

# Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time—July 8, 2018

SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



***“Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honor except in his native place.’”***

Nazareth, the hometown of Jesus, was a very poor and largely uneducated community. For someone like Jesus, the son of a poor carpenter, to leave Nazareth and head into the big world beyond the village would have been unusual, almost unheard of. Returning from His travels, it would have been no surprise that He was asked by His neighbors to speak in the synagogue. But, when He spoke with conviction and wisdom, He was rejected and spurned as somehow “rising above” His lowly state in life. The people of Nazareth were offended at His “better than thou attitude”, so they rejected Jesus. Does this sound familiar? It sounds like parish life. When someone tries to lead, tries to be innovative, or tries to make a difference, they are shut down. “Who do they think they are!” they are told and so they often give up and the parish suffers. Just like the village of Nazareth, God then has no place in our parish life to bless us with His abundant gifts. Be open to the ideas of others; support them when they try new things; and don’t feel threatened when someone wants to lead. We are in parish life not for ourselves and our egos, but for the furthering of God’s work among us. God wants to do great things in our parishes through His people; don’t be an obstacle to His divine plan.

## **Come one come all**

A reminder that on the evening of Friday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, you are welcome to the KC Hall in Lefor for the Steak & Burger Night, a wonderful summer tradition in our area. A reminder to our youth that if you were unable to take part in the winter Italian Meal, then we want you to assist at this meal, with serving steaks and burgers, doing dishes, or helping with the clean-up. The Knights of Columbus have generously offered to give the proceeds of this meal to our youth for summer activities. May God bless them for their generosity and support for our youth, the future of the Church. We will see you at the Steak & Burger Night, a night of great food and company. It’s also a great way to promote the cattle industry, or just make sure you run over a chicken when you see one.



## **Thank you for your kindness**

Thank you to everyone who offered prayers, cards, and gifts with my recent 47<sup>th</sup> birthday and 19<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priestly ordination. May God reward you for your kindness and goodness. Know that the pecuniary gifts were put to good use: I bought myself my first pair of orthopedic shoes. Very comfy!



**MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE**

**Monday, July 9**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, July 10**

**7:30 AM SM —+Wayne Kalberer by Father Gary Benz**

**6:00 PM SE Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE +Paul Schiwal by Robert Lefor**

**Wednesday, July 11**

**7:00 PM SM— Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions**

**7:00 PM SM— +Darwin Schaefer by Cely & Robert Stagl**

**Thursday, July 12**

**7:30 AM SM— +Peter & +Mary Ficek by Donna & Lonnie Rohr**

**Friday, July 13**

**7:30 AM SM— Joan Madler & family by Mike Madler**

**12-3:00 PM—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, July 14**

**8:30 AM SM— +Shari Obritsch by Cely & Robert Stagl**

**5:00 PM SM— +Keith Herold by Kim & Brian Herold**

**Sunday, July 15**

**8:30AM SE +Laura Grundhauser by Marcy & Eddie Kautzman**

**10:30AM SM-Pro Populo**

*Please Keep in Your Prayers:*

Chuck Brusich, Stephanie Geerts, Nate Hernandez, Andy Prokop, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Aggie Wandler, Ken Stagl, Charlotte Krebs, Harvey Herberholz, Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Leona Gordon, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

**Our Deceased Loved Ones** +Darwin Schaefer, +James Gatzke, +Ed Koppinger, +Eleanor Keck, +Ardelle Kovar, +Eugenia Stagl, +Nick Lenhardt, +Mike Urlacher, +Keith Herold, +Carla Rohan, +Alvin Rotering, +Jeanne Kovar, +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher, +Paul Schiwal, +LeRoy Jacobs, +Victor Roller, +John Herold, +Viola Martin

**A Point to Ponder**

*While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.*

**On the lighter side, "Mother's Remarks"**

- Mona Lisa's mother: "After all that money your father and I spent on braces, that's the biggest smile you can give us?"
- "Columbus' mother: "I don't care what you discovered. You could have written!"
- Einstein's mother: "But it is your senior picture. Can't you do something about your hair?"
- Jonah's mother: "That's a nice story . . . a giant fish swallowed you? Now tell me where you've really been."
- Edison's mother: "Of course I'm proud that you invented the light bulb. Now turn it off and go to bed!"
- Michelangelo's mother: "Can't you paint on walls like other children? Do you have any idea how hard it is to get that stuff off of the ceiling?"

**St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments July 14 & 15, 2018**

MINISTRY	Saturday 5PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	David Hernandez
Mass Servers	Maddie R./Molly R.	Paige E./Addison F.
Eucharistic Ministers	Bonnie J./Toni J.	Dianne B./Kent M.
Gifts	Martina Stagl	Richard Wandler
Rosary Leader	Kathy Gartner	Susan Schmitt
Greeters	Connie Jalbert Family	Victor & Lynn D.
Homebound Minister	David & Vivian H.	David & Vivian H.

**Collection Report St. Mary's June 23 & 24, 2018/June 30 & July 1, 2018**

Adult		Youth
\$ 4386/\$1697	Envelopes	\$ 00/ \$7.00
\$ 135/\$153	Loose Plate	\$
\$4521/\$1857	Total	\$
\$9532.57/ \$1857	Monthly Total	Peter Pence Collection \$845

**St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments July 15, 2018**

Lector	Elvie
Mass Servers	Nathan
Eucharistic Ministers	Darrell & Dorita
Gifts	Lenny & Delinda
Greeters	Darrell & Dorita
Ushers	Greg K. & Deran

**Collection Report St. Elizabeth's June 24, 2018/July 1, 2018**

Adult	July 1 Report not available	Youth
\$ 560.00	Envelopes	\$ 7.00
\$ 43.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 610.00	Total	\$
\$ 1476.00	Month	\$

## Difficult Moral Issues, “Is it wrong to pay taxes to an unjust or ungodly government?”

Although Americans don't want to hold a disregard or disdain for their own country, it can be very difficult at times to fight off this sentiment. We have at times endured a federal government which: provides federal dollars to pay for “family planning” and abortions; attacks freedom of religion, as in forcing Catholic institutions to provide mandatory birth control coverage; and mismanages the tax dollars of hard-working Americans, as evidenced in an out-of-control federal budget deficit. We can get so tired of the above injustices that the thought may cross our mind, “I cannot pay my federal taxes, because this only supports a corrupt government.” But, the Scriptures and the teaching authority of the Church challenge us to reconsider our thoughts on this matter, for the following reasons.

First, the New Testament instructs Christians to pay their taxes. Devout Christians living under the Roman Empire hardly considered the Roman government to be just and good. Rome persecuted the Church; its rulers claimed for themselves quasi-divine status and demanded that all Roman subjects (Christians included) worship them, which violated the Lord's command to worship Him alone; and Rome extracted a lot of tax revenue to fund wars which Christians opposed, as many of them were strict pacifists. Indeed, Christians looked forward to Rome's eventual destruction. Yet, in the New Testament, Jesus taught His followers to pay the required taxes. The Gospels relate an exchange between Jesus and some people who confronted Him about the dilemma of paying taxes to the emperor. Jesus told them to “Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to give to God what belongs to God” (Mark 12:17). Jesus is clearly stating that taxes should be paid, even to an unjust government. Why? Because God gives rulers their authority, with the hope that they will prevent wrongdoing and provide the stability for virtue to advance. Taxation provides the resources to advance these worthy goals. Granted, these lofty goals are often negated by an unjust and corrupt government, but the hope is still present that God can do good work in spite of such a government. Thus, the moral instruction to pay one's taxes remains part of Church teaching and must be adhered to by faithful Catholics.

Second, the nation is not a government. A nation is a people living together in a common region and sharing common interests. The government is merely an organization needed by a nation to promote its interests, for the well-being of its citizens. Sadly, governments often violate the mandate given to them by their citizens and can engage in bad actions and policies. But, this is not reason enough to cease paying taxes. We must keep in mind the many *good* things that governments do provide by way of tax dollars: national defense; law enforcement; regulation of drugs for public safety; health care for the disabled and elderly; assistance to the poor; the upkeep of national parks; the education of our youth; the upkeep of roads and highways; etc. Yes, we may not agree with the bad policies of government, but we cannot deny the many ways we benefit from good government policies and programs. As in all things, Christians must seek to do the good, even in the midst of evil. If we don't, we become a cynical people, bereft of charity and hope.

Lastly, if you are convinced that you cannot pay taxes to what is perceived as a corrupt government, then you must be willing to pay the consequences. You may have to leave the country and take up citizenship in another nation; you may have to accept imprisonment; or you may have to embrace a life of poverty. The last one may be the best option. By not having taxable income, you don't have to pay taxes, which means you can stay in the United States and out of prison. Even better, you can live like the saints did in a life of evangelical poverty. In doing so, you could bear powerful witness to the truth about the difference between worldly governments and God's reign. Your decision, initially rooted in an opposition to an unjust government, could lead people to look to heaven, where our true citizenship lies.

Christians are obligated to pay taxes, even to an unjust government. Christ commands us to do so in the Gospels and having benefitted time and time again from many government services and programs, we have a duty to give when we have received; it is a matter of justice. Yet, if you are truly convinced that the government is unjust and to support it would violate your conscience and religious ideals, then you should resist paying your taxes, yet be willing to accept the consequences of this decision. Before such a drastic decision, maybe you should attempt what is often overlooked: *change* the injustice in government. Before we reject the government, why not work to reform it, through prayer and political action? It's easy to criticize the government, but few want to enter into the difficult process of bringing the government back to its lost ideals. If the government is not working then people of faith should work to put it back into order. If they are unwilling to do so, then they should just circle April 15<sup>th</sup> on their calendar and get to work paying their taxes.