

Background on the Gospel Reading

After Lent, the Easter season, and three Sundays of feast days, the Church returns to Ordinary Time. This Sunday’s Gospel from Mark carries a significant message regarding faith and the Kingdom of God.

In Mark’s Gospel, Jesus appears reluctant to reveal his identity as the Son of God. After performing miracles of healing, he warns those cured to tell no one (see Mark 1:44, 3:12, 5:43, 7:36, and 8:26). Also, when preaching, Jesus chooses to speak to the crowds in parables, leaving them to discern his message. Only to his disciples does he explain the parable’s meaning, and he does this in private at a later time.

Today’s Gospel Reading consists of two parables about seeds. In the first, Jesus tells those gathered that this is “how it is with the kingdom of God.” A man scatters seed which over time sprouts and develops. Then when the grain is ripe, the man harvests his crop. The emphasis in the parable is on the seed, which seemingly has the power to grow on its own. In this it is like the Kingdom of God. While on earth, Jesus planted the seeds of the kingdom by his life, miracles, teaching, and suffering. However, the kingdom is not yet fully established. Although already present in Jesus and his group of twelve, it has yet to come to fruition; just as the seed in the parable needs time to grow, so does God’s kingdom.

The second parable focuses on the tiny mustard seed. Though not the smallest of all seeds, it is most likely the smallest that a first-century farmer in Jesus’ part of the world would have sown. Small as the mustard seed is, it develops into a tree. Though the mustard tree generally averages only nine to twelve feet in height, it has a wide expanse and provides a nesting place for birds. Just as the tree welcomes the birds, so is God’s kingdom welcoming and open to many.

These parables help us discern something about the kingdom of God and our own faith. In God we live and move and have our being, but God is a mystery and his kingdom, though present, has not yet come into its fullness. Today, the Kingdom of God is present in the Church. The mission of proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom given to the Apostles is now given to us. But just as seeds need time to come to fruition, so does the Kingdom of God. That is why in the Lord’s Prayer, we pray, “thy kingdom come.” We know that it will come in its fullness at the end of time. All we need is faith.

Happy Father's Day!

"Dads are the most ordinary men who are turned by love into the biggest hero, adventurers, storyteller and singer of songs." — Pam Brown

Fr. Stefano Lee & Parish Staff

**Mass Intentions
June 17, 2024 – June 23, 2024**

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 – **7:00 p.m.**

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ **Mary Fetter** – *Fetter Family*

Thursday, June 20, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ **Delmar Ferreira** – *Citelia Ferreira*

Friday, June 21, 2024 – **8:30 a.m.**
+ **Florence Cybulski** – *Family*

Saturday, June 22, 2024
9:00 a.m. – **Irene Johnson** – *Ken & Betty*
5:00 p.m. – **Sheldon and Leona Grobe** – *Peter Grobe*

Sunday, June 23, 2024 – **10:00 a.m.**
Parishioners of St. Teresa Parish

Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar

- June 17 – Rev. Tony O’Dell, O.M.I
- June 18 – Rev. Deaha (John) Kim
- June 19 – Discalced Carmelite Fathers (O.C.D.)
- June 20 – Rev. Marian Gil, O.M.I.
- June 21 – Rev. Lajos Angyal
- June 22 – Married Couples
- June 23 – **Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Stewardship Report – June 9th, 2024

Sunday Offerings	\$ 2803.00
Votives.....	\$ 26.10
Building Fund.....	\$ 50.00
Flowers.....	\$ 50.00
Special Donations.....	\$ 810.00
Pope’s Pastoral Works.....	\$ 100.00
Cura Pastorum.....	\$ 423.00

We are most appreciative of your ongoing prayerful and financial support for our parish, St. Teresa of Avila.

Donations to the parish can be made through the use of Sunday Offertory envelopes, Pre-Authorized Giving, E-Transfer, and CanadaHelps.

If you require any further information, please contact the parish office.

Parish Announcements

St. Teresa Parish 2024 BBQ Fundraiser

Join our parish community on Saturday, June 22nd, after the 5:00 p.m. Mass for hot dogs, burgers, beverages, and more! Please see the posters in the Narthex and at the side entrance bulletin boards for more details.

Catholic Women's League Year-End Pot Luck and Service Pin Awards- Mark your Calendars!

Wednesday, June 19th in St. Teresa's parish hall at 6:00 p.m. Members will be receiving 10, 25, 40, and 50 year service pins. Please mark your calendars and plan to join sister members for a pleasant evening of your good food and laughter. Bring a friend! There will also be a guest speaker from the Working Centre.

We will need help setting up the hall for this event. If you can help, please call or text Ann Onn (226 218-0232). We depend on help from members to make our events successful.

Help will also be needed with serving, putting out food and cleanup. PLEASE lend a hand.

Sanctuary Cleaning Team

We are looking for volunteers to join our Sanctuary Cleaning team. Teams are made in pairs, and cleaning takes place on Fridays. To join, please contact the parish office or enter your name on the sign-up sheet in the church foyer. Please let us know which dates you are available.

Divine Mercy Chapel

We have an opening in the chapel for Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. Come and spend a quiet hour with Jesus. It is most gratifying and peaceful.

New Parish Photo Directory – Join Us in Creating a Lasting Memory at St. Teresa of Avila!

Sign Up Today!

You can sign up for your photo session by contacting the parish office or at the sign-up table in the narthex of the church before and after Mass on weekends. Don't miss this opportunity to be included in our parish family album.

Dates to Remember

- Photographers will be available on the following dates:
- June 24th - 26th from 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM
 - July 5th from 2:30 PM to 8:30 PM
 - July 6th from 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM

Call for Committee Volunteers

Many hands make light work, and we need your help! If you are interested in contributing to this historic endeavor, come join the Parish Photo Directory Committee! For more details or to sign up, please contact the parish office or speak with Arinze at 548-333-2015.

Thank you for your participation and support. Let’s come together to make the St. Teresa of Avila photo directory a beautiful reflection of our vibrant parish community!

Diocese Announcements

Young Adults Night - Saturday, July 6th – Hamilton

Fr. Mark Morley invites all young adults (ages 20s and 30s) of our diocese to attend an evening of prayer, fellowship and praise music in support of your vocations. The Young Adults Night includes a Holy Hour (6:30pm-7:30 pm), talk/tour in the church (7:30pm-7:45pm), social with food (7:45pm-8:15pm), praise night (8:15pm-9:00pm), and Compline (9:00pm) on Saturday, July 6th at St. Catherine of Siena Church (620 Rymal Road East, Hamilton, Ontario). Sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Hamilton. For more information, please contact: vocations@hamiltondiocese.com

Diocesan Marian Days

The Basilica of Our Lady Immaculate, the Diocesan Marian Shrine, will be hosting the Diocesan Marian Days on the first Saturdays from June to October. The day begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at noon. The presiders for these days will be Fr. Ian Duffy (June 1), Bishop Wayne Lobsinger (July 6), Bishop Matthew Ustrzycki (August 3), Bishop Douglas Crosby (September 7) and Bishop Daniel Miehm (October 5). For more information, see the Diocesan website.

Wisdom of the Saints

“Do not readily or lightly put your trust in appearances, but weigh things well, and after testing everything carefully. Cling to what is good and reject evil.”

“If you pray with your lips but your mind wanders, who benefits?”

-- St. Gregory of Sinai

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention
June 2024**

Please join Pope Francis in praying for migrants fleeing their homes during the month of June.