

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE ELEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME**  
Our commitment to daily prayer using the weekday Mass readings as our guide

**MONDAY 6/18**  
First Kings 21:1-16  
Matthew 5:38-42

**TUESDAY 6/19**  
First Kings 21:17-29  
Matthew 5:43-48

**WEDNESDAY 6/20**  
Second Kings 2:1, 6-14  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**THURSDAY 6/21**  
Sirach 48:1-14  
Matthew 6:7-15

**FRIDAY 6/22**  
2 Kings 11:1-4, 9-18, 20  
Matthew 6:19-23

**SATURDAY 6/23**  
2 Chronicles 24:17-25  
Matthew 6:24-34

**Feasts, Solemnities, and Memorials This Week:**  
Tuesday, Romuald; Thursday, Aloysius Gonzaga;  
Friday, Paulinus of Nola, John Fisher, & Thomas More

**COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

Sahel Food Crisis: The people of Niger need our help

It is half-way into the rainy season in Niger and yet not a drop of rain has fallen in most parts of the country. The land is as dry as ever. Niger is one of the largest countries in the West African region of the Sahel, the swath across Africa bordering the Sahara desert, where currently millions of people are threatened by drought and famine.

In such harsh and unfavorable weather conditions, it doesn't matter how hard you wish to work, you can only do so much without rain. "Without rain," one farmer says, "earlier rising and going to bed late is useless". Strikingly, the people of Niger are so grateful for what they have and hardly complain about their lacks. They radiate joy and hope in the midst of severe hunger.

**Catholic Relief Services** is in Niger, bringing the love of Catholics from all over the world to bear on this destitute place so that these poor people will have a chance to survive. But CRS needs our help. CRS always needs our help to help those in need. We fret and worry about many things in life, but we never go hungry. Many people, many children in Niger will starve and be reduced by malnourishment if we don't help.

Next weekend we will take up our **annual collection for Catholic Relief Services**. Each year we make a special sacrifice for the sake of those who need what we have. CRS is the heart of the Catholic Church reaching out to the poor of the world.

**PRAYERS**

Our prayers are requested for Bonnie Zwart, Mark & Mary Anne Bewsher, Tina Quan, James Zvetina, Pat Glynn, Bobbie Engstrom, Diane Evans, Raquel Rodriguez, John Gracey, Bob Tomko, Jr., Virginia Reyes, Elizabeth Cauzza, Kay Reilly, Mary Jo Ferreir, Julie Rogers, Antonio Salinas, Josefina Flores, Jim Rothe, John Wallis, Sue Ann Logar, and Glenn Inouye.

**DAILY MASS**

Weekday services are celebrated daily at 7:00 AM, Monday through Saturday, in St. Joseph rectory adjacent to the church in Mammoth Lakes. Walk right in; stay after for coffee and fellowship.



# THE MONO COUNTY CATHOLIC

*Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God. Psalm 90:2*

June 17, 2012

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."

Mark 4:31-32

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Rev. Paul Boudreau, pastor

**CONFESSIONS**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated at St. Joseph Church in Mammoth Lakes from 5:30 to 5:45 on Saturday afternoons, 7:30 to 7:45 on Sunday mornings, y en español a las tardes del domingo de 5:00 a 5:15; and upon request before mass at Our Savior of the Mountains mission in Lee Vining and Infant of Prague mission in Bridgeport. The "Act of Contrition" is available in the confession room.



**SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE**

**Mammoth Lakes: St. Joseph Church –  
Saturday Vigil: 6:00 PM  
Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM  
La Misa en Español: 5:30 PM**  
**Lee Vining:  
Our Savior of the Mountains Mission -  
Sunday Mass 10:00 AM  
Bridgeport: Infant of Prague Mission -  
Sunday Mass 12:00 Noon**

## Mono County Catholic June 17, 2012

### FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22–24

*I, the LORD, Bring low the high tree, lift high the lowly tree, Wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree bloom. As I, the LORD, have spoken, so will I do.*

Somebody ought to write a book called *Trees of the Bible*. Trees are so prominent in Scripture that they practically count as characters in the stories.

For starters, there is that tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden that plays a role in the disgrace of humanity. (Genesis 2:16–17) We commonly misidentify it as an apple tree, but it isn't. That's just how the pictures were painted. The forbidden fruit is the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, a real mouthful.

Right on its heels of that one in the story is the tree of life, the protection of which necessitates humanity's expulsion from the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3:22–24) Abraham dozes in the shade of a noteworthy terebinth, or oak tree, at a place called Mamre when the angels show up and rock his world. (Genesis 18:1–5)

Cedars are brought all the way from Lebanon to build the spectacular palace of King David. (2 Samuel 5:11) Elijah decides to surrender his life under a craggy broom tree-until an angel revives him. (1 Kings 19:37)

Jesus spies Nathanael under a fig tree in Galilee, and the revelation makes him a disciple. (John 1:47–51) In Jericho, Zacchaeus climbs a sycamore to catch his first glimpse of Jesus. (Luke 19:2–10) Jesus will hang on the wood of a tree in his final hours. In the New

Jerusalem of Revelation, the tree of life reappears to bear fruit year-round, its leaves a healing medicine. (Revelation 22:1–2) The trees, it seems, may be more faithful servants of God than are we.

### SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6–10

*So we are always courageous, although we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.*

Walking through the Holy Land today, one might be forgiven for thinking



## Construir el Reino de Dios

La primera lectura, el salmo y el Evangelio están llenos de imágenes de la naturaleza: ramas, flores, frutos... ¿Cuánto tiempo tarda una planta pequeña en crecer hasta hacerse un árbol de cedro alto y frondoso? Aunque no veamos cómo se produce el crecimiento de una planta, sabemos que ésta crecerá, sobre todo, si le damos los cuidados adecuados. El aspecto físico de crecer es misterioso, pero crecer por dentro —como persona o comunidad— puede serlo más aún, especialmente crecer para construir el Reino de Dios. A modo personal o comunitario, quizás nos haga falta crecer en algo... y no sepamos qué es. El apóstol san Pablo nos dice que, aunque no veamos, debemos tener confianza y guiarnos por la fe, para servir al Señor. En la oración colecta, hoy pedimos la gracia de Dios, que supera toda debilidad humana, para seguir siendo fieles.

we need only walk by sight, sometimes. There are so many things to see. In Jericho you can reach out and touch the gigantic elder sycamore (or one quite like it) from which Zacchaeus once clung, hoping to see Jesus. Or you can aim your camera at the now-deceased but still majestic stump of a tree in Hebron, alleged to be the terebinth of Mamre under which Abraham pitched his tent and entertained angels. Very ancient trees still stand there that

saw the rise and fall of the Roman Empire.

Here in the United States, we have redwoods old enough to have witnessed the time of Jesus. We even have bristlecone pines right down the road that were already hundreds of years old when Abraham was just a kid.

While some present-day forests literally give witness to biblical times, the elements of our sacraments do them one better. In sacramental actions, the very life of Jesus and the power of his Spirit are made real and present in the world again. While we can see and touch water, oil, bread, and wine, we must still "walk by faith" to discover what

they can do for us.

### GOSPEL: Mark 4:26–34

*"To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts*

*forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."*

If you wanted to reduce the teachings of Jesus to a single theme, you might not do better than to focus on the theme of the Kingdom of God.

"The kingdom" isn't a fairy tale place of castles and royal courts. The Kingdom of God, (or the "reign of God", or the "Kingdom of Heaven", as the term appears variously in the gospels) is a matter of allegiance, not geography. There's no place in the Universe where we are magically transported when we die. As Jesus proclaimed, the Kingdom of God is "at hand". The Kingdom of God is among us. The Kingdom of God is within us.

The Kingdom of God is near to us, open to us, present to us, and ready to receive us whenever we chose to enter.

We take our place in the Kingdom of God right here, right now, whenever we choose God's way over our own way in every decision we make.

Jesus compares the kingdom to a tiny seed hidden in the ground: small, obscure, seemingly without relationship to anything but its very own secret self. But this tiny, little kingdom seed will emerge to become its own universe of roots and branches, connecting earth and sky and all of life together. In God's kingdom, what seemed irrelevant will become paramount; what was unseen will become dominant against the sky; what was always least will become ever first; what was lowly will become great.

Is it so impossible to imagine that one day, everything we can hold in our hands will become worthless? And that invisible things like truth, goodness, faith, love, hope, and justice will become the only things that really matter?