



Reflection from Fr. Mike

Fathers' Day June 21, 2020

With Lent, Easter, Pentecost behind us, we move into Ordinary Time. During those Liturgical seasons, our Church building was "closed" the majority of the time, but this community of St. James continued to live out the Gospel message--to care for all who come our way, to be inclusive in what we do and to challenge this community to live out what we celebrate each Sunday.

On behalf of Ben, Fr. Garry and our parish staff, thank you for your continued generosity and stewardship that put us in a good place to 'open' our Church and continue to address the needs before us. Whether that need is to keep people safe in the midst of the pandemic or to address the ever present sin of this nation--the sin of racism and discrimination. Our Ordinary Time is hardly 'ordinary', but that is what these issues are all about. How do we come up with a 'new normal'?

The readings this weekend encourage trust and belief in God, no matter what the circumstances. We cannot live in fear, worry and anxiety. Jesus challenges His disciples to use that trust in God to bring about the message of the Gospel---the dignity of all human life, that "Black Lives Matter" and to see God's presence among us to reinforce the values of the Gospel in the community around us.

The Eucharist heals us and sends us. May we believe in that message and be a source of healing so justice can prevail. God's saving grace, as Paul reminds us, is always flowing through our lives. May we trust in that and continue to be an inclusive, welcoming community nourishing all who come our way.

Peace, Fr. Mike