

ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



JUNE 13, 2021

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The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that is the smallest of all the seeds. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants.

M A R K 4 : 3 1 – 3 2



THE CHURCH AND GOD'S KINGDOM

Today's scriptures connect the towering cedars of Lebanon from the prophet Ezekiel to the mustard plant of the famous parable of Jesus. Both plants represent the Kingdom of God. Both are also to be understood as symbols of the Church, where "birds of every kind shall dwell" (Ezekiel 17:23) and shelter in the cedar's branches, and the shade of the mustard plant's large branches provide dwelling for the "birds of the sky." Even today's psalm tells of the just one who is like a cedar flourishing in the house of the Lord.

Now, the Church is not the Kingdom, but rather a sacrament, a visible sign of it. They co-exist in the here-and-now but also in the "not yet." As Paul reminds us, we must constantly work to continue building and growing the Kingdom by everyday good works of "the just one." So we are all birds and just ones.

"LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . ."

The Gospel of Mark is nothing if not a testament to the power of parables to illustrate the Good News through story. Jesus was a master storyteller, who understood the importance of using images and concepts to which his listeners could relate. A seed, a mustard plant, would symbolize one of Mark's signature focuses: the Kingdom of God.

Centuries earlier, the prophet Ezekiel proclaimed most poetically to the Israelites, recently liberated from Babylonian captivity, that their God was still their hope, their comfort, their rescue, and their shelter. Those refugees would understand the image of the towering cedar as a symbol of their kingdom, cut down, fallen, captured. By restoring their kingdom, their God was giving them a new creation (the replanted shoot) and a new covenant.

THY KINGDOM COME . . .

Ezekiel said that God would tear off "a tender shoot" (17:22) for this replanting. What does this sound like? Why, Advent, of course, and specifically the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse, and from his roots a bud shall blossom" (Isaiah 11:1); and again in Isaiah's Messianic texts we hear: "He grew up before us like a tender shoot" (53:2). Jesse was the father of the great king David and, as we know, Jesus came to be that tender shoot, that blossom, the new Davidic King whose throne, the cross, was once a tree.

God's incarnation in Jesus, born fully human, is the fulfillment of the promise to Ezekiel of the renewed and restored cedar, the new Kingdom. That new creation and covenant exists for us in the Church, through the Holy Spirit making the seed planted within us grow, flourish, and spread. Thus we have the faith and courage to be that visible sign of the Kingdom bringing hope and renewal to the world. We must live Kingdom lives before we can convince others to do so.

TODAY'S READINGS

Ezekiel 17:22–24
Psalm 92:2–3, 13–14, 15–16
2 Corinthians 5:6–10
Mark 4:26–34

The Church of the Incarnation

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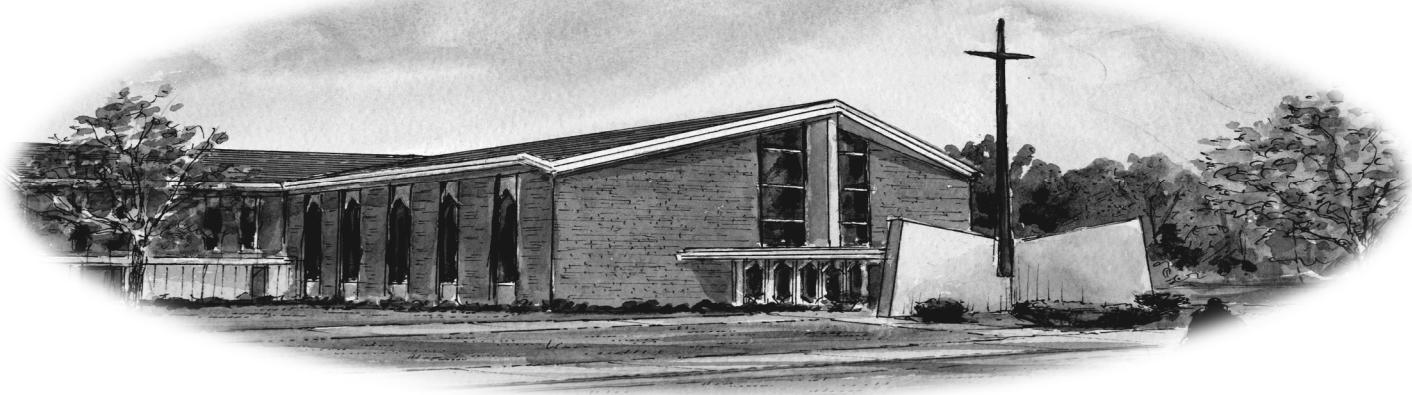
Faith Formation (860) 529-6765

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Pastor

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Director of Faith Formation

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Pastoral Assistant

Mrs. Audrey Saharek

Sacristan

Toni Munoz

Coordinator Elementary Faith Formation Gr. K-6

Mrs. Filomena Marinelli

Coordinator Middle School Faith Formation Gr. 7-12

Confirmation Coordinator

Gina Burby

Director of Music

Mrs. Theodora Niver

Cantors

Vanessa Crowley.....Lorissa Heath
Rosanne Sweeney Gowdy.....Andrew Russo
Heather Picard.....Gianna Bielenda

Rectory Staff Assistant

Mrs. Marguerite Devitt

Rectory Assistant

Marguerite Heinimann

Mass Schedule

Confessions on Saturdays from 3:30 - 4:15pm

in Father Crawford Hall

Vigil Mass: Saturday at 5:00pm

Sunday Masses: 8:30 & 10:30 am

Daily Mass: (Mon. - Fri.) 9:00 am

Recitation of the Rosary for Peace before

9:00 am daily Mass

Sacrament of Baptism

By previous appointment by calling the rectory.

Sundays at 12:30 pm

Weddings

Please contact a priest 6-10 months prior.

New Parishioners - Faith Formation Registration

The Church of the Incarnation
welcomes new parishioners.

Forms are available at the
main entrance of the church.

Please mail or drop off at the rectory.

You may also visit our website for printable forms at:
www.thechurchoftheincarnation.com

Rectory Hours

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Mass Schedule

Saturday, June 12th

5:00pm— Virginia Vieira

Sunday, June 13th

8:30am— Edna Levesque

10:30am— Josephine & Raymond
McMullen, Delia & John K., Frank,
John J., & Dr. James O'Brien

Monday, June 14th

9:00am— Deceased members of the
Lepore Family

Tuesday, June 15th

9:00am— Luigi Lucci

Wednesday, June 16th

9:00am— For all our parishioners

Thursday, June 17th

9:00am— Deceased members of the
Sabatini Family

Friday, June 18th

9:00am— Salvatore & Antonina
Tarascio

Saturday, June 19th

5:00pm— Salvatore & Concetta
Gionfriddo

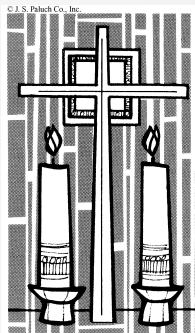
Sunday, June 20th

8:30am— Deceased members of the
Loura, Santos & Gaspar Families

10:30am— James Sanders

The Sanctuary Candle

will burn from 6/14/2021—
6/20/2021 in memory of
Tom & Mary Scully and
Vincent Scully.



The Blessed Virgin Mary

Candle will burn from
6/14/2021—6/20/2021 in memory of
Joseph A. Salvatore.



The **Second Collection** this weekend is the monthly collection.

ARCHDIOCESAN DISPENSATION

UPDATE: Archbishop Blair lifted the dispensation for the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation as of May 22nd & 23rd. Effective Wednesday, June 9, 2021, for those who are vaccinated, wearing masks will now be optional while at Mass, at other liturgies, and at any outdoor events held at our churches. Those who remain unvaccinated should continue to wear masks, with particular attention being given to the safety of young/unvaccinated children.

**We have some remaining 2022
MEMORIAL MASSES/SANCUARY/
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY CANDLES
AVAILABLE.** To reserve a mass for a loved one or friend call the rectory at (860) 529-2533. Our weekday Mass offering is \$10 & our weekend offering is \$20. Our Candle offering is \$10.00.

The Incarnation Men's Club will meet in Fr. Crawford Hall on Wed., June 23rd at 7pm.

We have a CINTAS Professional First Aid Cabinet available if an injury occurs to a parishioner during Mass. Please alert an usher to notify the Sacristan of the injury. We have a disabled restroom in the west corner of Fr. Crawford Hall.

**FAITH FORMATION
(GRADES 1-6)**

Thank you very much to Joanne Bresnahan for her hard work creating such a beautiful First Communion banner!! A wonderful display of time, talent and treasure! **Congratulations** to our 21 second graders who made their First Reconciliation on May 1st as well as our 26 third grade First Holy Communicants who received Jesus for the first time on May 8 & May 22. God Bless them as they begin a new and deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ! **Congratulations** also to our fourth grade faith formation students who received First Holy Communion on May 15 & May 23 respectively: Olivia Rubbo, Sam Golino, Jack Martin, and John Staron. Thanks to all families for your cooperation this year as we learned about our Faith online. Have a great summer!



Hartford House of Bread Collection:

Sponsored by our 2021 Confirmation Class of the Church of the Incarnation. **Thank you to our Faith Formation volunteers, families and Incarnation Parishioners for your donations of coffee, tea & sugar. Thank you for your generosity to the homeless who are provided meals from The House of Bread. There will be another summer collection stay tuned for dates.**





PRAYER CORNER

GOD'S TIME

We either pay attention to or ignore “clock time” as we play in the summer sun and note the earth’s tilt and the lengthening days. We live by time. We reckon time in seconds and minutes and hours, or we use broader chunks like suppertime and summertime.

God keeps another sort of time. God speaks to us of “saving time,” that is, the time of salvation. This sense of time is called *kairos*, and this time is always now, always present and available, always revealing, often surprising.

This Sunday’s readings alert us to the reality and the import of God’s time. Ezekiel and the Gospel of Mark remind us that our labor and our plotting and our planning rest in God. For God takes our smallest efforts and makes of them great works. Paul points us to the “harvest” time, urges us to be watchful for its coming, and calls us to recognize that we must spend our time pleasing God.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — I have lifted high the lowly tree
(Ezekiel 17:22-24).

Psalm — Lord, it is good to give thanks to you
(Psalm 92).

Second Reading — Whether we are at home or away, we aspire to please the Lord
(2 Corinthians 5:6-10).

Gospel — It is the smallest of all seeds, and becomes the largest of plants (Mark 4:26-34)

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Flag Day

Saturday: St. Romuald; Blessed Virgin Mary

FEAST OF FAITH

The Preparation of the Altar

The altar is the focal point of our churches. It is a sign of Christ in our midst; indeed, it has been said that “the altar is Christ” (*Dedication of an Altar*, 4). The altar is a table “on which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated in mystery throughout the ages until Christ comes”; but it is also the place for a festive meal: “a table at which the Church’s children assemble to give thanks to God and receive the body and blood of Christ” (*Dedication of an Altar*, 4).

Both these functions of the altar are clear in the rites for the preparation of the altar that follow the general intercessions, which remind us of the preparations we make at home for a festive meal. The deacon or altar servers come forward and, bowing, place a cloth known as a corporal (from the Latin for “body”) over the altar cloth. They place the chalice, the cup to be used in the celebration of the Eucharist, and the *Sacramentary* or *Roman Missal*, which contains the prayers of the Mass, on the altar. These reverent preparations help us to focus on what is about to happen: the sharing of a holy meal, a solemn sacrifice.

THE CHURCH AND THE SPIRIT

Where the Church is, there is the Spirit of God; and where the Spirit of God is, there is the Church and all grace, and the Spirit is truth.
—St. Irenaeus

HONESTY

The most important person to be honest with is myself.
—Anonymous

Saying Thank You:...

It is with deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks to all in our faith community who assisted with implementing COVID-19 protocols provided to us by the Archdiocese of Hartford.

Early in our journey, under the direction of Teddie Niver Director of Music Ministry, our cantors prepared a series of sacred music interludes posted on our parish website. Their endeavor was a means of connecting our parish family with church when we were unable to be together in parish worship. Their generous spirit lifted ours and for that we say thank you.

Marco Pace and those who assisted him, Mike Stefano and Chris Roth provided expertise with maintaining our website, with updates on safety protocols, directives, the cantor music program and the taping of our safety procedures. Their taping of the Celebration of the Eucharist gave opportunity for homebound parishioners to participate in weekly Mass.

Sexton, Phil Pasternak, constructed safe pathways under the direction of the Archdiocese to help us navigate safely through our liturgies.

Our Faith Formation coordinators, Filomena Marinelli and Gina Burby along with director Noranne Wamester developed website programs enabling our families and young people to continue their religious education and prepare for sacraments online. Filomena and Gina constructed Prayer Centers for our families to use at home strengthening the bond between home and church.

Pastoral Associate and Bereavement Minister, Noranne Wamester, developed guidelines for Masses of Christian Burial for Funeral Directors. Working together with the focus to serve grieving families, each respectively, included protocols to ensure the safety and well-being of all while at funeral Masses.

Pastoral Assistant Audrey Saharek, Rectory Staff Assistant Margie Devitt, and Rectory Assistant Marguerite Heinemann prepared information for our parish website. Fielding this information was vital to those who would communicate it to the parish at-large.

Sacristan Toni Munoz, served as our spokesperson who communicated protocols to parishioners at the daily and weekend Masses.

We thank our guides—volunteers—who faithfully came to Masses each week to ensure comfort and safety to those who attended Mass.

We thank all of our parishioners. Your continued cooperation with all protocols and directives has always been very much appreciated. Fr. Moran thanks all parishioners for their continued financial support enabling us to sustain our parish during this very difficult time.

We ask God's blessing for us all now and in the days ahead.

Thank you!



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*The Church of the
Incarnation
Garden
Ministry*

The Church of the Incarnation has been blessed through the years to have Bob & Priscilla Quinn coordinate our beautiful campus gardens. They were assisted by many wonderful parishioners in maintaining our lovely gardens. Bob sadly passed away on March 19th of this year. He was a wonderful servant of the Lord. His dear wife Priscilla expressed her appreciation to all who served in this ministry and now she will step down in the leadership role. We are so appreciative of their service to the garden ministry. Tony Colasacco and Mary Alfano have graciously stepped up to take the lead. Priscilla, Tony, Mary and Noranne met together to discuss what the gardens needed at this time. Tony and Mary worked for days to renew the gardens....removing the plants/flowers that were past their time and replanted new plants and flowers to beautify the entrances. They also planted flowers in the pots at the Narthex entrances. Your work is so appreciated. Please notice the beauty of the gardens as you enter the Church. A team of helpers continue serving in this ministry. More volunteers are always welcome.

Mary's Grotto and Walkway:: We are so grateful to Michael Stefano for his wonderful work in maintaining Our Blessed Mother's Grotto and the walkway on the Chapel side. It is indeed a sacred place to reflect and pray to Our Lady. Queen of Peace. The Butterfly Garden will be renewed shortly and has been beautifully mulched. We are in need of families from our elementary Faith Formation Program and our Confirmation Program to care for the garden for a two week time period. This special garden was designed in memory of our lost children. It is a very special tribute to our children. Please email Gina Burby, Filomena Marinelli or call Noranne Wamester (860) 529-6765 if you are called to serve. Gratefully,
Noranne S. Wamester, Pastoral Associate



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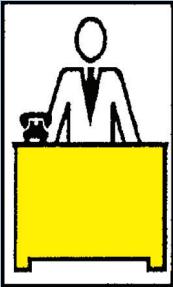
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puts on ADVERTISED clothes
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of ADVERTISED coffee
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