

**“HE WAS AMAZED AT THEIR LACK OF FAITH”**

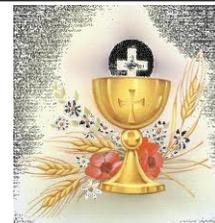
by Fr. Jeremy Myers

Mark 6:1-6

This gospel passage tells us that Jesus made a return trip “to his native place” where he took a turn teaching in the local synagogue. But the hometown people found it difficult to see Jesus as anyone but “the carpenter, the Son of Mary and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon.” They listened to his words and were astonished to hear what he said, but they could not move beyond their closed minds to see beyond Jesus as anything but a carpenter. The evangelist Mark concludes the story by telling us that Jesus “was not able to perform any mighty deed there. He was amazed at their lack of faith.” It is an interesting story that focuses our attention on faith and on believing. The hometown people were blinded by their cynicism and could not believe that Jesus might be somebody other than they thought. The writer and activist Jim Wallis recently shared some thoughts on cynicism. He writes in his book, *God’s Politics* these words, “First, let’s be fair to the cynics. Cynicism is the place of retreat for the smart, critical, dissenting, and formerly idealistic people who are now trying to protect themselves. They are not naïve. They tend to see things as they are, they know what is wrong, and they are generally opposed to what they see. They know what is going on, and at one point, they might even have tried for a time to change it. But they didn’t succeed; things got worse, and they got weary. Their activism, and the commitments and hopes that implied, made them feel vulnerable. So they retreat to cynicism as the refuge from commitment.” He continues, “Cynicism does protect you in many ways. It protects you from seeming foolish to believe that things could and will change. It protects you from disappointment. It protects you from insecurity because now you are free to pursue your own security instead of sacrificing it for a social engagement that won’t work anyway. Ultimately, cynicism protects you from commitment. If things are not really going to change, why try so hard to make a difference? Why become and stay so involved? Why take the risks, make the sacrifices, open yourself to the vulnerabilities?” Then Wallis offers this thought, “Perhaps the only people who view the world realistically are the cynics and the saints. Everybody else may be living in some kind of denial about what is really going on and how things really are. And the only difference between the cynics and the saints is the presence, power, and possibility of hope.” He concludes in this way, “More than just a moral issue, hope is a spiritual and even religious choice. Hope is not a feeling. It is a decision. And the decision for hope is based on what you believe at the deepest levels—what your most basic convictions are about the world and what the future holds—all based on your faith.” He offers us this final thought, “You choose hope, not as a naïve wish, but as a choice, with your eyes wide open to the reality of the world—just like the cynics who have not made the decision to hope.” His words offer us a way to understand the townspeople who could not see Jesus as someone other than an ordinary carpenter. They were locked in their worldview—a cynical and a closed mindset that squashed any hope of change, of difference, of a future unlike the present. That gospel challenges us to decide to be people of hope, rather than opting simply to be cynics who believe hope is the refuge of the foolish.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

July 9 - 15, 2018



**Monday, July 9—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. Intentions of Eric Harp by Cathy Harp  
Noon †Louise Crichton by Columbian Ladies  
*Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22; Matthew 9:18-26*

**Tuesday, July 10—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †Andy Ramin by Jim & Cheryl Ramin  
Noon †Betty Childress by Sharon Vrla  
*Hosea 8:4-17, 11-13; Matthew 9:32-38*

**Wednesday, July 11—Saint Benedict, Abbot**

Noon Intentions of Russell Brin by Barney & Joan Sandmann  
*Hosea 10:1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10:1-7*

**Thursday, July 12—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †Bill Smith by Judy Baur  
*Hosea 11:1-4, 8-9; Matthew 10:7-15*

**Friday, July 13—Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †John Weggeman by Joe & Audra Battaglia  
*Hosea 14:2-10; Matthew 10:16-23*

**Saturday, July 14—Ordinary Time**

4:30 p.m. †Monica Marquez by Lupe Soltero  
*Amos 7:12-15; Mark 6:7-13*

**Sunday, July 15—Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

8:00 a.m. †Arnold & †Doris Kuehler by Donald & Karla Vasek  
10:30 a.m. †Sandra and †Dorothy Penrose, †Julie Thomas, and †Carla Monte by Bernie Penrose  
12:30 p.m. Parishioners by Pastor  
*Amos 7:12-15; Mark 6:7-13*



**STEWARDSHIP  
FOR JULY 1, 2018**

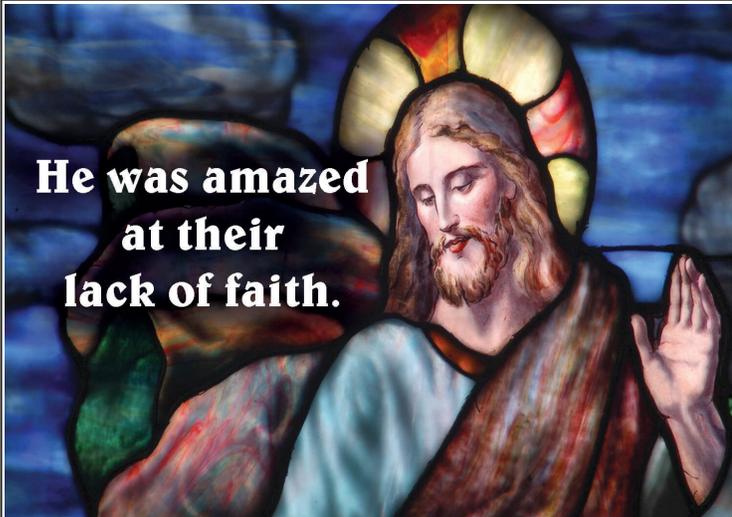
**NEEDED TO MEET  
BUDGET**

**\$14,500.00**

Contributions were not tabulated at the time the bulletin was submitted for printing.

**Blessings to you for your generosity.**

*“Who then is the faithful and wise steward?” Discipleship entails responsible stewardship. As children of God, created in his likeness and redeemed through his mercy, and as members of his Church, may our response for stewardship flow from the acceptance of our role as disciples, rooted in the deep joy of a vibrant faith.”*  
Author Unknown



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lack of faith.**



**Please join us in welcoming Fr. Steve Antes to St. Mary's Parish. Bishop Burns appointed Fr. Steve as the new Parochial Vicar effective July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are grateful to have him as a part of our Church and offer him our prayers and support as he joins our parish family.**

Please remember in your prayers all the sick and suffering, especially Bob Flynn, Russell Brin, and Walter Loder. May the compassion of Jesus be present to them.

*Please remember in your prayers all the faithful departed, especially Josefa Lara, who died recently and was buried at St. Mary's Cemetery; and Marena Zamora (sister-in-law of Victor & Susy Serrato), who died recently and was buried in Mexico. May they know the Lord's power in fullness of joy.*

We want to wish a happy anniversary to all couples celebrating a wedding anniversary this week, especially Mark & Sandy Buckner, Mark & Alexine Deans, Darryle & Claire Dering, Mike & Lori Horstman, Glenn & Jackie Melancon, Tony & Lorena Olea, and Rudy & Monica Reynoso. May God enrich them with His love.

**St. Mary's Conference of St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Place.**



St. Mary's Singles monthly potluck dinner and game night is this Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, at St. Anne's Place following the Saturday afternoon Mass. Come join the fun. For more information contact Jo Adams at 903-814-7265 or Jan Lackey at [singles@stmarych.org](mailto:singles@stmarych.org).



**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will be held on Tuesday evenings beginning September 4<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in joining the Catholic Church or wanting to learn more about the Catholic Church is encouraged to attend. Each Tuesday a meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the presentation will follow**

**from 7 - 8 p.m. Please call the Church Office at 903-893-5148 if you have any questions or would like to register.**

Remember to save your hotel toiletries as you travel this summer. Grand Central Station is in need of these soaps, shampoos, razors, lotions, etc. to distribute to their visitors. Donations may be dropped off at the Church Office in the Parish Center or taken directly to Grand Central Station at 110 South Throckmorton Street in Sherman.



The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Dallas Ministry Conference is scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Irving Convention Center. This event is sponsored by the Diocese of Dallas and the University of Dallas. The Dallas Ministry Conference offers Catholics an opportunity to receive exceptional faith formation from nationally recognized speakers who will address relevant topics of faith, catechesis, education, theology, prayer and ministry. Participants will truly Walk Together in Faith by attending these significant keynote addresses and ministry-specific breakout sessions, participating in Mass and prayer services, perusing the exhibitions, admiring the liturgical art display, and listening to Christian musical performances. The conference is a wonderful opportunity for ongoing formation that can rejuvenate those working in the Church today so that we can help those we serve to more deeply understand their Catholic faith and grow in spirituality. The Dallas Ministry Conference is not just for those who do professional or volunteer ministry, such as priests, religious, catechists, teachers, diocesan workers, etc. Instead, DMC offers something for every Catholic who wants to become more knowledgeable in their faith and the teachings of the Catholic Church. The conference is a great way to join in fellowship, faith sharing, and prayer with the Catholic community of North Texas. Please join the ministers from the administrative, parish and school levels from throughout the Diocese of Dallas and North Texas at this three-day gathering of ministry and faith formation. For more information and to register, visit [www.udallas.edu/dmc/index.php](http://www.udallas.edu/dmc/index.php).

 **PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.06, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN) A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A CONCEALED HANDGUN.**

 **PURSUANT TO SECTION 30.07, PENAL CODE (TRESPASS BY LICENSE HOLDER WITH AN OPENLY CARRIED HANDGUN), A PERSON LICENSED UNDER SUBCHAPTER H, CHAPTER 411, GOVERNMENT CODE (HANDGUN LICENSING LAW), MAY NOT ENTER THIS PROPERTY WITH A HANDGUN THAT IS CARRIED OPENLY.**