

# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

## JULY 12, 2020

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From the priests' desks:

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart:

Our Gospel for today, the Parable of the Sower (Mt. 13:1-23), speaks to us about gardening, but it isn't so much concerned about the physical qualities of plants around the house or in the fields, as it is about the spiritual attitudes of people along the pathways of life. Jesus was certainly a keen observer not only of plants but also of human nature; he was one who knew well the consequences of the decisions that we make, especially in regard to those key relationships which all of us form: with God and with our neighbor. God is the one, Jesus tells us, who starts everything going: God is the Sower who not only gives us physical existence but also plants the seed of faith in our lives: a seed capable of bearing much good fruit; a seed which offers any number of possibilities to the person who recognizes and appreciates it. The grace and providence of God which accompany all of us, whether we know it or not, gives the light, the warmth, and the moisture which is needed for the seed of God's love to grow and to flourish within us. But at that point the Sower stays his hand and says: Now the soil must do its part; in other words: Now it's your turn!

The soil in the parable is, of course, the unique lifestyle each of us chooses and cultivates--through the decisions that we make, through the values we embrace, and through all the things we say and do. Some writers speak about a fundamental option, a basic stand that we take in regard to who we are and the kind of person we wish to become over the course of our lives. So as time goes by, we can see patterns of behavior emerging--patterns that can be life giving or death-dealing: what we traditionally call virtues and vices.

The parable recognizes that, since we all have free will, there are different responses possible to God's invitation to faith and belief. While God plays no favorites and scatters the seed equally in all directions, it doesn't always find a favorable environment, or perhaps we might better speak of an open mind and a welcoming heart. The parable goes on to challenge us by asking whether the ground of our lives is enriched by deeds of truthfulness, of generosity, of compassion, and of service to others; or if it rather has become sterile and barren; hardened by selfishness, by dishonesty, or by acts of cruelty and injustice. So, the Lord is advising us to get back to basics, to get down to earth, if you will. And when we do this, we enter into a kind of spiritual partnership with God in which we become co-

creators, not only of ourselves, but to a certain degree of the world around us as well. We can say yes or no, but we can't escape responsibility. The Gospels do not allow us to blame others for our own shortcomings and weaknesses. Yes, we are all influenced by others and us all in turn set a positive or negative model by our own example. But ultimately, we need to own who we are and who we become as the years go by--or as the French philosopher Voltaire would say through *Candide*: We need to all to tend our gardens.

Our yards and gardens have been pretty dry so far this summer (Tagaste's grounds look more like an "amber wave of grain" than a proper lawn!) We have also felt our hopes drying up for a quick resolution to our current Covid-19 worries. We need, then, to keep calling on the Sower, to bring the rain of healing to us; and to keep us determined to facilitate that healing by our concern for the common good, continuing to persevere in our efforts not only to bring that healing and growth to our bodies, but to our spirits as well!

*Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR*

*Fr. John Gruben, OAR*

### PHASE IV

As you are probably aware our daily Mass is again at 9am. This will be the only Mass of the day for July and August. Funeral Masses, Baptisms and Weddings are allowed. Reconciliation will be administered by appointment only, please call the Rectory Office which is now open Monday through Thursday from 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 2pm. Although permission has been granted for Church's to go to 50%, here at Sacred Heart we feel due to the layout of the building we would be unable to maintain the 6ft. distance still required for safety, so we are keeping our current seating arrangement but will now also have the Mass live streamed into the gym where social distancing can be maintained and more of our parishioners can attend Mass feeling more confident that no further exposure with increased numbers of people attending Mass. Communion will be brought to the gym.

Please remember, that because of the ongoing health crisis, the Cardinal has *dispensed* everyone from the Sunday Mass obligation, so if you are uncomfortable about being with a group, watching Mass and a spiritual communion is still in effect.

Please observe the following when planning to attend:

## CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020

+ If any member of your household has a fever, or is feeling ill, please remain at home.

+ If you have any pre-existing health conditions, you should remain at home at this phase.

+ Pews have been premeasured for seating with appropriate 6' social distancing in-between. Members of the same household may sit together. Available seating is marked with a green X.

+ Since seats will be filled-in as people arrive, there will be no choice of seating location.

+ Facial coverings (masks) must be worn to Mass.

+ To avoid contact, there will be no offertory procession or *exchange of peace* during the Mass.

+ The Sacred Host will be distributed in the hand only. For those who feel that receiving in the hand is unacceptable we ask that you wait to receive until the celebrant asks those who wish to receive on the tongue come forward. Please form a single line and observe the 6' social distance as you proceed down the center aisle. Disabled persons may remain seated.

+ Hand sanitizer dispensers are available on the walls of the church, and at the entrance

+ Entrance into the church is on the awning side of our building only.

These measures have been implemented to assure as best we can the health and safety of all. Blessings,

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR, Pastor

Fr. John Gruben, OAR, Assistant

## PARISH CALENDAR

### Monday, July 13

Mass at 9am

### Tuesday, July 14

Mass at 9am

### Wednesday, JULY 15

Mass at 9:00am

### Thursday, JULY 16

Mass at 9:00am

### Friday, July 17

Mass at 9:00am

**Saturday, JULY 18**-Rosary 12pm (live streamed)

### Sunday, JULY 19

## PARISH MEMORIAL SOCIETY

Frederick D. Mapes

Joseph Mikulka

Patricia Janowski

Kevin J. Zugibe

Elizabeth M. Lonergan

## 2020 - 2021 MASS BOOK

Due to the pandemic we still have almost 100 Masses open in the 2020 Mass Book. Therefore, we will not be opening the 2021 Mass book until Mid- August.

Parishes are only as strong as its parishioners. As you are aware a church's resources come only through the generosity of its parish family. When things start to return to normal parishes needing support through the Archdiocese can only get it through the funds the Appeal makes yearly. Please consider donating today. Bless you all and pray for an end to this virus. To date we have raised \$84,394.00 towards our goal of \$122,500.

## SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM REGISTRATION 2020-2021

Registration for all is now being taken. First Graders and New Registrants, please visit our website: [www.sacredheartparish.org](http://www.sacredheartparish.org) for forms and needed items for registering your child. There are also re-registration forms on the website under Religious Education, found in the drop-down menu at the top of the page. For further information please call 357-6044 or to receive registration forms via mail.

If you are uncomfortable about registering under the current pandemic, we do understand and want to make you aware that we will be providing an online course that will mimic in class work until the current health issue is resolved. Registering is required.

A program for children with Special Needs is also available. Please supply us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate for registration. Thank you.

## GODPARENTS & CONFIRMATION SPONSORS

When choosing a godparent / sponsor for a baptism or confirmation please make sure the person you choose meets the following requirements of Canon Law:

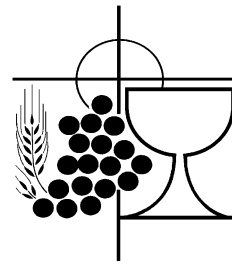
- Be at least 14 years of age and has received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- Is a practicing Catholic who attends Mass every Sunday and Holy of Obligation
- If married, is married validly according to the Laws of the Catholic Church.

## CRISIS PREGNANCY HOTLINE GOOD COUNSEL HOMES

For Pregnancy emergencies call Any time of day:  
1-800-723-8331 [www.goodcounselhomes.org](http://www.goodcounselhomes.org)



**BANNS OF MARRIAGE**  
**For**  
**LAUREN ZUCATTI**  
**AND**  
**LANCELOT JEFF-MACUALEY**



*Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them: Keith Alanis, Jenna*

*Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Joseph Gilson, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Mary Lou Oldfield Napolitano, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Daryl Pack, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Patricia Steiper, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.*

**FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES**

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

**ALTAR MEMORIALS**  
**JULY 12, 2020**

**Altar Breads In Memory of**  
**HERMAN JONGBLOED**

**Sanctuary Lamp In Memory of**  
**CATHERINE GREELEY**



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and

loved ones:

Especially: **Rosemary Falato, Matthew Gilson, Baldassare "Ben" Licata and Danette de Lima**

**DAILY MASS**  
**WILL OCCUR AT**  
**9:00AM DAILY – (MONDAY- FRIDAY)**  
**AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**SUNDAYS AT**  
**8:30AM, 11:30AM AND 5:30PM**  
**10:00AM – (SPANISH)**

**MASS WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE:**

[WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG](http://WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG)

**SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS**

5:30pm – Jane A. Yannaco

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**

8:30am – Catherine E. Brennan / Herman Jongbloed

10:00am – Spanish Mass

11:30am – Richard Doran/Lucian & Irene Antonucci

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

**MONDAY, JULY 13**

9:00am –Neil Schouten / De Giovanni Family

7:15pm – **NO Novena**

**TUESDAY, JULY 14**

9:00am – Joseph A. Brennan / Lester Bernstein

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 15**

9:00am – Boano Family/

Special Intention Natalie Vignier

**THURSDAY, JULY 16**

9:00am – Rev. T. Haake

**FRIDAY, JULY 17**

9:00am – Special Intention Stanley Dorsainville

**SATURDAY, JULY 18**

12:00pm – **HOLY ROSARY (LIVE STREAMED)**

**SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS**

5:30pm – Daniel Greeley / Elizabeth Mendolia

**SUNDAY, JULY 19**

8:30am – John Bukowski II/ William Curtin

10:00am – Spanish

11:30am – Mary Kutty Alexander / Ellen Ronan

5:30pm – Parish Memorial / All Parishioners

**BOOSTER CLUB**

**WEEK 21 – NICK & ANTOINETTE LABRUNA**