

# Dear Padre,

At my church, some people take the votive candles out of the holders and place them next to the statues and icons. Does this make God or the saint pay more attention to the petition? And isn't doing that a fire hazard?

Vigil lights, commonly known as votive candles, are usually lit when a person seeks some favor from the Lord or a saint's intercession. Lighting a candle is a way of extending one's prayer and showing solidarity with the person on whose behalf the prayer is offered.

In the lighting of candles we remember and truly live the words of our Lord,

"I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). We burn candles to symbolize the rising of our prayers to heaven day and night. Prayers for the saints' intercession are also common because of their friendship with God in heaven. Saints are powerful intercessors.

God hears all prayers uttered in sincerity. Burning a candle as we pray doesn't make that prayer more important than prayers offered without a candle; neither does moving the candle to the front of the line.

If your church has made sure that the placing of the votive candles complies

with local fire regulations, you have no worries about setting a fire with vigil lights.

Fr. Paul Borowski, CSSR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CHRISTOPHER M. NARDI/REUTERS

## A WORD FROM Pope Francis



Our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people—often forgotten people—who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines...doctors, nurses, supermarket employees, cleaners, caregivers, providers of transport, law and order forces, volunteers, priests, religious men and women and so very many others who have understood that no one reaches salvation by themselves.

EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT OF PRAYER, MARCH 27, 2020

## Calendar

Monday  
JULY 12  
Weekday  
Ex 1:8–14, 22  
Mt 10:34–11:1

Tuesday  
JULY 13  
Weekday  
Ex 2:1–15a  
Mt 11:20–24

Wednesday  
JULY 14  
St. Kateri Tekakwitha,  
Virgin  
Ex 3:1–6, 9–12  
Mt 11:25–27

Thursday  
JULY 15  
St. Bonaventure,  
Bishop and Doctor of  
the Church  
Ex 3:13–20  
Mt 11:28–30

Friday  
JULY 16  
Weekday  
Ex 11:10–12:14  
Mt 12:1–8

Saturday  
JULY 17  
Weekday  
Ex 12:37–42  
Mt 12:14–21

Sunday  
JULY 18  
Sixteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
Jer 23:1–6  
Eph 2:13–18  
Mk 6:30–34

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective  
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# Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 11, 2021

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Am 7:12–15

Eph 1:3–14 or 1:3–10

Mk 6:7–13



So they went off and preached repentance. They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.  
MARK 6:12–13

## You Can Do It

Today's readings are about unpretentious people who accomplished remarkable deeds. Amos, a shepherd from the southern kingdom of Judah who also cultivated sycamore figs, challenged the people at a northern shrine in Israel. He did not come from an illustrious family, nor was he particularly important. Yet he is the one called by God to summon the northern Israelites to repentance.

The disciples of Jesus pursued family businesses like fishing or were employed by the Romans like Matthew. They didn't come from socially prominent families, nor were they known as community leaders. But look at what they did: they cast out demons and cured the sick. Where did these people get their training? More importantly, where did they obtain their power? We find the answer to such questions in the second reading: "In him we were also chosen" (Ephesians 1:11).

The Ephesians letter assures us that God "has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens" (1:3). We don't have to worry about performing miracles; all we have to do is open ourselves to the graciousness of God. God will do the rest. Through us, God will cast out the demons of prejudice and bias that plague our world, of selfishness and spitefulness so prominent in our political rivalries, of greed and dishonesty in many of our social interactions. Through us, God will heal our country, our world, and our Church of hatred, violence, and oppression. With Amos and the Twelve we too hear: "You can do it."

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ In what ways do you make the world better?
- ★ Do you realize that you have the power of God to transform the world?



**Rectory & Parish Office**

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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)

July 10, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
July 11, 9:00 a.m.	K of C
July 17, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
July 18, 9:00 a.m.	Alvin Bergkamp
July 24, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
July 25, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones
July 31, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Aug. 1, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
Aug. 7, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
Aug. 8, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
Aug. 14, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
Aug. 15, 9:00 a.m.	K of C

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Liza Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
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 & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

<b>Monday, July 12</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff+</b>
<b>Tuesday, July 13</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Ron Gorges</b>
<b>Thursday, July 15</b>	<b>8:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Favorable Weather</b>
<b>Friday, July 16</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>Private Intention (T.P.) (Eucharistic Adoration right after 12:15 Mass—5:00 p.m.)</b>
<b>Saturday, July 17</b>	<b>4:00p.m.</b>	<b>Charles &amp; Eileen Hoff+</b>
<b>Sunday, July 18</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Chuck Sullivan</b>

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— JULY 11, 2021**



**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor (Luke 4:18)**

In this Sunday’s Gospel (Mark 6:7-13) we see the Lord Jesus sending out the Twelve two by two, instructing them to go town to town --- healing, and preaching, and driving out demons. And he lays out some strict “ground rules” for them --- rules which show that they will have to have a singular purpose, a singular focus. Following Jesus wasn’t simply about listening to him and thinking, “This is a great guy.” No, believing in him and trusting in him came with a high cost. It meant that they would need to speak a certain way, and see the world in a certain way, and think a certain way, and act a certain way --- that is, in a very real sense, live a certain way --- and for a certain person --- no matter what the cost.

That’s the real challenge for us in this time and place. Do we want all the “good stuff without it demanding anything of us? Do we want blessings without any real commitment, without any expectations? Do we want the easiest path, the safest path, the one that costs us little if anything?

My friends, I guess it depends on how we see our faith. If we see it as a kind of “burden,” why would we want to do anything but the “minimum?” But if we see it as a gift . . . as the most precious of gifts . . . Wouldn’t we want to do for our God who loves us beyond our wildest imagination? Why wouldn’t we want to share it with everyone we meet? Why wouldn’t we want it to shape our every thought and attitude and action? Put simply, why wouldn’t we want to give what Jesus gave --- our entire selves?

My friends, we don’t have to earn God’s love or forgiveness or the salvation he offers. But if we truly believe in all that he has done for us, if we believe in the price he paid . . . .

What are we willing to pay? What are we willing to give? Where are we willing to go?

Fr. Peter Tran

**COLLECTION** for July 4, 2021: Envelopes: \$1640; Loose: \$89; Online Giving: \$1346.10. Total \$3075.10; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under (+1313.93)

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

**SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you and your family, on the passing of your beloved mother, Juanita Black. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May she rest in peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS** We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Julius Grey Campbell, son of Ethan A. Campbell and Claria Mendez who was baptized on July 3rd, 2021. Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Julius and his family.

**MEETING:** Religion Education Meeting will be on July 14th at 6:00 p.m.; Finance Council at 5:30 pm –July 27th.

**JULY WORDS AMONG US** is available for you to pick up at the church's entrances.

**RUMMAGE SALE** The Rummage Sale this year is to be on August 7th. We would like to start collecting items. If you have something you would like to donate, please contact any of the following:

Jana Jenkinson	290-5201	Janet Rooney	640-1946	Tressa Power	260-6247
Jane Sullivan	355-5118	Carolyn Robertson	290-5569	Gwen Waechter	272-1030

**BUDGET SHOP REMINDER** our church is scheduled to work at the budget shop every four weeks. We always appreciate all your help. We will be working on July 6 and 31st, August 3, 28th, and 31st and on September 25 and 27th. Please put these dates on your calendar. Your children can qualify for a very good scholarship from the Budget shop by volunteering 12 hours a year. So encourage them to work also. Thank you.

**VOCATION VIEW** Even before we were formed in the womb, God has chosen and called each of us to be a disciple. To find true happiness, find that pathway that God has uniquely created you to fulfill. (Eph 1:3-14)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** Today's readings are about being chosen and sent. The prophet Amos was chosen by the Lord and sent to use his talents for the people of God. The Gospel recounts the story of the sending of the twelve disciples; and in the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we, too, are chosen. For what have I been chosen? To whom have I been sent?

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** (—Adapted from “Blessing before Leaving on a Journey” in Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers) “All-powerful and ever-living God, when your Son Jesus sent his disciples to further your kingdom, you kept them safe all through their journeys. Protect us, your servants, who also strive to follow your Son. Walk by our side to help us. Be our companion and our strength on the way. Be our refuge in every adversity. Lead us, O Lord, as we share your kingdom with others, and bring us at last to the eternal haven of salvation.”

**UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (Mark 6: 7-13)**

**Extending God's kingdom** Jesus empowers the Twelve to participate in his ministry of proclaiming and bringing about God's kingdom. Jesus' first miracle was an exorcism (1:21f). Now he shares his power to cast out demons (aka unclean spirits) with his disciples. In the contest between God's kingdom and the forces of evil, God is clearly and easily winning. Oil was widely used as a soothing and healing ointment (like lotion or cream today). Our practice of anointing the sick is rooted in this ancient use of oil. The oil we use in our sacramental celebrations is also a sign of God's presence. The disciples also preach repentance, just as Jesus did at the start of his ministry (1:15). Repentance or conversion of heart means that those who hear the proclamation of God's kingdom and see it in exorcisms and healings must turn toward it with every part of their being.

**Packing** The Greek word for journey can also be translated way, a word that refers to discipleship itself. This passage is a description of what the Twelve and all Christian missionaries must do, including us. 1. Pack light. You can only wear one tunic (shirt) at a time, so don't take a second one. Don't let stuff you think you need distract you or slow you down. 2. Be prudent. Take a staff to ward off wild animals, and wear sandals to protect your feet. 3. Trust God to provide for you. Don't take a bag for money or extra food. 4. Don't go from one home to another like you're searching for the finest accommodations or making people compete over you.

**Shaking the dust** Jewish law required that there be at least two witnesses in a legal matter in order for the testimony to be valid. Jesus might have had this law in mind when he sent the disciples in pairs: they could testify that a village rejected God's kingdom. Some Jews shook their feet when they passed from a Gentile region back into Judea as if to prevent pagan dust from contaminating the holy land. This action by Jesus' disciples could thus mean that a village was cut off from God's kingdom. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

**UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Amos 7;12-15)

**Enough** A Jewish king had adapted the ancient city of Bethel for worship of the LORD. (Bethel is about 15 miles north of Jerusalem.) Amaziah was the priest in charge when Amos began warning people that God would punish them for injustices like mistreating the poor. After hearing only bad news, Amaziah tries to get rid of Amos.

**Who's a prophet?** Like kings and priests, most prophets held formal positions. A man might even inherit the role or office of prophet from his father. The prophetic office was a paid position, so some prophets said what their leaders wanted to hear in order to gain favor or wealth. When Amaziah tries to kick him out, Amos clarifies that he isn't like these formal prophets. He didn't inherit his position. He was, by contrast, a mere laborer, a shepherd who also tended trees. The only one he's trying to please is the LORD. ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

## QUESTION AND ANSWER



### **Question:**

On the cross, Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do” (Lk 23:34). But if we don’t know what we do, how can we ever sin or be blameworthy for it?

— Jerry Conlin

### **Answer:**

Jesus is speaking to a particular situation, and we ought not generalize what he says here. The ignorance he likely refers to here is that they do not know or understand his true identity. Did they really know that they were killing their Lord and Messiah? Likely not. While it is true that the Lord gave many proofs of his identity by fulfilling Scripture and working miracles, along with the testimony of John the Baptist and the Father’s testimony in their heart, many of his accusers and condemners still did not understand or come to faith. Many considered Jesus a blasphemer and felt quite justified in their condemnation. Now this, of course, does not mean that they are without any sin at all, and as Jesus also said in the Gospel, “You will die in your sins unless you believe that I am he” (Jn 8:24). While those who kill him and conspired to have him killed may be acting in some ignorance at the moment of the Crucifixion, the Lord is still calling them to receive saving faith and come out of their woeful ignorance. Many, in fact, did come to faith later and repented (see Acts 2:37–42). Others seemingly did not. Ignorance, and its relationship to culpability, speaks to what a person could reasonably know and understand given their history, the condition of their heart, and so forth. Vincible ignorance is ignorance we could reasonably have overcome. Invincible ignorance is that which a person could not reasonably have overcome at the time of the sin. And while the Church makes these distinctions, only God can know the true inner condition of a person and make this judgment. That is why the Church does not formally teach that specific people are in hell. Only God can see into the heart of a person to make that judgment. (Catholic and Curious—Msgr. Pope)

### **FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Each one, bring one**

A lot of things in life are lonely. Being sick, being wrong, and being broke are hours difficult to share with anyone not inside the experience. Happily, religion isn't intended to be a solitary undertaking. Jesus formed a community before he engaged his ministry, and he urged his followers to go out in pairs. If you're struggling to ground your prayer life, make a deeper commitment to Bible study, or get a work of service or justice off the ground, remember: Companions in faith make the way more joyful and fruitful. (Prepare the Word)

### **DÉCIMO QUINTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

**Que cada uno traiga uno**

Muchas cosas en la vida son solitarias. Estar enfermo, estar equivocado y estar arruinado son horas difíciles de compartir con alguien que no esté dentro de la experiencia. Afortunadamente, la religión no está concebida para ser una empresa solitaria. Jesús formó una comunidad antes de emprender su ministerio, e instó a sus seguidores a salir en parejas. Si te cuesta consolidar tu vida de oración, comprometerte más con el estudio de la Biblia o poner en marcha una obra de servicio o de justicia, recuerda: Los compañeros en la fe hacen que el camino sea más alegre y productivo.