

“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.

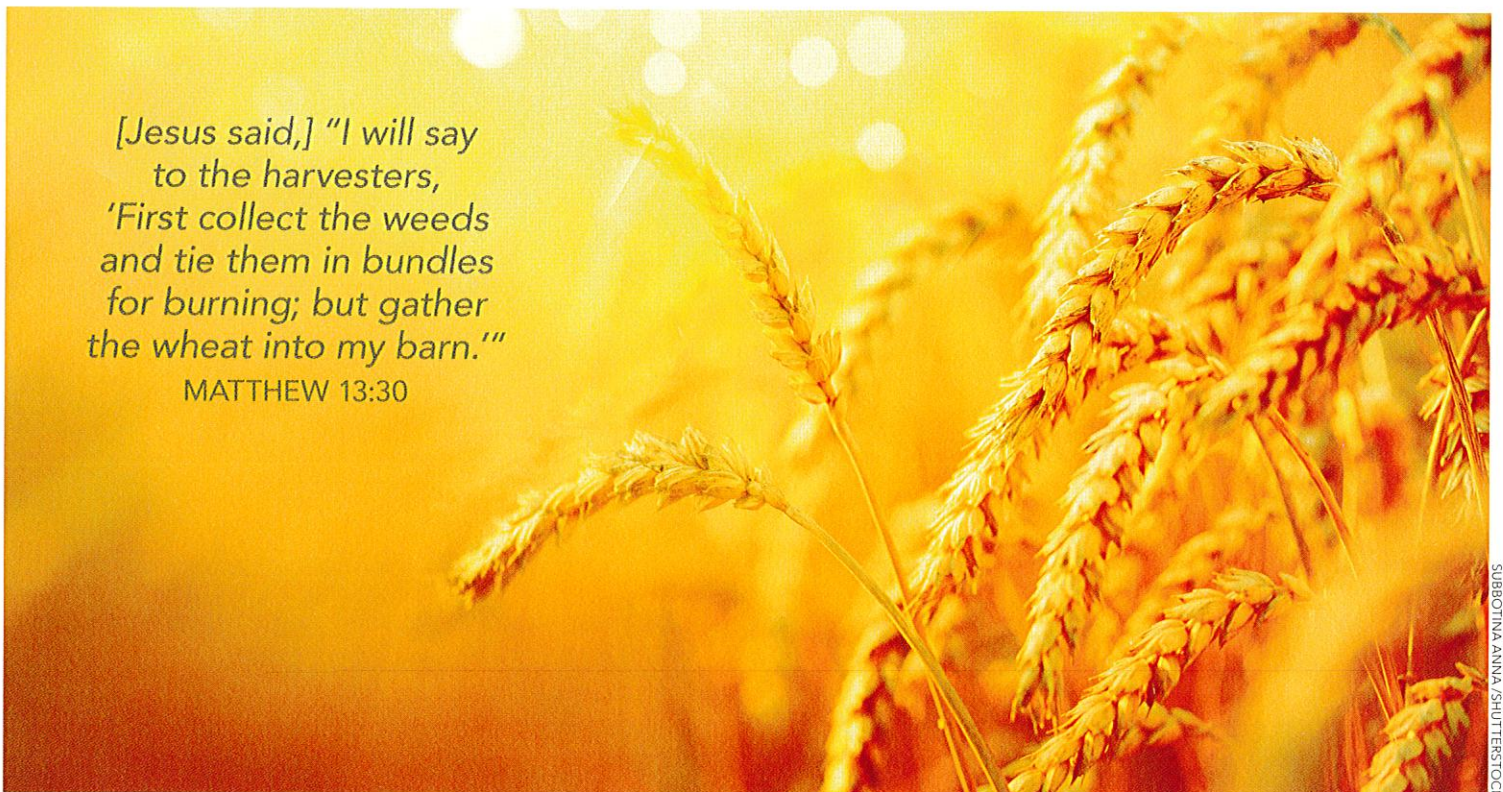
—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

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



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?

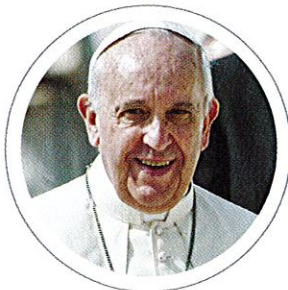
Recently I heard a father tell his son: “I am the master of my domain!” The ten-year-old son was acting up and the father issued a statement clarifying that he, the father, was in charge, and the son was not!

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



Immaculate Conception Parish Family



159th YEAR OF SERVICE

307 N. Walker St. | Montgomery City | Missouri | 63361

Fr. Austin(Augustine) Okoli, Pastor | e-mail kesisi2@yahoo.com | Deacon Wayne Korte | Mary Hedding, Secretary | Janet Cobb, Bookkeeper | 573.564.2375 Parish Office

imm-con@sbcglobal.net | www.mcicparish.org | Office Hours M-Th 9:00am-3pm Bulletin Deadline: Wed. 9:00 AM

Ms. Dana Schroeder, School Principal | Judy Cobb, School Secretary | immaculateconception@icschool-mc.org | 573.564.2679 - School Office

Society of St. Vincent DePaul - 573.835.3631

Parish Council Members: Beth Cobb- President; Michael Auchly-Vice-President; Secretary-Open, Julie Beck, Dennis Benney, Janet Cobb, Laura Yelton

JULY 19, 2020 - SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Mass Intentions

Monday, July 20th **No Mass**
 Tuesday, July 21st 5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
 Wednesday, July 22nd 8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
 Thursday, July 23rd **8:00 AM Mass** - Montgomery City
 Gina Smith
 Friday, July 24th 7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
 Saturday, July 25th **5:00 PM Mass** - Montgomery City +Robert Merz
 Sunday, July 26th 7:00 AM Mass - Jonesburg
 9:00 AM Mass - Martinsburg
11:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City - Our Parish
 Family



July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

Church/School Financial Report: Income Expenses Difference
June 2020 \$54,786.90 \$109,322.34 (\$54,535.44)
Fiscal Year July - June 19-20 \$620,379.80 \$619,757.70 \$622.10
Needed Weekly \$ Budget not finalized.
 July 5 - \$ 12,673.22
 July 12 - \$ 7,664.16
 July 19 - \$
 July 26 - \$

Last Week's Envelopes: 48 of 179

(No Mass if there is a funeral or school has been cancelled.)

With God all things are possible

Parish Membership: Call the parish office to register.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30 to 4:50 PM Saturday or call for an appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism: Celebrated during Mass or at another arranged time. Call the parish office to set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Austin.

Sacrament of Marriage: Call the office at least six months prior to the date you would like to get married to make arrangements and set a date.

To Become a Catholic: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults begins in the Fall and sacramental initiation normally occurs at the Easter Vigil. Call for details.

Immaculate Conception Parish Mission

To proclaim the good news of the Gospel; to build community among the parishioners that we may journey in our faith together, giving witness to love and unity; to serve the needs of others in whatever form they may exist in our midst and to celebrate the realities of our faith together.

Who is an Active Parishioner?

- Registered in the parish
- Regularly participates in Mass and the sacraments
- Supports the parish financially
- Annually completes a stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure form and fulfills that commitment

Liturgical Ministers for July 25th and July 26th

Ministries	Saturday, 5:00 PM	Sunday, 11:00 AM
Lector	<u>No ministries will be assigned at this time.</u>	
Children's Liturgy		
Communion Ministers		
Ministers of Hospitality		
Servers		
Gift Bearers		
Money Counters		

Bishop McKnight's July prayer intention for our Local Church is:

For the unity of our country: that the God of truth may open our hearts to the truth of the Gospel, that peace may rule our hearts, and that justice may guide our nation of one people of many races.

Upcoming Events & Announcements

Monday, July 20th	No Mass
Tuesday, July 21st	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, July 22nd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg
Thursday, July 23rd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City
Friday, July 24th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, July 25th	5:00 PM - Mass - Montgomery City
Sunday, July 26th	7:00 AM - Mass - Jonesburg 9:00 AM - Mass - Martinsburg 11:00 AM - Mass - Montgomery City

Father Austin's Weekly Calendar

Monday, July 20th	Father's Day Off
Tuesday, July 21st	5:30 PM Mass - Wellsville
Wednesday, July 22nd	8:30 AM Mass - Jonesburg 7:00 PM - Finance Council Meeting - Montgomery City
Thursday, July 23rd	8:00 AM Mass - Montgomery City 6:00 PM - Parish Council Mtg. - Jonesburg
Friday, July 24th	7:45 AM Mass - Martinsburg
Saturday, July 25th	
Sunday, July 26th	

Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to the following couple(s) as they celebrate their special day!

Jerry & Nancy Fischer - 27 years of marriage on July 24th.

Capital Campaign Committee Update



Our current balance in donations and pledges is \$193,316. The tuck pointing has been completed and we are ready for a new roof once the contractor is available.

We are also in the process of collecting more bids for the concrete work and the new entrance to the front. In addition, we have submitted a grant application to the diocese to help in the cost of replacing the sidewalk. Thanks to everyone for their prayerful consideration in moving forward with our Capital Campaign.

Marriage Preparation



Due to COVID-19 diocesan regulations, a number of events are being canceled. This may affect the way we handle marriage preparation within the coming months, especially for those couples who were planning to attend a conference or a retreat as part of their marriage preparation. Please check with your Pastor regarding your marriage requirements.

Pastoral Planning

The Diocese has received about 15% of the parish pastoral plans and are reviewing and responding on a weekly basis. Thank you to all who are working on these. In a recent issue of The Catholic Missouri-an Bishop McKnight wrote an article about the concept of co-responsibility, which is one of the three pillars of our pastoral planning process, "Better Together."



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Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend is the annual Diocesan Mission Collection. We currently have 15 priests serving in our diocese from Nigeria, Ghana, Tanzania, India, and Uganda. Their home diocese and families are making sacrifices by sharing them with us. In return, we are able to share some of our financial resources with their home diocese. From feeding families in Latin America to building chapels in India, we are called to share whatever our resources may be.

This year is a very unique one, in that we are all suffering at home and globally due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some might insist that charity and mercy start at home. I agree, but we can't stop there. From disease, to hunger, to education of children our current situation is what many people throughout the world suffer every day. Most of us have been so abundantly blessed that we can help both at home and abroad.

Your generosity to the Diocesan Mission Collection will impact the lives of some of the most vulnerable people living around the world. Our Mission collection is about fostering relationships and making the sharing of charity and mercy possible. I ask that you be generous, not because you have to, but because you believe in strengthening the Universal Church.

Invoking the intercession of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Patroness, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend W. Shawn Mc Knight, S.T.D.
Bishop of Jefferson City

Immaculate Conception School News



School starts on August 19, 2020.

ECLC Happenings

The children are continuing to enjoy learning their colors and learning how to interact with other children.



IC Scrip Program - IC Scrip Program - Whenever you purchase a gift card from the IC School Scrip Program, the school receives a percentage of the purchase price. The percentage will vary from one company to another. There are a few ways to obtain the cards. **You may go on line to www.ShopWithScrip.com Enrollment code: 676419AC74L7, purchase them at the school office or after Masses on the first full weekend of the month. If you have any questions, you may call Gina Smith, coordinator, 573-289-8635.**

Medicaid Expansion

MO Catholic Bishops Support Medicaid Expansion on August 4th Ballot

Expanding access to Medicaid will help many low-income, working Missourians get access to healthcare coverage through the Medicaid program. It will also help Catholic hospitals improve their operating margins by reducing uncompensated care. The Missouri bishops are supporting this effort. Will you join them? For more information on Medicaid, and to listen to a podcast about the Medicaid expansion ballot proposal (Amendment 2), please visit the Missouri Catholic Conference website at www.mocatholic.org



**DIOCESE OF
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E-Mail Scam Notice

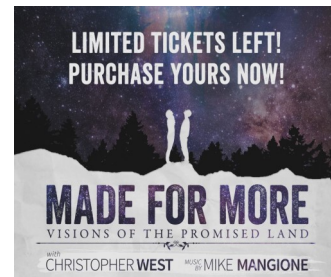
The Diocese of Jefferson City warns the public of what appears to be an ongoing phishing scam involving emails and texts purportedly from priests or parish/Chancery staff. This scam has hit many parishes across the United States. The email or text purports to be from a person the target knows, such as one's pastor, a parish staff member, the bishop or someone else from the Church. If the target responds to the fake email or text, the sender will follow up with a request for some sort of monetary assistance, often for gift cards or iTunes cards. It is truly unfortunate cyber criminals will attempt to exploit the generous nature of our community. Sending emails or texts asking for cash or gifts cards is not how priests, parishes or the Diocese of Jefferson City seeks financial assistance for our work. If you receive an email or text from a trusted church personnel asking for assistance, confirm by calling that person and do NOT respond to the email or text. For more information on phishing scams and email security, review this [attached handout](#). The FBI website address to file an online Internet crime complaint is <https://www.ic3.gov>.

The Catholic Woman's Guide to Making and Keeping Fabulous, Faith-filled Friends

Led by Whitney Lammers on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm, July 8 – Aug. 8. More information and registration are available at <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/05/18/the-friendship-project-the-catholic-womans-guide-to-making-and-keeping-fabulous-faith-filled-friends/>.

Events Around the Community (See Flyers if available in the church vestibule.)

No events have been scheduled at this time.



Made for More will be held Sept. 15, 7-9:30 p.m. in the Cathedral. Tickets are limited due to social distancing. Purchase tickets at <http://corproject.com/jeffersoncity/>; contact Julie Gramlich at julie.g@cathedraljc.org or 573-635-7991 for more information.

Employment Opportunities

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Columbia is accepting applications for the position of Director of Adult Faith Formation. Commitment to the Catholic faith and faithful Mass attendance required. Some experience in religious education leadership preferred. Strong interpersonal skills, organizational skills, and willingness to work as a member of a team important. The core of the position is directing the RCIA process, with the coordination of Scripture studies, faith sharing and other small groups, and other aspects of adult faith formation included. Contact Father Chris Cordes at frchris@ourladyoflourdes.org or 573-445-7915 if interested.

An administrative assistant position is available at the Chancery and there are several openings in our Catholic schools. Please promote these openings.

Annunciation Parish in California is seeking a director of religious education and youth ministry. For more information, visit <https://diojeffcity.org/california-dre-youth-job-opening>

St. Nicholas Academy - St. Nick's is seeking Christian, married couples or single individuals who are willing to be part of a pool of relief parents. The role of relief parents is to care for the boys and home when the full-time house parents are off duty or away.

For more information contact Sister Susan Renner, SSND at 573-635-7719 or director@stnick.org

Please keep in your prayers the following people:

Residents of St. Andrews New Florence Nursing & Care Center, Hwy 19 & Picnic Road, New Florence, MO 63363 - Susan Ryan.

Contact the parish office to have someone added!



Please pray for: Marlene Cunningham, Mackenzie Hagemeyer, Julie Thielmeier, Don Benney, Susan Schipper, Valerie Readey Neudecker, Angela Witthaus Keller, Karen Clark, Gina Smith, Virginia Cochran, Jack Scott, Jo Scott, Bobby Cochran, Mary Hertel, Joshua Cochran, Anita Jones, Jim Cochran, Jr., Jim Cochran, Sr., and Lynn Cunningham Duncan.



Please pray for all our men and women serving in the armed forces. Corey Stulce, Tanner Cobb, Travis Thebeau, Jacob Merz, Daniel Lohmann, Jared Korman, Tom Kraust, Tim O'Fallon, Brandon Benney, Gary Frey, John Burce, Chris Burce, Jacob Jones, Matt Veder, Michel James, Michael Adams, and John Martin.



Pat Stumbaugh - 573.220.9441
Broker Associate
pats@MillenniumFiveRealEstate.com

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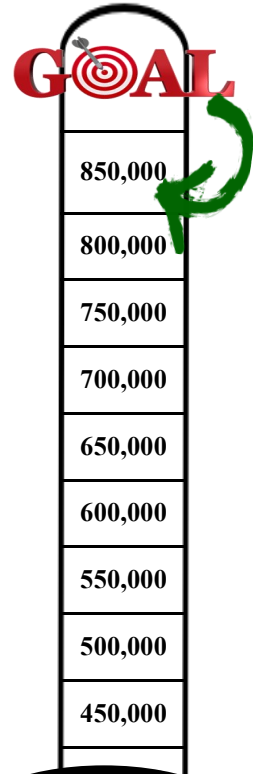
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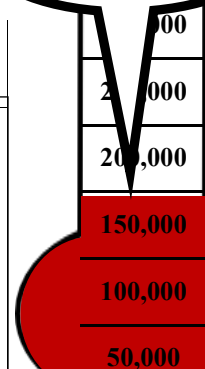
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