



July 7, 2024

## Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ez 2:2-5 | 2 Cor 12:7-10 | Mk 6:1-6

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The prophets of the Old Testament didn't exactly have it easy, and Ezekiel is no exception. The Lord tells him that he's being sent to the Israelites, calling them "rebels who have rebelled against me," who were "hard of face and obstinate of heart." In other words, God basically tells him that they will be a tough audience. Can you imagine how Ezekiel felt? Here, he is being dispatched to a people who will likely not welcome him in order to say things that probably no one will want to hear. And yet his work is crucial. God is sending his people a messenger, telling them he stills loves them and wants them to be his people. It should come as no surprise that we are called to do the same! Although we may not describe the people in our lives as obstinate or "a rebellious house," we know it's not always easy to share God's message. It matters that we do, though. We may not always know exactly what effects our words and actions have, but everything the Lord asks us to do has a purpose.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Rejection, apathy, complacency. Whatever name you want to give it, it's undeniable that witnessing to Christ in the world can be met with something less than pure enthusiasm. Even Jesus himself faced rejection in his own hometown, as we see in today's Gospel. But did he give up? Obviously, we know that he did not. In fact - in the very next verses of this chapter of Mark's Gospel - Jesus sends the Twelve out on mission. They are to represent him, and witness to him. Likewise, as Jesus' hands and feet in the world today, we are to be imitators of Christ (CCC 1694) and witnesses to his Good News. And, just as Jesus wasn't always welcomed by people, it shouldn't surprise us when something similar happens to us. Like Paul, however, we can be "content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ." And then we can call on him for help, because where we are weak, the Lord is strong. As in all things, his grace is sufficient for us.

**ACTION** We cannot control others' responses to God's gift of himself, we can only be faithful to our commitment to share it. This week, take time to think about what "thorn in your side" makes your witness difficult. What weakness do you need the Lord to enter into so that *his* power might prevail?

### Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939  
Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p  
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a  
Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p

## Share in the Prophets

Prophets can be annoying, always harping about change, so it shouldn't be surprising that Jesus' message of "Repent! Change your heart!" was not popular. In our own day, we are bombarded by messages of all kinds by those who claim to have unique insights into what constitutes a successful life. It is good to have a healthy skepticism unafraid to challenge cultural assumptions. - *Preparetheword.com*

## Pope Francis on False Prophets

"[Today's false prophets] can appear as 'snake charmers,' who manipulate human emotions in order to enslave others and lead them where they would have them go."

"False prophets can also be 'charlatans,' who offer easy and immediate solutions to suffering that soon prove utterly useless."

## Holy Father's July Prayer Intention

*For the pastoral care of the sick*

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.

## This Week - July 8 - on FORMED

is a weekly videos selection designed to help us learn more about the content related to each week of the year.

Ascension is subscribed to FORMED.

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- Go to [formed.org/signup](http://formed.org/signup).
- Select our parish by entering name, city and/or zip code.
- Enter your name and email address.
- Check that email account for a link.



## Funerals & Memorials

- **Yvonne Christofferson:** July 11 (Thursday), 10am at Saint Catherine Church, 17400 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill.
- **Robert Garrett:** July 12 (Friday), Private interment.
- **Christopher Kelley:** July 19 (Friday), 11am at Ascension. May they rest in peace.

## WEEKLY OFFERING - JUNE 30

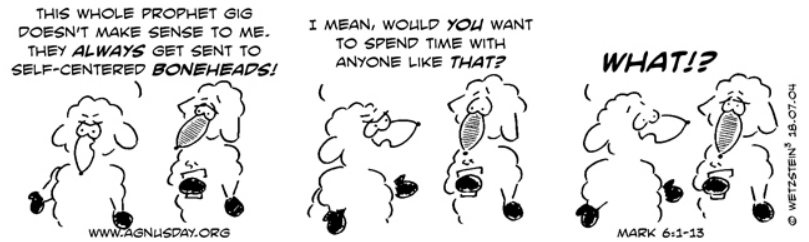
- \$5,125** (baskets: \$4,178; online: \$947). Goal: \$6,500.
  - YTD: **\$324,657**. Budget: \$338,000.
  - Peter's Pence: \$1,735**.
- Thank you for your generosity.

## MASS INTENTIONS

July 06	Sat	05 pm	Debbie Trimble (L)
July 07	Sun	07 am	Jane Sanders +
		09 am	Arturo Zabala +
		11 am	Nathaniel R. Martinez +
		05 pm	Elena Leano +
July 08	Mon	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
July 09	Tue	08 am	Helen Rose +
July 10	Wed	08 am	Fr. Joe Galang (L)
July 11	Thu	08 am	Dina Rendic & Cesar Munita +
July 12	Fri	08 am	Evan & Lauren Weeks (L)
July 13	Sat	09 am	Cynthia Stolz (L)

## Agnus Day Comic Strip - Mark 6:1-13

*Agnus Day appears with the permission of [www.agnusday.org](http://www.agnusday.org)*



## A Prophetic People

We're called to be prophets. Real, recognizable prophets in our day to day. How does that hit you? What does your life look like? Do people around you see it and think, "This guy's living it. He communicates in the depths of who he is that Jesus is alive and he's real and he's risen from the dead and this means something for us. He's a prophet." We have to live provocative lives; lives that provoke people to ask questions. We can't be shy about it.

At the same time, we have to be the first to ask questions, always quick to be interested in someone, to genuinely listen in a way that makes him or her feel undeniably heard. In this episode (on FORMED.org), we discuss many aspects of living a prophetic life. Scan QR code for details.



## 120 Martyrs of China

*July 9 Memorial*

The gospel first arrived in the vast and powerful "Middle Kingdom," or China, in the 6th century via Syria, with different emperors in turn permitting and suppressing the small community of faith planted there.

By the 17th century, not a few Chinese embraced the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel. Over the next several centuries, they would testify to their commitment to him with their blood.

The first martyr of China was a Spanish Dominican friar, Father Francisco Fernandez de Capillas, who was beheaded in 1648. Many others followed in his footsteps: 120 martyrs between 1648 and 1930, of which 87 were native-born Chinese Christians and 33 were foreign-born missionaries from various religious communities.

Among them was Zhao Rong, a soldier who was assigned to escort the French missionary, Bishop John Gabriel Taurin Dufresse, on the long journey to his execution in Beijing. There was something about this foreigner's bearing, his patience in the face of suffering and imminent death, that struck the soldier. He began to listen to this leader of an outlawed faith. Soon, the soldier asked for baptism, taking the name Augustine. The foreign-born priest was killed, but he had a spiritual son: Augustine Zhao Rong asked for holy orders, becoming the first Chinese-born diocesan priest. In 1815, Fr. Augustine followed his spiritual father to torture and martyrdom. -*Vaticannews.va*

## Men's Club - Fellowship & Service

Dinner Meeting

When? Friday, July 12, at 6:00pm.

Where? Lounge Room in Worner Hall.

Contact: Chuck Schoppe at 408-867-9229.