

HAPPY FATHER’S DAY TO ALL THE DADS and many blessings to them as they live out their vocation! It is good to be back from my vacation. Although the first couple of days were filled with battling flight delays and seasickness, the overall trip was wonderful as we cruised Cape Cod stopping at many historical sites—the high-light for me was visiting Plymouth, MA.

I share with you words from St. John Chrysostom that date back to late 4th century, --not only food for thought and reflection then, but for us as well in our day: “God is not ignorant of anything that happens in creation, and if God loves us more truly that the best human father, and if God loves us so as to have numbered our very hairs, then we need not be afraid... Therefore, if God both knows all things that happen to us and is able to save us and willing to do so, then whatever we may be suffering, we need not think that God has forsaken us in our suffer-ing... ‘Therefore, don’t be afraid. You are of more value than many sparrows.’ Don’t you see that God views your fear with more concern than the lives of many sparrows? He already knows the secret of your heart. Hence Jesus adds, ‘Do not fear.’ For even if that which you dread prevails, it prevails only over your body; this is the limited part of yourself, which nature will surely take in due time and bring to an end” (St. John Chrysostom, Homily 34). . Let God transform our fears and renew our spirit!

In God We Trust - Fr. Tom

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Fear No One
In the 1883 painting “Mass in a Connemara Cabin,” a small congregation of shabbily dressed faithful is huddled together in a sparsely appointed room. A priest extends his hand over them in blessing. One woman presses her forehead to the ground in prayer.

This painting, created in 1883 by Aloysius O’Kelley, depicts a “station Mass,” offered for the community in a private home. Though this practice originated in the period of the Penal Laws, when Catholic worship was illegal in Ireland, it persisted even after the “emancipation” of Catholics in the 19th century.

I have used quotation marks around the word “emancipation” because we must never forget that just because something is made legal does not mean it is made popular. And it certainly is not made safe.

In the moments that pass immediately after this scene concludes, the altar candles will be extinguished and the faithful will disperse, carrying the Body and Blood of Christ into a world suspicious of him, suspicious of them.

And yet here they are, kneeling. Foreheads pressed to the floor.

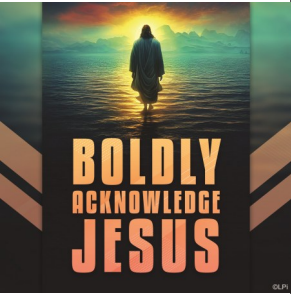
This painting sits on my family’s prayer table as a call to reflection. I make my living writing Catholic things for Catholic publications. The people who read what I write are bound to agree with me — they’re usually reading my words in a church. I must confess that in my personal life, I am far less bold. I fear controversy. I dread giving offense. I buckle beneath the weight of discipleship.

It doesn’t matter that most Americans identify as “Christians” — the world we face when we leave Mass is every bit as resentful of true Catholic teaching as the world that lies beyond O’Kelley’s Connemara cottage. And while I do not fear those who can kill my body, I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

“Mass in a Connemara Cabin” illustrates how my ancestors worshiped: in secret, in shadow.

I worship in the daylight.

Which of us acknowledges Christ more fully? More courageously? ©LPi



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED
Priestly Ordination of Men

Question: Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

One of the most debated and — in some circles — contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice. Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” (no. 4).

This position has been upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a “definite response” to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history. ©LPi



Readings for the week of June 21, 2026

Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5
Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/ Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14
Wednesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/ Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Mt 7:21-29
Friday: 2 Kgs 25:1-12/ Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Mt 8:1-4
Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21/Mt 8:5-17
Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)



St. Mark Parish
Secretary: JoNell DeHaan
Cell: 605-680-0870
Email: office@holypostlessd.org

Reg Support \$1184

Church Cleaning for June: Noreen Laska & Joni Laska
Sunday, June 28th – 11 AM

Lector: Sally Florey
EM: Margaret Reiser
Servers: Brynlee Kaczor & Addisyn Deurmier
Counters: Sally Florey & Carla Winckler
Custodians/Ushers/Collection: Steve & Margaret Reiser
Grounds: Rick Bergin

Council meeting moved to July 16 @ 4:30 PM



St. Ann Parish
Secretary: Jackie Slaba
Cell: 605-680-1944
Email:office.stanngeddes@sfcatholic.org

Reg Support \$1163
June 28th – 6 PM

Lector: Mike Slaba
EM: Jackie Slaba & Mary Beth Kok
Servers: Ty Rolland, Colten & Luke Petrik

Joint Council meeting is July 21 @ 6:30 PM

There are several free items available for you. Share the weekend Mass times cards with your neighbors. A shout out to Andrew Geppert for the prayer crosses.

Other religious items are available at St. Peter’s in the cabinet and on the counter. There are envelopes available for your donation and can be slipped under the office door or put in the collection.

VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! – CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH
Affability

In being affable, we make ourselves friendly, approachable, and agreeable to those around us, regardless of how they make us feel. “How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together as one,” writes King David in Psalm 133.

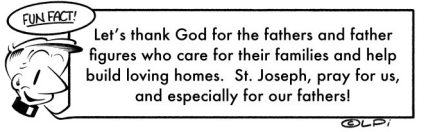




BE A *Witness* OF CHARITY
Support the Peter's Pence Collection

Holy Father (Peter’s Pence) collection
June 28, 2026

Envelopes were in last week’s bulletin or t the entrance of the church.



Happy Father’s Day!

Let’s thank God for the fathers and father figures who care for their families and help build loving homes. St. Joseph, pray for us, and especially for our fathers!



St. Peter the Apostle Parish
Secretary: JoNell DeHaan
Cell: 605-680-0870
Email: office@holypostlessd.org

Online Giving: <https://onrealm.org/SaintPeterApost/Give>

2026 CFSA Goal \$22,500/\$705remaining
Reg Support \$1889 Online \$383
Sunday, June 28–9:00am

Lector: Mary V.
Servers: Kayson & Boston S., Vivian F.
EMs: Tim & Linda W.
Ushers: Tim & Linda W.
Counters: Kemnitzes, Sherry T.

Joint Council meetings moved to July 15 @7 PM

Annual Cleaning
The goal is to clean the week of June 21st and have the hall and classroom carpets cleaned after July 1.

A sheet with task instructions has been texted and emailed. It is also available at the front of the church. You can sign up there or online.

Use the QR code to get to login page or holypostlessd.org under Pastorate Ministries, Group Finder, My Groups. *The first time you login to the site, you need to create an account.*

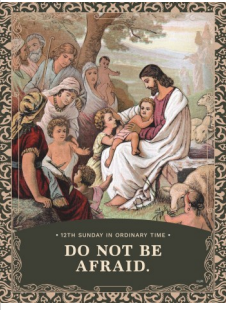
The group is *Altar Society Workers*. Thank you for your help in this ministry.



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Jean Améry, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an “indignant despair.” Haven’t we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse?

It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today’s Gospel: **“Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body.”** (Matthew 10:28) He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow’s fall.



This is no superficial comfort. Jesus himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and he has come through it. That is why his words, “Do not be afraid,” hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it.

Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father’s care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts. — *Father John Muir* ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA:
Absolution, penance, and confession all refer to which Sacrament?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation. . LPi