



February 3, 2019

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL LUKE 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying:

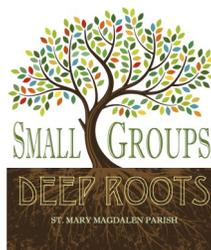
"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?"

He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'"

And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian."

When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.



February 3, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

FOURTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

The people of Nazareth did not expect the well known Jesus to claim to be Messiah. They knew him too well. They grew up with him. Yet he is.

Has that happened to you? Have you expected to Jesus to appear in one way in your life, but he came in another way? If so, share.

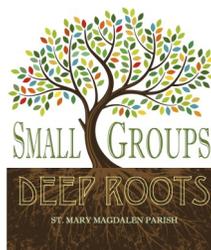
What was missing from the townspeople that they couldn't accept Jesus as the Messiah? Is the only way for the Messiah to come the parting of the Red Sea or feeding the masses in the desert? **Can the Messiah come in other ways?**

Is there something missing from our everyday experiences that we cannot see the Lord visiting us?

Jesus knew that he would be rejected. Yet he came anyway. **Why would Jesus go where he knew his message would be rejected?**

Have you ever done this? **Have you gone somewhere, said something in truth and love that you knew would get rejected?** Why did you do that? What was the outcome? Will you do it again?

Name the "least expected place" in your life that you think Jesus will visit you. Pray together that Jesus will come there in your life.





February 10, 2019

FIFTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

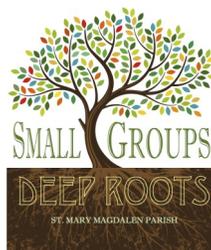
GOSPEL LUKE 5: 1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening to the word of God, he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret. He saw two boats there alongside the lake; the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.

Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets."

When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that the boats were in danger of sinking. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man."

For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him and all those with him, and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners of Simon. Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him.



February 10, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

The Call of Peter

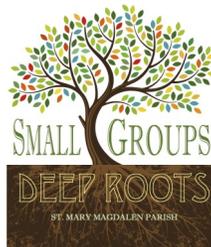
Jesus comes into Peter's boat and goes fishing with him. Notice how Jesus is preaching from Peter's boat and that Jesus catches fish from Peter's boat. **What do you think is the connection between the two events happening in the same boat?**

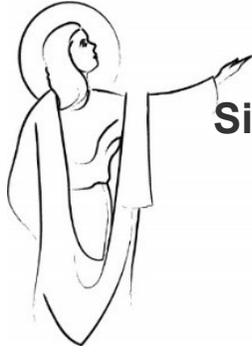
Peter was an experienced fisherman. Jesus enters into his life in the very work that Peter does. Has that ever happened to you? **Have you seen Jesus entering into your life through your work? Describe this time.**

"Put out into the deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Why did Jesus ask for Peter's help? Couldn't Jesus have done it himself? **Why was it necessary for Peter to follow these commands?**

In your life, what is deep water in your life that Jesus is calling to? **What is beyond your control? Beyond your sight? Beyond your finances? Beyond your forgiveness? Beyond your ability to love? Could Jesus be inviting you to go THERE with him?**





February 17, 2019

Sixth Sunday in ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL LUKE 6: 17, 20-26

Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a stretch of level ground with a great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon.

And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours.

Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day!

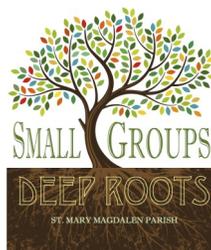
Behold, your reward will be great in heaven. For their ancestors treated the prophets in the same way.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are filled now, for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you will grieve and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the false prophets in this way.”



February 17, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

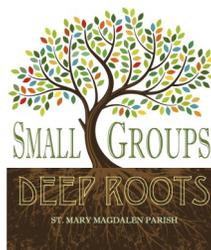
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

What does “**blessed**” mean? When have you been blessed in your life? Write them here:

Normally we associate blessedness with all the good things we have in life: family, friends, success, popularity, understanding, determination to get a job done. **Why do you think Jesus would associate blessedness with poverty, hunger, and those who hate you? What could he mean?**

Our culture tends to find our heaven on earth through material, sensual, and momentary pleasures. **Where does Jesus turn our attention to as the real heaven on earth? Why?**

How did Jesus live this life of blessedness? **Have you ever had moments when you too have lived this way? What was the outcome?**





February 24, 2019

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL LUKE 6:27-38

Jesus said to his disciples:

“To you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic.

Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back.

Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same.

If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount.

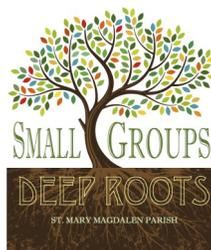
But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

“Stop judging and you will not be judged.

Stop condemning and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven.

Give, and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”



February 24, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

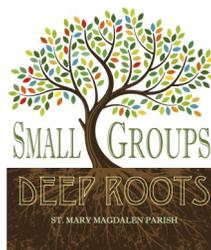
The Gospel that Jesus preaches speaks of the polarization of good and evil. He speaks of enemies and those who mistreat us.

Can you see Jesus fulfilling these commands? Can you remember any stories where Jesus himself loved his enemies? Did good to those who hated him? Blessed those who cursed him? And prayed for those who treated him badly?

Who do you consider to be your enemies? Have there been times when you have been mistreated? Can you think of one? Jesus commands us to love those who are our enemies; do good to those who hate you. **Have you been in a situation where someone showed you compassion and forgiveness when you may have hurt them? What was that experience like? How did you experience Jesus's love toward you then?**

Being kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. We can think of those who we consider to fall into this category. But what about us? Aren't there moments when we are the ungrateful and wicked? Aren't there moments when we fail epically in charity towards our neighbor, our spouse, our children? Did God turn his back on us at those moments? If he did not turn his back on us when we were ungrateful, how should we in turn treat others? **Has there been a time when you felt God's grace when you least deserved it? Share.**

Of all these commands, which do you find the most challenging? The most easy to fulfill? Why?





March 3, 2019

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL LUKE 6:39-45

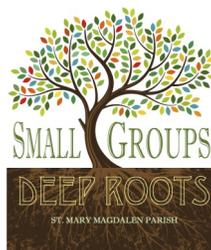
Jesus told his disciples a parable,

"Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher.

Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye.

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles.

A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."



March 3, 2019

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Every car has a blind spot, an area right alongside the car that is hidden from the driver's view. Jesus uses this image of blindness to highlight spiritual blindness. We all have areas of spiritual blindness. It is hard to tell what is in our hearts. These areas are hard to detect but they are still there. Jesus tells how we can begin to detect these areas:

"A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks."

When we look and reflect on our actions, we may be able to see blind spots—areas of our heart where we don't live like Jesus or desire what Jesus desires.

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit."

What kind of fruit are you bearing? In your marriage or with your children? At work? As the Church season changes from Ordinary Time to Ash Wednesday and Lent, **what areas of your heart (blind spots) do you need to take to the Lord to change and make more like Jesus?**

