

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEKEND**

<b>SAT</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>7/11</b>	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, All Victims of Pandemic, All Victims of Violence
<b>SUN</b> <b>10:00 am</b>	<b>7/12</b>	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, In Memory of Kenny Perdue, Jr. Birthday

**MASS INTENTIONS NEXT WEEKEND**

<b>SAT</b> <b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>7/18</b>	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, All Victims of Pandemic, All Victims of Violence
<b>SUN</b> <b>10:00 am</b>	<b>7/19</b>	Holy Spirit Church and Parishioners, Joseph Loi Tran, Ngo & Nguyen Family Living and Deceased, Sliman Family

**WEEKDAYS**

<b>MON</b> <b>7/13</b>	David Beyer
<b>TUE</b> <b>7/14</b>	All Grandmothers on their Birthday
<b>WED</b> <b>7/15</b>	Katherine Beyer
<b>THU</b> <b>7/16</b>	All Mothers on their Birthday
<b>FRI</b> <b>7/17</b>	Katherine Beyer

**The 15th Sunday, A Lectionary****READING I****Is 55:10–11**

Thus says the Lord: Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

**READING II****Rom 8:18–23**

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

**GOSPEL****Mt 13:1–23 [short version 13:1–9]**

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

The disciples approached him and said, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He said to them in reply, “Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand. Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.

“But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

“Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.”



## Commentary on the Readings for July 12, 2020 The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I am sure that we have all had the experience of planting seed or seedlings with great expectations of a bountiful harvest. We take time to till the soil and give it water and nourishment, and then wait for the plants to come forth and produce. Sometimes they do and sometimes they do not; and we never quite know why.

That is the way God must look at mankind, the crowning glory of His creation and, like a good Father, wonders "What did I miss?" The readings for today use the analogy of farming and sowing seed to talk about how the teachings of God and Jesus, His Son, sometimes produce abundantly; but at other times do not. Can you figure out why?

In the First Reading, from the Prophet Isaiah (55:10-11) we hear the prophet preaching about the word of God coming like spring rain to soften the soil so that the seeds can grow. However, the people of Isaiah's time did not listen to the word of God. They turned away from Him and ignored His word. This led directly to the Babylonian Exile — God's way of punishing His "Chosen People" for their lack of fidelity (See 2 Kings 17:1-18). When was the last time you picked up a Bible or catechism to better understand what God might be asking of you, or saying to you? The Responsorial Psalm (65:10-14) picks up the same theme of preparing the soil for planting and reaping a bountiful harvest because the soil was fertile. Everything came together as God expected: each aspect of His creation fulfilled its purpose. Each of us has a part to play in God's continuing act of creation and salvation. But are we doing it with attention and devotion?

The Second Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (8:18-23). In this passage, Paul is saying that we human creatures of God are much like those seedlings. We are planted here on earth, not in a random scattering, but in a divinely ordered plan with great expectations and in hope that all creation will share in the glory destined for those who fulfill their role. Paul's last sentence is most important and applies to us today just as much, if not more, than during Paul's time.

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (13:1-23). In this long passage, Jesus summarizes all of the readings above with a parable. A parable is a story that has a single message hidden within the details. The objective of a parable is to get people to think and reason out the message. In this passage, to save time, Jesus explains the parable and the message. Do you get the message? The message is quite clear. The word of God is like seed sown with the expectation of reaping a good harvest that is guiding mankind to live according to the teachings of God and the Church.

Our heart and mind, soul and body, in other words, our entire being is like the soil. Are we really listening, absorbing and following through with what God is telling us? In St. Paul's passage above, he says, "We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even now..." Look at all of the natural disasters occurring all over the world lately: hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and fires. Could this be God's way of getting our attention to return to Him with all our heart?

Something to think about during your prayer time this week! MFB