 encoutering the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Boston

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—January 27, 2019

Presentation in the Temple, Lodovico Carracci
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**CHAPEL SCHEDULE**

**Sunday Masses:**
- Sat. Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM en español;
- Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 1:15 PM en español;
- 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM

**Weekday Masses:**
- Mon. - Fri. 8:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 4:45 PM;
- Saturday 9:00 AM, 12 PM

**Confessions:**
- Mon. - Fri. 11:15 - 11:50 AM, 12:45 - 4:15 PM;
- Saturday 9:45 - 11:45 AM, 12:45 - 3:30 PM

**Devotions:**
- Tuesday after Mass: Memorare, 5:30 p.m. Vespers;
- Thursday after Mass: St. Jude;
- Monday - Friday after 4:45 p.m. Mass: Rosary

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:**
- Mon. - Fri. 8:30 - 11:45 AM, 1:00 - 4:30 PM;
- Saturday 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM;
- Sunday 2:30 - 3:30 PM

**Gift Shop Hours:**
- Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM;
- Tuesday - closed;
- Sat. 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*;
- Sun. 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM* (*Closed during Sunday and Saturday Vigil Masses)

**Mass Intentions This Week**

**Sunday, January 27**
- 8:00 AM Gretchen Baldou
- 9:15 AM + Michael Flahive
- 10:30 AM + William King
- 11:45 AM + Biagio DeSesa
- 1:15 PM (esp) William Johnston — salud
- 4:00 PM + Pauline Torsney
- 5:30 PM Ian Baldou

**Monday, January 28**
- 8:00 AM + Peter Paul McIntyre - Wheatley
- 12:05 PM + Nemus & Florence Cianfarani
- 4:45 PM + Joan Johnson

**Tuesday, January 29**
- 8:00 AM For Those with No One to Pray for Them
- 12:05 PM + Marta Perdomo
- 4:45 PM + Brian Funk

**Wednesday, January 30**
- 8:00 AM William Johnston — health
- 12:05 PM + Fritz LaPlanche Sr. & + Fritz LaPlanche Jr.
- 4:45 PM + Bernadette Meagher

**Thursday, January 31**
- 8:00 AM Joan Carroll
- 12:05 PM Joseph & Nancy Feitelberg
- 4:45 PM Lauren Shimmel — conversion

**Friday, February 1**
- 8:00 AM Joan Carroll
- 12:05 PM + Peter & Bridget Naughton
- 4:45 PM Frank & Lucy Chagnon

**Saturday, February 2**
- 9:00 AM Joan Carroll
- 12:00 AM + Larry Phillips
- 4:00 PM + Fr. Daniel Hegarty
- 5:30 PM + Fr. Timothy Murphy
- 7:00 PM (esp) + Fr. Gerald Hickey

**Feast Days This Week**

**January 28:** St. Thomas Aquinas
Priest & Doctor of the Church
Patron of Students and All Universities

**January 31:** St. John Bosco
Priest
Patron of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, magicians, and juvenile delinquents

**February 2:** The Presentation of the Lord
Jesus said to the crowds: “This is how it is with the kingdom of God: it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:26-29

A usual part of telling my vocation story is describing where I am from. The simplest method of describing my hometown, Jerseyville, Illinois, is to ask people to imagine that St Francis Chapel is surrounded by endless fields of agriculture and pastures as opposed to the numerous stores within the Prudential center and the countless concrete buildings that line Boylston Street.

This gospel reminds me of Jerseyville and the many surrounding corn fields, as well as our pilgrimage to our ultimate home, Heaven. In the gospel, Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a seed, which after it is sown, grows and sprouts, forming a blade, an ear, the full grain, then finally becomes ripe for the harvest. For me, I automatically equate the seed to a seed of corn.

It is actually quite contemplative to watch a seed of corn grow into a fully mature stalk ready for harvesting. When the seed sprouts and breaks the surface of the soil, it develops two blades and progressively grows from a few centimeters to a height of about six feet in four months. During this time period, a single ear of corn develops and eventually the stalk tops out, which triggers the preparations for the final stages of ripening.

All of this growth, though visible over an expanded period of time, remains invisible to the naked eye. It truly is a mystery. Though the farmer fertilizes the soil and plants the seed, its growth is ultimately dependent upon the mercy of God, who through Divine Providence, orders the sun and rain to nourish the growth of the seed.

We are not much different from the seed in the gospel. Created in the image and likeness of God, we are all born with the darkness of original sin, much like the seed is originally sowed in the darkness of the earth. Yet, just as the seed sprouts and grows out of the darkness and into the sunlight, we too, through the powers of baptism, overcome the darkness of original sin and enter light of the Son. On our pilgrimage, Jesus remains the invisible power and strength that stimulates our growth throughout our Christian lives. This is why we need the Church and especially the sacraments. Both are visible manifestations of the invisible power of Jesus Christ which sustain and nourish our growth during our pilgrimage towards Heaven. Just as the seed develops a blade, an ear, the grain, and becomes ripe for the harvest, the power of Christ, through the Church and sacraments, help us to grow and develop as adopted sons of God in faith, hope, and charity; with the ultimate goal of making us ripe for the Kingdom of Heaven when our harvester, Jesus Christ, calls us to our eternal home.

While we are in the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, this gospel reminds us that nothing in the life of Christ and the Church is “ordinary,” but rather extraordinary. Both the Church and the sacraments are gifts from Christ who desires us to dwell with Him in eternal life. Let us pray for a deeper appreciation and love for both the Church and the sacraments, recognizing our need for these gifts in our daily, Christian lives. As always, may the Lord continue to bless, keep, heal, and protect you. May He let His radiant face shine upon you today, tomorrow, and all the days of your life. Amen!
The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the mass media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

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