat movements since that time.

The Jesuits became great missionaries and are known for their scholarship and dedication to teaching.

The feast day for Saint Ignatius is this Monday, July 31.

SAINT JOHN VIANNEY

In the mid 1800s, a very simple country priest named John Vianney became very famous for his deep prayer, his powerful sermons, and for the insight and discernment that he showed in hearing confessions. His fame was international, and thousands would travel from around Europe to consult with this pastor of the small town of Ars, which was made up of about 250 people. In his later years, over 10,000 people a year would come seeking his guidance, and he would hear confessions for up to 16 to 17 hours a day.

Known as the Cure of Ars (Cure is the French for curate, which refers to a parish priest), John is a surprising figure for such acclaim. He grew up with very little education, including the Latin that was necessary for seminary studies. Eventually he was accepted but struggled greatly throughout his time of study—not for lack of intelligence, but for lack of preparation. Eventually he was ordained, of course.

Saint John Vianney is the patron saint of parish priests and is both a great inspiration and role model for what a priest is to be.

His feast day is this Friday, August 4.

DEDICATION OF SAINT MARY MAJOR

On Saturday, August 5, the Church celebrates the Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. There are four major basilicas in Rome. Saint Peter's is the most famous, and then there are also the basilicas of Saint John Lateran, and Saint Paul Outside the Walls (this distinguishes it from the Anglican Church known as Saint Paul Inside the Walls). And then there is Saint Mary Major, or Santa Maria Maggiore.

Saint Mary Major is one of the oldest churches dedicated to the Blessed Mother. It was built in the 430s, shortly after the Council of Ephesus declared Mary to be the Mother of God. Like Mother of God Church, Saint Mary Major is a very elaborate and highly decorated

church. Many believe that it is the most beautiful of the four basilicas, although each is a remarkably beautiful edifice.

The church is sometimes called the Basilica of Our Lady of Snows. A legend tells of a couple who wished to make a major donation in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On August 5, snow fell on the Esquiline Hill, and it was made known to them that she wanted a church dedicated to her built on that site, and they made it happen.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Next Sunday, rather than the Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time, the Church will celebrate the Solemnity of the Transfiguration of the Lord. There are a few special feasts that are so important that they take precedence over the assigned Sunday. The Transfiguration is one of these.

CONVERT INSTRUCTION CLASSES

Are you interested in joining the Catholic Church, or in learning more about your faith? We will begin classes for this purpose on Tuesday, September 5, at 6:30 pm. Please contact me at 859-816-3198 if you are interested.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you have a son or daughter attending public school who is in need of religious education and sacramental preparation, please contact me at 859-816-3198.

BEGINNING TO READ THE BIBLE

"Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." With these words, Jesus rejected the Devil's temptation to turn stones into bread and stated clearly for us that our souls need to be nourished on the Word of God, even more than our bodies need to be nourished with bread.

On Thursday, September 7, I will begin a series on Beginning to Read the Bible. The first few weeks will include a general overview of the Bible and explanations of how we are to approach and understand the Scriptures. Then we will begin with a study of the first chapters of the Book of Genesis, which establish the foundation for the rest of the account of Salvation History.

The sessions will be offered twice a day—at 11 am and at 6:30 pm.

Bring your Bible. Bring your friends. A good time is guaranteed for all.

INSTALLATION MASS

On Sunday, August 20, Bishop Foys will be here to officially install me as pastor of Mother of God Church. This will take place at the 11:30 am Mass. Rather than a reception in the undercroft, the parish picnic that afternoon will serve as the reception.

I hope that many of you will join us that day.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION is available at Mother of God Church every Thursday after the 12:05 pm Mass and concludes with Benediction at 5 pm. Would you be willing to spend time in prayer with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? Please call our parish office at 859-291-2288 if we can count on you for a regular time each Thursday afternoon. Or just come in to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

MASS ON LINE from Mother of God Church, either streaming live or on demand, is provided through the website: www.mother-of-god.org. It is a wonderful way to stay connected with the parish.

<p>PLEASE NOTE: Confessions on Saturday from 11 am until time of Mass at 12:05 pm.</p>

MOTHER OF GOD PICNIC: Mark the date, August 20, 4 pm, with dinner served between 5 and 5:30 pm at the Villa Madonna picnic grounds. This year's picnic will be an extra special celebration. Father Comer will be officially installed as our pastor on that day, and he has requested that in lieu of a cake-and-punch reception after Mass, he would prefer to celebrate with us at our annual picnic. Fried chicken, soft drinks, water, plates and utensils will be provided. Participants are asked to bring either an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert to share. *Loving Life* is this year's photo contest theme and certainly is apropos for our picnic theme. Join the parish fun and help give Father Comer a Mother of God welcome.

2017 MOTHER OF GOD PHOTO WALK AND PHOTO CONTEST: Hey everybody, it's time to start thinking about our **MOG 7th Annual Photo Contest**. This year's theme will be "**LOVING LIFE!**" Details and contest guidelines will be available after both Masses today. Also, please mark your calendars for another fantastic **Photo Walk on Saturday, August 5**. This is always a fun time and a great way to get some fresh air, a little exercise, and make new friends. David and LaDawn Ziser will be coordinating both events this year, so please give them a call at 859-250-8855 with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday October 28, at 4 pm. German Mass and Oktoberfest. Last year's event during the 175th celebration was so popular, with requests to offer it again, that it has been decided to do just that. It is early on in the planning stages, but you will be kept up to date with progress and most likely requests for your participation.

SUNDAY COLLECTION	JULY 23, 2017
Envelopes	\$5,683.00
Loose	\$589.50
Online Giving	\$739.15
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$7,011.65

MASS AS PRAYER: Deacon Jerry Franzen from the Cathedral parish will offer a class he teaches for the Diocesan Catechetical Formation Program on four consecutive evenings – August 9, 16, 23 and 30, from 7 pm-9 pm. These classes are open to parishioners of the Covington Deanery. We will pray the rosary in St. Mary's Park at 6:30 pm before each session. The sessions will be held at Bishop Howard Memorial Auditorium. The Second Vatican Council teaches that, "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life." This opportunity will be for anyone who would like to learn more about the meaning of the Mass as a prayer. You can register for the classes by sending an email to Mrs. Trisha Brundage, Cathedral parish secretary at tbrundage@covcathedral.com.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES NEEDS YOUR HELP! On August 13, after both Masses, parish members and volunteers from Catholic Charities will be in the back of church promoting their upcoming fundraiser, the CaSSba, and selling raffle tickets. The raffle tickets are \$20 each. The grand prize is 30 percent of total ticket sales. Last year the winners received over \$11,000! All proceeds for this event benefit the clients being served through Catholic Charities. You can also purchase tickets on line at www.covingtoncharities.org. Thanks for your support of Catholic Charities. For more information, call Vicky Bauerle, BA, institutional advancement manager, at 859-581-8974, ext. 116.

ROSE GARDEN HOME MISSION: The 4th Annual Golf Outing of the Friends of the Rose Garden Home Mission is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 25, at the Kenton County Golf Courses (3908 Richardson Road, Independence, KY). Registration begins at 8 am, with a shot-gun start scheduled for 10 am. The format is a four-person, 18-hole scramble using best ball format. The cost is \$100 per person, which includes golf cart, green fees, beverages for the day, lunch at the turn, team and individual prizes and a dinner buffet which begins after the final team has finished their round (at app. 3:15 pm). To register an individual or a foursome, please visit www.RoseGardenMissionGolf.com. For more information, please call Cindy at (859) 653-3823. All proceeds go to the Rose Garden Home Mission in Covington to support the needy of northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati.

DCCH FLEA MARKET: The 18th Annual Flea Market for the Diocesan Catholic Children's Home is August 5, from 8 am to 2 pm, and August 6, from 11 am to 2 pm, at 75 Orphanage Road, Fort Mitchell. Furniture, antiques, home décor, collectibles, and more! Proceeds benefit victims of child abuse. Please visit dcchcenter.org or call 859-331-2040 for more information.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, July 30

Hawaiian Shirt Day

Tuesday, August 1

7 pm, Education Committee Mtg. (SAC)

Thursday, August 3

12:45 – 5 pm, Eucharistic Adoration

MASS INTENTIONS

July 30	9:30 am Sally Glockner
	11:30 am Special Intention
July 31	12:05 pm John & Sarah Hebbeler
Aug. 1	12:05 pm The Santel Family
Aug. 2	12:05 pm No Mass
Aug. 3	12:05 pm ,Samuel & Mary Rose Mantione
Aug. 4	12:05 pm Tony & Mary Wirtz
Aug. 5	12:05 pm Peter Vasquez
Aug. 6	9:30 am Parishioners & Memorials
	11:30 am Thelma & John Hennessy

SCRIPTURE FOR JULY 30, 2017: 1 Kings 3: 5, 7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8: 28-30; Matthew 13: 44-52.

LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Ries
Rose Sketch	Beth Redwine
Pam Neal	Susan Hodge
Robert Gander	Trudy Koehling
Shirley Hensley	Ralph Kunkemoeller
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Margie Huesman
Barry Price	Greg Scanlon
Mary Jo Schwartz	Makayla Borg
Carol Jenkins	Liz Enzweiler
Pat Ruttle	Mertle Cann
Bill Meyer	Fr. Ray Hartman
Greg Dahlenberg	Bob Schroeder
Baby Eli	