

EPIPHANY


A man with a beard and a turban, wearing a light-colored robe, is shown in a rocky, hilly landscape. He is leaning forward, using a long-handled tool, possibly a shovel or a pickaxe, to dig a hole in the ground. His right hand is extended outwards. In the background, there is a donkey pulling a cart. The sky is bright and cloudy.

July 22, 2023

"The kingdom of
heaven is like a
mustard seed"

Sixteenth
Sunday of
Ordinary Time

WELCOME to Epiphany



A MUSTARD SEED, Indeed.

When Jesus addressed the crowd gathered around him, we can only guess at their anticipation when he started with: “With what can we compare the reign of God, or what image will help to present it?” Surely their jaws would have dropped when he followed up immediately with: “It is like mustard seed which, when planted in the soil, is the smallest of all the earth’s seeds, yet once it is sown, springs up to become the largest of shrubs, with branches big enough for the birds of the sky to build nests in its shade” Surely, there must have been mutterings of “You’ve got to be joking!” and heads shaking in bewilderment: “Mustard, the greatest of all shrubs???” After all, mustard bushes grew across the length and breadth of Palestine, and were regarded as a noxious weed. No farmer in his right mind would have sown mustard seed in his fields.

But surely that’s the point. The growth of God’s kingdom is so unexpected and far-reaching that only God or someone close to God could dream it up. It will spread like wild-fire or, to mix the metaphors, like out-of-control mustard bushes. Frederick Buechner, the renowned itinerant minister suggested, “Is it possible, I wonder, to say that it’s only when you hear the Gospel as a wild and marvellous joke that you really hear it at all?” The



About God's Word THROUGH THE WEEK AT EPIPHANY

Sunday, Jul 23, 2023

God's kind of justice

Our exercise of justice can be remarkably heartless. Too often we confuse justice with judgment, imagining justice is only served by lowering the boom on the offending party. The writer of the book of Wisdom describes God's justice as both mighty and clement: that is, powerful and merciful at the same time. Among the loveliest recommendations in the Old Testament is this: "Those who are just must be kind." Written 50 years before the time of Jesus, Wisdom demonstrates why Jesus came to heal, forgive, and rescue—not destroy, condemn, and disown. Make kindness your partner in justice.

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19; Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43 (106). "And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind."

Monday, Jul 24, 2023

Unburden yourself

With so many things to do, places to go, and people to see, how could the average busy person these days possibly relate to contemplative hermits? Maybe the holy example of hermits, like Sharbel Makhlūf, is exactly what our hectic times need to help us detach from all that consumes us. This 19th-century Lebanese saint was a shepherd-turned-priest who later became a monk and then a hermit. After his death, miracles were attributed to his intercession. At his beatification in 1965, Pope Paul VI said: "May he make us understand, in a world largely fascinated by wealth and comfort, the paramount value of poverty, penance and asceticism, to liberate the soul in its ascent to God."

MEMORIAL OF SHARBEL MAKHLŪF, PRIEST

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 14:5-18; Matthew 12:38-42 (395). "She came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon."

Tuesday, Jul 25, 2023

Walk this way

Annually an estimated 350,000 pilgrims walk the Camino de Santiago—the Way of Saint James. The Camino has a series of medieval routes, but the French Way is most popular. On foot it takes 30 days, crossing foothills of the Pyrenees and many fields, towns, and villages before traversing Galicia. Each route leads to the city of Santiago de Compostela with its magnificent cathedral, believed to be the final resting place of Saint James the Greater, who brought Christianity to Spain. Pope Callixtus II declared in 1122: "The city of Compostela, through the support of Blessed James, has been made sacred for the faithful and a help for those coming to it." Visit the American Pilgrims website to be inspired.

FEAST OF JAMES, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15; Matthew 20:20-28 (605). "The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve."

Wednesday, Jul 26, 2023

Honor your ancestors

Though we only know of Joachim and Anne from early Christian writings, not biblical texts, it is logical to give a place of prominence to those who, after all, were Jesus' grandparents. It is said they struggled greatly to give birth until God, seeing their holiness, granted them the supreme privilege of parenting Mary, the mother

of God. In the Orthodox Church of America, they carry a title of great respect: Holy Ancestors of God. Think of the sacrifices your own grandparents likely made in raising your parents. Let your life honor them.

MEMORIAL OF JOACHIM AND ANNE, PARENTS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 16:1-5, 9-15; Matthew 13:1-9 (397). "And he spoke to them at length in parables."

Thursday, Jul 27, 2023

Help build a church with a conscience

Many Catholics take for granted the existence of a robust Catholic social service network. But back in the early 20th century, that was not the case. Poverty was common and social work was emerging as a profession. The social-concerns encyclical *Rerum Novarum* (1891) and Father William J. Kerby, co-founder of what became Catholic Charities USA, were two important influences that helped develop social consciousness among U.S. Catholics. Thanks to Kerby, who died on this date in 1936, and other activists and thinkers, the American church now includes many anti-poverty efforts. What can you do to further this critical social legacy?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b; Matthew 13:10-17 (398). "Prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it."

Friday, Jul 28, 2023

Blessed are those who hear the word

Blessed Charlie Stanley Rother is on the path to sainthood, a surprise for many who knew him as a rather shy and grumpy lad. Stanley grew up in Oklahoma. He was skilled at farming and could fix practically anything. He also felt called to the priesthood. After ordination, another calling came, this time, to go to Guatemala. There, Stanley used his gifts as he lived and worked among the people. With them, he too faced the terror of the raging Guatemalan civil war. He was martyred on July 28, 1981. Befriend Blessed Stanley and ask him to accompany you as you listen for God's calling.

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 13:18-23 (399). "The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

Saturday, Jul 29, 2023

Even the savior of the world needs friends

Martha, Mary, and Lazarus held a privileged place in Jesus' heart. As a wandering preacher who had "no place to lay his head," Jesus knew he always had a place to call home in visiting his three dear friends. Each gifted him in a special way, as the 2021 decree combining their veneration from the Congregation for Divine Worship and Sacraments points out: "Martha generously offered him hospitality, Mary listened attentively to his words, and Lazarus promptly emerged from the tomb at the command of the one who humiliated death." Cherish and nurture your dearest friendships; they are a treasure through thick and thin.

MEMORIAL OF MARTHA, MARY, AND LAZARUS, FRIENDS OF JESUS

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 24:3-8 (400); John 11:19-27 or Luke 10:38-42 (607). "Many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother [Lazarus, who had died]."

**We're going
to World Youth Day,
the awesome
world-wide gathering
of young Catholics
in Lisbon August 2023**



**Our Epiphany Young Adults
will be praying for you there!**



@EPIPHANY

JUL 23 - JUL 30

EVENTS



San't Egidio Food Drive
11:00am Family Mass
7:30 Young Adult Mass



12:10pm Mass
12:30pm Miraculous Medal novena



12:10pm Mass
2:30pm Prayer Corps
7:00pm Connect



12:10pm Mass
12:40pm OLPH (Church)
7:00pm Breaking Open The Word via Zoom



12:10pm Mass
7:00pm Legion of Mary
7:00pm YA Alpha



12:10pm Mass
6:00pm Curia of Legions
6:30pm Sant' Egidio Fridays



4:00pm Vigil Mass



11:00am Family Mass
12:00pm Hunger Sunday
7:30 Young Adult Mass

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PARISH HOUSE (RECTORY) MAILING ADDRESS:
239 East 21st St, New York, NY 10010
Telephone: 212 475-1966
EMAIL: epiphanychurch239@gmail.com

WEBSITE: epiphanychurch.nyc



St Ignatius of Loyola
1491-1556
Founder, Society of Jesus

MASSES

Monday-Friday 12:10pm
Saturday Vigil: 4pm
Sunday 11am & 7:30pm

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, July 22 *Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene*
4:00pm Monico Rivera

Sunday, July 23
11:00am Eleanore R. Hamilton
7:30pm Thomas LaPerche

Monday, July 24
12:10pm Domingo E. Gapuz Jr.

Tuesday, July 25 *Feast of Saint James*
12:10pm Attilio Martire

Wednesday, July 26 *Memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne*
12:10pm Napoleon Luna

Thursday, July 27
12:10pm Theresa & Herman Ford

Friday, July 28
12:10pm Lydia Santo Domingo

Saturday, July 29 *Memorial of Saints Martha*
4:00pm Katherine Curley

Sunday, July 30
11:00am Ann Ahern
7:30pm intentions of Marié Treacy

Monday, July 31 *Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola*
12:10pm Peter Nardoza Sr.

Tuesday, August 1 *Memorial of Saint Alphonsus Liguori*
12:10pm King Phojanakong

Sanctuary Lamp
July 23 - 29
John Caradonna

**May their souls and the souls of all the
faithful departed, rest in peace.**

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