



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 50

July 11, 2021

## Dates to Remember

- Fifteenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
July 10: 4:00 PM Mass  
July 11: 9:00 AM Mass
- July 14: Memorial of St.  
Kateri Tekawitha
- July 15: Memorial of St.  
Bonaventure
- July 16: Memorial of Our  
Lady of Mount Carmel

## What is Ordinary Time?

The periods of the Church's liturgical calendar that come between Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter are called the season of Ordinary Time, not because this time is insignificant or unimportant, but because the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, etc. The Gospel readings during Ordinary Time focus primarily on the ministry of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels of Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C) and help us to reflect on our call to live as true disciples of Jesus, committed to following him each day.

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Mark 6: 7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.

He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—

no food, no sack, no money in their belts.

They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic.

He said to them,

“Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave.

Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”

So they went off and preached repentance.

The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## Prayer to St. Benedict for Peace

St. Benedict, you were a man of peace.

You walked the paths of peace your whole life long and led all who came to you into the ways of peace.

Help us, St. Benedict, to achieve peace;

peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our sorely troubled world.

Through your powerful intercession with God help us to be peacemakers.

Aid us to work for peace, to take the first step in ending bitterness, to be the first to hold out our hands in friendship and forgiveness.

Beg God to let peace permeate our lives so that they may be lived in God's grace and love.

And at the end of our lives obtain for us the reward of peacemakers, the eternal blessed vision of God in heaven.

—*Benedictine Daily Prayer*

*The feast day of St. Benedict, founder of Western Monasticism, is celebrated on July 11.*



# Sunday Gospel Connection: July 11, 2021

## Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

### Mark 6: 7-13

**Gospel Background:** This week's Gospel and the one for next week describe how Jesus sent the disciples to minister in his name and the disciples' return to Jesus afterward. These two passages, however, are not presented together in Mark's Gospel. Inserted between the two is the report of Herod's fears that Jesus is John the Baptist back from the dead. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus' ministry is presented in connection with the teaching of John the Baptist. Jesus' public ministry begins after John is arrested. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus, who preached the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God.



While we do not read these details about John the Baptist in our Gospel this week or next week, our Lectionary sequence stays consistent with Mark's theme. Recall that last week we heard how Jesus was rejected in his hometown of Nazareth. The insertion of the reminder about John the Baptist's ministry and his death at the hands of Herod in Mark's Gospel makes a similar point. Mark reminds his readers about this dangerous context for Jesus' ministry and that of his disciples. Preaching repentance and the Kingdom of God is dangerous business for Jesus and for his disciples. Mark wants his readers to remember that we, too, may find resistance as we choose to be disciples of Jesus.

Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus sent out the Twelve. These twelve were selected from among Jesus' disciples and named by Mark in chapter 3. Mark notes that these twelve are also called "apostles." The word *apostle* means "one who is sent." The number twelve is also a symbolic number, representing the twelve tribes of Israel. By naming twelve apostles, Jesus shows his mission to be in continuity with the mission of God's people, Israel.

Jesus' instructions to the apostles are very specific. He repeats the mission that they are sent to preach and to share his authority to heal and to drive out demons. Jesus sends them in pairs, establishing his mission as a communal endeavor. Jesus also instructs them to travel lightly, without the customary food, money, and extra set of clothes. These instructions mean that the Twelve will be dependent on the hospitality of others, just as Jesus depended on others to provide for his needs.

Jesus continues to send us into the world as his disciples. But like the first disciples, we are not sent alone. Jesus has given us the community of the Church, which strengthens our life of discipleship. The Christian message can only authentically be proclaimed in and through the community of faith that is the Church. In our work with others, we build this community of faith and can invite others to share in it.

**Family Connection:** Families who work together to accomplish routine household tasks know that the benefits are more than efficiency. In sharing daily tasks, we accomplish more, but we also build relationships that last—and it's a lot more fun! Jesus sent his disciples in pairs to minister in his name. Perhaps the job was accomplished more effectively this way, but more importantly, Jesus' mission was accomplished more authentically. The Christian message can only authentically be proclaimed in and through the community of faith. In our work with others, we build this community of faith and can invite others to share in it.

As you gather as a family, talk about some household tasks that are more easily accomplished when two or more people work together. Talk about how working together not only makes the job easier, but also makes the task more fun because we are able to spend time together. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 6:7-13. Ask: Why do you think Jesus sent out his disciples in pairs? Observe that Jesus continues to give us a community with which we share our life of discipleship—our family and the community of the Church. Conclude in prayer together that we will continue to rely on the support of the community of the Church in our life of discipleship. Pray together the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/15th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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