

Homily

11th Sunday OT - A

Rev. Peter G. Jankowski
June 13-14, 2026

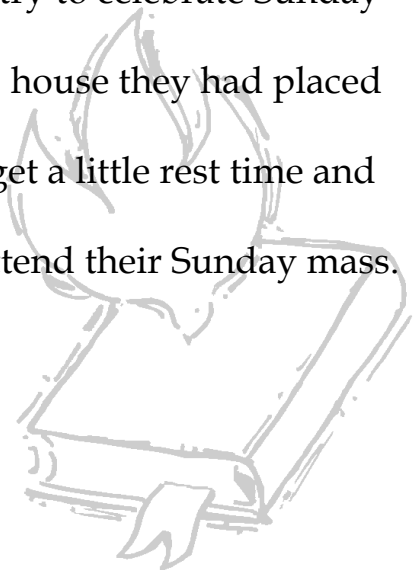
Ex 19: 2-6
Ps 100: 1-2, 3, 5
Rom 5: 6-11
Mt 9: 36 - 10: 8



This particular Sunday, I will be spending some time in Lake Itasca, Minnesota at a church named St. Catherine, which was closed by the Bishop of Crookston, MN around 1999.

The bishop eventually gave permission for the caretakers of this church to leave it open during camping season from Memorial Day until Labor Day each year.

As a result, the good souls up in the diocese of Crookston and the city of Lake Itasca find priests from around the country to celebrate Sunday Masses at the Church while living in a “pre-fab” house they had placed right next to the church so that the priest could get a little rest time and the people, or campers, would have a place to attend their Sunday mass.





As I spend time
in Lake Itasca, I
found this respite
away as an
opportunity to
produce and

upload the SEVENTEEN Online Masses that I recorded prior these last two months and upload them on to our YouTube Border Town Channel for all of you to view so that you will benefit from this online evangelization. Currently, we have uploaded over ONE THOUSAND VIDEOS for the sake of all of you.

During this time away, this also would happen to be my last week teaching 117 students from Vietnam the “Business Ethics” course I was asked to lead. In that course, we recorded a type of “Study Guide” for the students in this business ethics course. I wish to thank Joanne Herman, John Rehmer and Jim Meyer for helping me record this Study Guide in the form of a “Jeopardy!” game as a fun way to get the students to learn the basic themes we presented in the course. I have

uploaded that study guide and included it at the end of this Online Mass video, just you can see what we are doing to give the students a “moral compass” in the world of business ethics.

Essentially, there are all kinds of different hats that a person like me needs to wear in order to serve all kinds of different people in the ministries God asks me to offer. At this moment, my responsibility is offering the Lord’s grace at this Online Mass. I also have the responsibility of conferring all kinds of sacraments for the faithful, from baptisms to confessions to marriage to the anointing of the sick. At the time of this recording, I am celebrating both a baptism and a wedding for the faithful of our communities. This weekend, a faithful minister asked for me to hear a confession.

Every given weekend, I have different responsibilities and different sacraments I need to celebrate; the role I play at these Churches differ according to the needs of the faithful. At times, we priests find it very draining st to do all these things but so goes the life of a parent, a priest or anyone else who is serious about their vocation.

As a priest, I try to take care of as many people as I can, because there are so many sheep without a shepherd, many of them and only one of me! So many people are looking for help and for guidance and for love. What little I am able to accomplish I am just doing what God asks you to do. What I do is a thankless task, kind of like a being a parent. You do all those things for the kids and a lot of the times, the kids do not appreciate what you do until they have to become a parent themselves. Nevertheless, we offer the ministry because we are called to a specific vocation and we do the best we can to live it well.

To be honest, all these different things that I do as a Catholic priest, all these hats that I wear, I am so blessed because I am able to touch the lives of so many people in so many different ways in God's name and so many I have served have been so appreciative of what we have been doing for them. At the time we are recording these Online Masses, we also have been gearing up and getting ready for the St. Anne's Novena and Feast Day on the 26th of July. So many people have helped us in this cause, with those who are setting up, cleaning up, serving food and religious items and everything else associated with the Feast Day.

I also am blessed that Fr. Jim Hyde will join us for the English Mass. Fr. Hyde has joined us for years; this will be the last time he can celebrate with us, as the archbishop of Chicago has moved him to a new assignment. We also are blessed that Fr. Sebastián Genoni will travel from Buenos Aires, Argentina to celebrate a “parallel Novena” in Spanish for us and join us in our horse-drawn procession (cabalgada) prior to the Mass. I also feel blessed that Fr. Uriel Martinez has celebrated Masses for us in January and June and that Fr. Diego Maximino will lead a Guadalupe Mission for us in December.

A good number of ordained clergy have helped me in so many different way, wearing different hats, with lots of different balls to juggle. Few priests are serving many sheep here in the Border Town Parishes who need to know that they are loved. That is what we do.

Every day is different, every day is unique, but that is the gospel message. You get up every day to minister to whomever you can, just like the “twelve” were sent out, to do all these various things in God’s name, just like we do two-thousand years later. It is just part of the ministry and It is just part of life.

We ministers try to engage in this ministry so that people know that in their daily trials, God is still with them. That is why we were the colored green during Ordinary Time – the color represents the daily things that we do, just like the growth of grass. Even during Ordinary Time and the “low months” of the year when we continue on with our lives, we need to know even now that God is still with us.

So often during this particular time of the year, our faithful are off doing what they are doing and they forget about God – I often hear that during the summer, people take a “vacation” from God, as if on the other side of life we will be away from God as well. During the summer months, we are on what might be considered the “downside” of the liturgical year in some ways. Ordinary Time is the “fifth” major season of the Church year; some may call it the “fifth wheel” or “spare tire” on the car – we celebrate Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter and downshift during this liturgical year. Often, the summer months are when many people relax and spend time with family and friends. They go camping, they go on vacation, school is out.

That all said, during the summer our ministry does not stop. God does not take a vacation from us and we should not take a vacation with God. During these months, we need to stop to make sure that we are spending time with the Lord, who created us and wants to get us home. Especially now, we need to focus on God so that the spirits of the world do not consume us and draw us away from the divine purpose of life.

I am very thankful for all the priests that have helped me out to cover for these Masses while I am gone and for all those who have been helping us with the upcoming services that will take place at the parishes these upcoming months. Please, just keep praying for me. I keep praying for you. We just want to make sure that everybody is loved and everybody is served, especially those who feel like they have been neglected or alone because they are not. God is with them; we are with them. We are with you, to serve you, to love you and to take this ministry wherever it may take us, to take care of the people that we meet. This is our prayer.