



"This is how it is with the kingdom of God." What is a kingdom? Is it the brick and mortar that build up the castle? Is it the expanse of land a king can reasonably defend? Our

notions of kingdoms may be romanticized in the modern era, but for the Israelites, a kingdom held deep historical meaning. Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, the Israelites had asked God for a king. After the reigns of David and Solomon, the united kingdom dissolved into factions, and the land was conquered by the Assyrians, Babylonians, and, finally, Romans. For the Israelites, a kingdom was something to build, both structurally and civilly. While this had ended in ruin for their ancestors, many of Jesus' contemporaries longed for the restoration of an earthly kingdom.

Jesus' words in today's Gospel are a radical departure from this perspective. He compares the Kingdom of God to a field, but it appears that the farmer has little to do with its progress. *"The seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord, the land yields fruit."* Jesus introduces his followers to a new sort of kingdom, a kingdom where God provides the growth.

There is work to be done, of course. *"When the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come."* But for the Kingdom of God to flourish, there are certain things that are outside of our control. We sow seeds of kindness, justice, and integrity ... and then we must be patient. As shoots of faith appear, we nurture the growth with encouragement. As Christians, our task is not to build the Kingdom of God under our power alone, but to trust in the life-giving movement of God.

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

"If our treasure is in God, no one can take it from us."
- Jacques Philippe

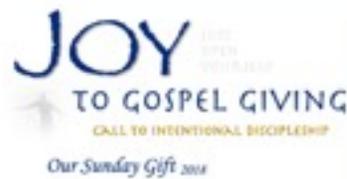
LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed, the tiniest of seeds. When planted, the tiny mustard seed grows into a tremendous tree with large branches. So, too, in each of our lives, small things can have profound effects. God can use one of our more insignificant gestures to radically change another person's life. It may be the kindness of a smile, our willingness to accommodate someone, listening to someone's story, helping someone who is hurting, standing up for someone who is right, or complimenting someone on something they did. We all have God-given gifts and talents. Our task is to use them creatively, consistently, lovingly, and generously. We trust that God will take care of the rest.

KIDS' CORNER

Think of how much you have grown since you were born. To see you now, it is hard to imagine you ever wore baby clothes. God's kingdom started out small, and it keeps growing, too, just like a tiny mustard seed grows into one of the largest trees. God's kingdom needs people like you to love Jesus and to learn from him. Let God's word sink into your life. As you grow closer to Jesus, God's kingdom will grow.

Jesus, help me learn from you and love you, so that God's kingdom will grow.



Thank you to all parishioners who have renewed their Stewardship of Treasure Commitment for 2018.

Sunday's Offertory - June 10, 2018

Pre-Authorized Giving:	\$ 14,000.00
Loose:	\$ 1,162.80
Votives:	\$ 233.70
<u>Novena Mass</u>	<u>\$ 467.90</u>
TOTAL:	\$ 15,864.40

Our minimum weekly offertory income requirement: \$20,000.00



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