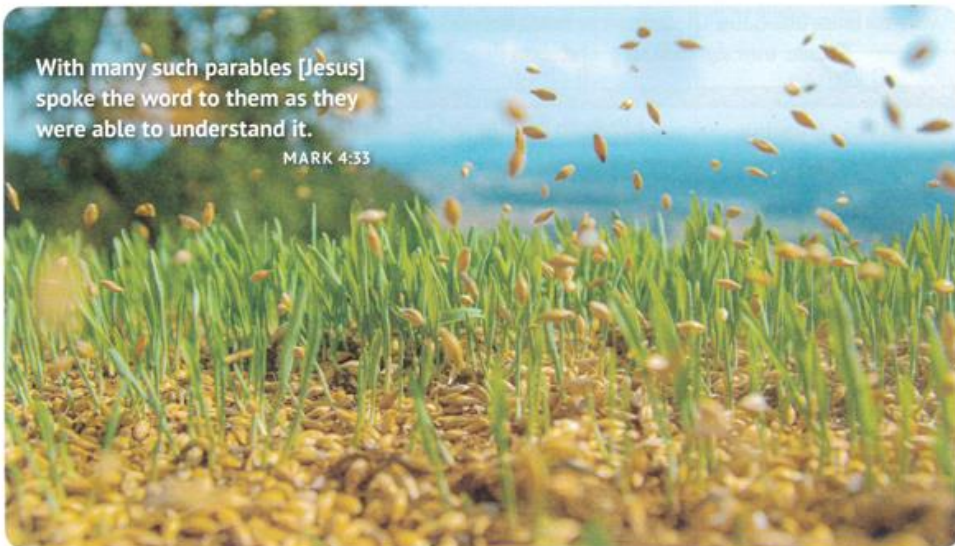




With many such parables [Jesus] spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

MARK 4:33



Life Happens

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

The adage that "life is what happens to us as we're busy doing other things" seems to be a rewording of this week's Gospel about the kingdom of heaven, namely about God's reigning activity in our lives. It is a parable about a man who sows seeds in his field. The seeds sprout, grow, and bear fruit, all without his knowing how. In effect, the message says that it is *God* who happens to us as we're busy doing other things.

We tend to convince ourselves that we have complete control over our lives, when in reality that is somewhat of an illusion. Though we may decide what we will have for dinner, what TV program to watch, or what we will wear, we have much less control over the portions of life that so often give meaning and shape to who we are. The person someone marries

is dependent upon the mutual commitment of the two people in love. The degree of job satisfaction we eagerly hope to find can partly depend upon the people with whom we work and the expectations of others. "We walk by faith and not by sight" reveals that we recognize the reigning presence of God bringing us to a life we'd never imagined. In reality, the one thing we do have control over is how we respond to life's events, which can then open us to the ways by which God brings us to fruitful abundance. ●

Reflect

**Think of three of your blessings:
How much did you have to do
with their coming about?**

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Website: www.abj Catholic.org - Facebook Page: St Agnes, St Boniface & St John the Evangelist

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

From Fr. Pampara:

God is our Father and he has planned a plan for each one of us and like a good father dreams a dream for us. He has made us his chosen people and has showered plentiful blessings on us. He is a benevolent Father who cares for his children. St John tells us that God has loved us so much that he sent his only son for our sake that we may have life through him. God works in every human person as he would work in nature. We can see how God cares for each single item of his creation and builds into it his own presence and action. He manifests himself to us in divine way so that we may understand his benevolence. In the Gospel of today we have two parables concerning the growth of the Kingdom of God. He uses the image of the seed and the plant indicating how the Kingdom that he is proclaiming would grow quietly as every farmer would experience. It is a call to belong to the kingdom of God, who calls us to put oneself fully, consciously and deliberately under the power of God, to experience that power and be empowered by it. The picture is clear: the building of the kingdom is God's work. We see the growth of things in nature is often not perceptible. We can see them with periodic observance of the things that are planted or by returning at intervals. It is the same way with the Kingdom of God. It goes on growing whether we are working with it or not; whether we are aware of it or not. It will not be frustrated by any opposition or passivity on our part. We can see evidence of that in the way that the Christian faith has survived over the past 2,000 years. Some people, some governments and other powerful agencies have done their utmost to obliterate Christianity from the area under their control. The kingdom grows quietly without anyone being aware of it. It is the working of the Spirit that makes the growth possible. We need to cooperate in the growth of God's Kingdom: The Kingdom of God is the growth of God's rule in human hearts that occurs when man does the will of God and surrenders his life to God. The seed of Faith lies dormant within each of us. When we permit the Holy Spirit to nurture it with tender loving care it grows miraculously to gigantic proportions.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of June 17, 2024

Mon.	June	17	7:00 AM	SJ	Kevin Allison†
Tues.	June	18	7:00 AM	SJ	Wally Allison †
Wed.	June	19	5:30 PM	SA	Joseph Leech†
Thurs.	June	20	5:30 PM	SB	Marianne Ridder†
Fri.	June	21	7:00 AM	SJ	Margaret Opela †
Sun.	June	23	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	June	23	9:30 AM	SA	John, Chris, James Neal
Sun.	June	23	11:00 AM	SB	Joyce Brestel



Cecelia Stallbaumer June 19th

Dan Trumbull June 19th

Carlo Ortiz June 20th

Jeana Hanna June 21st

Dwayne Barraza June 21st

Klara Dailey June 22nd

Avery Boeser June 22nd

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Petersen June 19th

Ministry Schedule

Date: June 23	St. Agnes	St. Boniface	St. John's
Time	<u>Sunday 9:30 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 11:00 AM</u>	<u>Sunday 8:00 AM</u>
Hospitality	Con & Aleta P,	Chancy Boeser Family	Jim Amos Family
Lector	John B.	Verla B.	Kristy O.
Server		Dylan P. & Quinton B.	Kelsey A. & Wyatt D.
EMHC	Evan B. & Gary M.	Mike P. & Rod B.	Steve & Cindy F.
Communion to shut ins or Music		Mike P.	Music: Robin G.

<p><u>St. Agnes</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church June 9, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$2188.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$4014/so far \$3005 Donor Goal: 9 out of 16</p> <p>Thrift Store Open June 21st from 9AM to 4PM</p> <p>Fathers Day Potluck June 16th after Mass Drinks Provided</p>	<p><u>St. Boniface</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church June 9, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$913.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$7306/ so far \$7330 Donor Goal: 17 out of 19</p> <p>The dollar goal is REACHED</p> <p>Please join us for the Pioneer Picnic Parade! Float making - Thursday, June 27th at 6PM - Brogan's House, 201 S Needham Ride/walk in parade - Saturday, June 29th - Line up at 10AM at the school</p>	<p><u>St. John's</u></p> <p>Our Gifts to God & Church June 9, 2024</p> <p><u>Total Collection:</u> \$4136.00</p> <p><u>Diocesan Appeal</u></p> <p>Dollar Goal = \$5001/so far \$5020 Donor Goal: 16 out of 17</p> <p>The dollar goal is REACHED!</p>
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The abortion industry is circulating a ballot initiative seeking to enshrine a right to abortion in the Nebraska Constitution, which would legalize abortion until birth. Abortion advocacy groups are currently collecting signatures and spending millions of dollars to confuse and mislead voters.

Local pro-life leaders, medical professionals, and legal experts are responding with a pro-life initiative to protect our current 12-week law and allow greater protections going forward.

Both groups have until July 3rd to collect 125,000 valid signatures from at least 38 counties in Nebraska to put the measures on the November ballot. Please share this with family and friend and contact Kristie or Rex Walz to sign the pro-life petition before June 26th.

Find more information at:

[Protect Women and Children Nebraska - Nebraska Family Alliance](#)



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU AND PROTECT YOU.

MAY THE LORD SMILE ON YOU AND BE GRACIOUS TO YOU.

MAY THE LORD SHOE YO HIS FAVOR AND GIVE YOU HIS PEACE.

Dear Padre,

*Why did Jesus always speak in parables?
Why didn't he give us clearer answers?*

Parables are short, relatable stories. Their simple images or comparisons convey a moral or religious lesson and put us in touch with the mystery of God and ourselves. Thus, parables confront the hearer or reader with a radical choice to enter God's kingdom: "One must enter the kingdom, that is, become a disciple of Christ, in order to 'know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven' (Matthew 13:11). For those who stay 'outside,' everything remains enigmatic" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 546).

About a third of Jesus' recorded teachings are in parable form. After the Pharisees rejected Jesus (Matthew 12:14), he immediately changed his straightforward preaching to parables. This fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation [of the world]" (Matthew 13:35; see Psalm 78:2).

Parables are intended to reveal as much about us as they do about God. As John Shea writes in *Stories of God*, "God not only loves to hear our stories, God loves to tell stories. And, quite simply, we are the story God tells." In the telling, we ourselves are told. The timeless, universal stories of Jesus speak to us at different stages of life and provide multiple levels of meaning to the openhearted. ●



ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA BY GIOVANNI PAULI, 1674

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20	June 21	June 22	June 23
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Aloysius	Weekday	Twelfth Sunday
1 Kgs 21:1-16	1 Kgs 21:17-29	2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14	Sir 48:1-14	Gonzaga,	2 Chr 24:17-25	in Ordinary Time
Mt 5:38-42	Mt 5:43-48	Mt 6:1-6, 16-18	Mt 6:7-15	Religious	Mt 6:24-34	Jb 38:1, 8-11
				2 Kgs 11:1-4,		2 Cor 5:14-17
				9-18, 20		Mk 4:35-41
				Mt 6:19-23		



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It may happen that we get discouraged, because we see the weakness of good as compared to the apparent power of evil.... The Gospel asks us to take a fresh look at ourselves and at reality...to discover the presence of God who as humble love is always at work in the soil of our life....

ANGELUS, ROME, JUNE 13, 2021

VARUNA / SHUTTERSTOCK



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