

# 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?

**R**ecently 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



### 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



### 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

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 19, 2020

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wis 12:13, 16–19

Rom 8:26–27

Mt 13:24–43 or 13:24–30

## “The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...”

**T**he 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







Rectory & Parish Office  
600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Email: [saintanthonylakin@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonylakin@gmail.com)  
Website: [saintanthonylakin.org](http://saintanthonylakin.org)

**Readers for Saturdays & Sundays  
July 2020**

July 18, 4:00 p.m. Gwen Waechter  
July 19, 9:00 a.m. K of C Members  
July 25, 4:00 a.m. Karen Burden  
July 26, 9:00 a.m. Cindy Achen

**COLLECTION** for July 12: Envelopes: \$1,465;  
Loose: \$137; Online Giving: \$1441.12; Total  
\$3,043.12; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55.  
Income over/under (+ 1053.57)

*Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

Louise Miller, Bookkeeper	jingles@pld.com
Molly Shelden DRE	640-2742
Cindy Achen, RCIA	320- 429-0359
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek	355-1696
& Nanette Rice	355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, July 20</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 21</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Wayne Miller</b>
<b>Thursday, July 23</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Pastor's Intention</b>
<b>Friday, July 24</b>	<b>8: 00 a.m.</b>	<b>Special Intention</b>
<b>Saturday, July 25</b>	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	<b>For the People</b>
<b>Sunday, July 26</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Wayne Miller</b>

**VOCATION VIEW**

Good and evil exist together in the world. Pray that good may grow and take root in you like a mustard seed that, when full-grown, is the largest of plants. What are you doing to nurture good in our world? (Matthew 13:24-43).

**STEWARDSHIP**

“Those who are just must be kind,” says today’s first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord’s harvest.

**MARRIAGE CONGRATULATIONS:** Newly Married Couple—Valerie & Sidney Guerrero— May God bless the two of you abundantly in love, joy, and happiness. Wishing you all the best as you begin your new live together. May God’s love be the bond that holds your marriage together.

**LITTLE NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:** Dear Parishioners: I have been praying that the Merciful God continues keeping you and your families in His loving arms. The Covid –19 has interfered and interrupted many of our activities. Please continue to pray for the end of this virus so that we will be able to get back to our normal life, especially to get back to our loving parish to give thanks to the Lord. I am sure many of our young boys and girls have been waiting for a day when they can receive Jesus in the Communion for the first time. Last Saturday we had a joyful celebration of the wedding of Valerie & Sidney Guerrero. May God bless them abundantly. Please pray for the sick in our community that the Lord will heal them. Peace of Christ, Padre P.T

**RUMMAGE SALE:** We will be having it again this summer (not date has been set), but if you have items you would like to donate we will gladly accept them anytime. This year we will not be accepting clothes. You may call any of the following people to bring items to the hall. Tressa Powers 355-6206; Jana Jenkinson 290-5201; Carolyn Robertson 290-5569; Jane Sullivan 355-7341, or Gwen Waechter 355-7203.

**WELCOME TO OUR PARISH– NEW MEMBERS** We would love to get to know you. If you are attending St. Anthony and haven’t been registered yet we welcome you to do so by contacting the parish office (620-355-6405 or [saintanthonylakin@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonylakin@gmail.com)) or stopping by during office hours (Tuesday thru Saturday 9 am-11 am. or print out the Registration Form found in our parish website @[saintanthonylakin.org](http://saintanthonylakin.org). The Registration Form is also available at the back of the church.

**WORD OF LIFE:** “Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. ... That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.”

**RACHEL’S VINEYARD RETREAT:** Are you or a loved one suffering from abortion? Find hope and allow God to heal your heart by attending a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat. The second retreat of 2020 to be held in the Kansas City area will be on July 24-26. For more information or to register, please call Teresa O’Donnell at (816) 679-4973 or email [rvkcmo@gmail.com](mailto:rvkcmo@gmail.com) (please note: you might have to check your Spam folder for the guaranteed email reply) or visit [www.rachelsvineyardkc.org](http://www.rachelsvineyardkc.org).



## **CATHOLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**Q. In church we are told to raise our arms during the Our Father prayer. I am still struggling why in mass only. Now days some do others don't, which is right?**

Answer: Yes, this is a good and very practical question that many are confused by. It seems that in some churches everyone holds hands during the Lord's Prayer, sometimes they raise their hands at the doxology at the end of the prayer, and in some churches no one does either. So what's correct?

Let's start with the value of holding hands while praying and even raising hands during prayer. From there, we can look at doing this within the Liturgy itself. Raising hands in prayer: It's worth noting that the priest does this all the time. It's part of the liturgical rite for him to raise his hands. The raising of one's hands in prayer is spoken of in the Psalms and is a very holy act. There is nothing wrong with it and, in fact, there is something very holy about this external posture when it is expressing an interior intention. And the interior intention it expresses is that of worship and openness to God. It's a sign of abandonment to God and surrender to His holy will. So raise your hands high when you pray, especially when alone.

As for holding hands during prayer, there are certainly very appropriate times to do so. This is an external sign indicating that you are united with those with whom you are praying. Oneness comes primarily through our joint union with God, but oneness is also expressed externally at times by the joining of hands or the raising of hands together. This is especially the case among family members and close friends. But now to the point of the question. What about doing these practices within the Liturgy? Is this good? The problem we face with this question has to do with the importance of uniformity within the Liturgy. Liturgical prayer is prayer that is intended to unite us and it does do this on a spiritual level. But the external unity is also important. Therefore, it's important that we strive to pray in union with what we call the rubrics of the Mass.

As for the rubrics at the time of the Lord's Prayer, there is no instruction given to the congregation to hold hands or to lift them at that time. It's not that it is a bad idea, it's just that it's not in the rubrics. Therefore, it seems best to refrain from this act if it is a distraction or imposition on others. For example, to grab a stranger's hand next to you during the Lord's Prayer may be good intentioned, but it is not part of the Mass rubrics so it should be avoided. One suggestion is that if this is a local custom and is somewhat expected, feel free to just go with the direction the priest gives. If he asks you to hold hands or to raise them then it's fine to do so. The priest should offer some guidance on this and if he doesn't, try to keep it discreet among family members if this is your family practice. Ideally, the universal Church will eventually offer some direction on this so that all confusion is avoided. (<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-question-and-answer/q-raising-hands-during-the-our-father/> )

## **SUNDAY MEDITATION (Matthew 13:24-43)**

In his parable of the weeds among the wheat, Jesus confirms what we already know to be true: evil exists in the world. We see evidence of it all around us. Sometimes it even seems as if evil is winning out. Will the weeds eventually choke out the wheat and overrun the field of God's kingdom? Jesus assures us that it will not. In the end, the angels of God will sort the good from the bad, and evil will be destroyed forever (Matthew 13:41).

The fact is, by his death and resurrection, Jesus has already won the victory over evil. Someday God's kingdom will reign over all the earth. Meanwhile, how can we hasten its coming? It's significant that after telling the first parable about the weeds and the wheat, Jesus tells two more parables about the kingdom of heaven. It's like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large bush (Matthew 13:31-32).

It's like a little yeast that leavens a whole loaf of bread (13:33). These are hopeful images! God's kingdom isn't static. It begins in many small ways and then grows and grows. You have a part to play in its growth! With every prayer, with every act of faith, with every good deed, you help to build the kingdom of heaven on earth. Making time for prayer, worshipping at Mass, helping the poor, sharing your faith, reaching out to a friend in need, speaking out in defense of life—in these ways and more, you can participate in growing God's kingdom.

Yes, they can seem like small things. But so are the mustard seed and that little pinch of yeast. So don't get discouraged by the evil you see, and don't give up hope. Believe that your small acts of faithfulness really do make a difference. And taken together with other believers, they become a mighty force in choking out the weeds of this world. *"Lord, may your kingdom come!" (From Words Among Us)*