



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

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SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.” - Mt 13:43a

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Called to Extend Mercy

The parable of the “Wheat and the Weeds,” which only appears in the Gospel of Matthew, can be troubling. In essence, Jesus tells the story of a farmer whose crop of wheat is attacked by an enemy who sows the seeds of weeds along with the grains of wheat. Once the violent act was done, there was no going back. The wheat and the weeds had to be allowed to grow together. It would only be at the time of the harvest that the separation would finally take place, and the weeds would be burned up.

Reflecting on this story, Maryknoll Fr. Ken Tesing, an American missionary priest who spent decades serving in East Africa, recalled this conversation with his brother during one of his visits home:

As farmers always do, we went out to look at the fields and crops. My brother asked me, “Look, do you recognize those weeds?” I replied, “No, I don’t think I have ever seen them before; how did they get into your fields?” He said, “Some years ago, herbicides were developed; the weeds and grasses we struggled with in the crops when we were growing up have all been eliminated. All these seeds were just lying dormant in the ground; they could not compete earlier with the dominant weeds and now they have sprouted and come forth.” We talked about this.

My brother said farming is like life; there will always be challenges, always be differences. We need to be patient and tolerant, to recognize the problems, the evil amid the good, and find ways to work with it and around it.

This simple, practical explanation by an observant farmer is ultimately what Jesus is about: humility, mercy and acceptance.

This parable isn’t concerned with backstory or trying to understand why the weeds were sown in the first place. Instead, it focuses on the response of the landowner. And so, when the slaves suggest uprooting the weeds, the landowner refuses: pulling up the weeds might uproot the wheat.

At first sight, this seems like a reckless decision. After all, won’t the weeds be absorbing valuable nutrients and water from the soil — the very resources needed to make the wheat flourish? However, these weren’t Jesus’ concerns; Jesus was talking about the mercy of God.

In Jesus’ parable, there is a distinct difference between the wheat and the weeds, but to get the full impact of the picture that Matthew is painting, we have to take a look at the word that is used for the “weeds.”

The word used here is *zizania* (ζιζανία) which is sometimes translated as “tares” or “darnel.” Rather than just being a general word for “weed,” this is a specific plant (ryegrass) whose scientific name is *lolium temulentum*. What makes this detail so important to the story is that *zizania* looks like wheat as it is beginning to grow. It is only when it is nearly mature that you can tell the difference.

Jesus makes it clear that the determination as to what is *zizania* and what is wheat will only be made at the time of the harvest (the *eschaton*), when the reapers (whom Jesus identifies

as angels) gather up the wheat and the weeds. In the end, Jesus is trying to help us understand that the Church is made up of a mixture of sinners and saints. It is impossible to know who represents the wheat and who represents the weeds. Because we aren’t God, we don’t have the knowledge necessary to make a judgment.

The Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat is a story about God’s mercy and a reminder that God gifts us with the time and space that allow for conversion and renewal so we can experience reconciliation, healing and growth. The parable also stands as a reminder that each of us is called to extend mercy to those around us, and to recognize that we, ourselves, also stand in need of mercy.

St. Teresa of Calcutta wrote compellingly about extending mercy and not judgement in our encounters:

Who are we to accuse anybody?

It is possible that we see them do something we think is not right, but we do not know why they are doing it.

Jesus encourages us not to judge anyone.

Maybe we are the ones responsible for others doing things we think are not right.

Let us not forget that we are dealing our brothers and sisters.

That leper, that sick person, that drunk, are all our brothers and sisters. They, too, have been created by a greater Love.

This is something we should never forget.

That sick person, that alcoholic, that thief, are my brothers and sisters.

It is possible that they find themselves abandoned and on the street because no one gave them love and understanding. You and I could be in their place if we had not received love and understanding from other human beings.

I will never forget the alcoholic man who told me his story. He was a man who had surrendered to alcohol to forget the fact that no one loved him.

Before we judge... we have the duty to look inside ourselves.

— St. Teresa of Calcutta (*From A Reconciliation Sourcebook edited by Kathleen Hughes, RSCJ, Liturgy Training Publications*)

And so, we are asked to show the farmer’s humility, mercy, and acceptance for those around us. But mercy is a difficult topic in our politically charged climate, when many see mercy (and compassion) simply as letting someone “off the hook.”

To gain a fuller understanding of what true mercy — God’s mercy — is really like, we can look to the first reading for this Sunday: “Though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, / and with much lenience you govern us; / for power, whenever you will, attends you. / And you taught your people by these deeds, / that those who are just must be kind; / and you gave your children good ground for hope / that you would permit repentance for their sins (Wisdom 12:16-19). God’s majesty and power are most especially manifest in leniency, clemency, and kindness, and we see this embodied in Jesus’ own willingness to offer forgiveness and acceptance.

Br. Silas Henderson, S.D.S.



Be an angel in the life of a poor, innocent child with CFIC Children's Mission.

We received word that another parishioner has stepped forward and is providing financial support to the CFIC Missions. You can help change the life of a child in need in this very simple and easy way. Please prayerfully consider joining your fellow parishioners in making a contribution to the CFIC Missions. Donations can be either ongoing or a one-time donation. More information can be obtained by either calling the parish office or by going directly to the following web site:



CFICNORTHAMERICANDELEGATION.COM

Expect blessings – I guarantee the children will appreciate your generosity very much. God bless. John Florin



College Freshman? Meet new friends before you even arrive on campus.

As you prepare to move on to your next phase of life, don't leave your faith behind. Your college campus experience may

look a bit different this fall. SPO would like to help you prepare for your first year by offering a networking opportunity with other Catholic students on your campus. By filling out this form we'll be able to place you into a group of other young men or women who also are looking for college to be everything it's meant to be. If you are someone who doesn't want to put life on pause this summer but make the most of preparing for the fall semester, then we'd love to have you. Small groups are forming now! For more information on SPO, visit spo.org

Archbishop Flynn Catechetical Institute

Applications Now Available for the Class of St. Anthony of Padua
Feeling lost right now? Find yourself in God's plan of sheer goodness!
This fall, the Catechetical Institute will offer the two-year Pillars Program in two different locations. Classes will be held at The Saint Paul Seminary on Monday evenings, and at the Church of St. Andrew in Elk River on Tuesday evenings. Module I will be Livestreamed. Students can decide late August if they would like to take Module I in person or online.

Taught by some of the best instructors in the Twin Cities, such as Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Jeff Cavins, Deacon Joe Michalak, Deacon Dan Gannon, Fr. John Klockeman, Dr. Todd Flanders, Christina Smith, Liz Kelly, and more, the CI: Pillars Program follows the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church and will make sense of all things Catholic, deepen your faith, and layout the roadmap to heaven. Applications are now being accepted through August 15, 2020, for the class beginning in September. For more information and an application, visit semssp.org/ci or call (651) 962-5072.

Personal Prayer Time & Adoration Time

The church will be available for private/personal prayer
Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

"My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire you with all my heart. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already in my heart and unite myself to you completely. Please do not let me ever be separated from you."



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- PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677**
 Rev. Benny Mekkatt, Pastor ext. 11
 John Florin, Business Administrator ext. 10
 Joy Hoffman, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
 Deacon Jerry Saladin.....952-607-9636
PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
 Carol McKenna,ext. 15
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PRAYER LINE
 Please call Carol McKenna.....651-492-2778
CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

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- BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
RECONCILIATION- Saturday 3:00-3:45pm
 By appointment on other days
MATRIMONY- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
ANOINTING OF THE SICK - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

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- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, Mon., Wed. & Fri. 1-11pm
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

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- Sunday, July 19**
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Wisdom 12:13, 16-19/Rom 8:26-27/ Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30
 † Al & Joan Bierwerth
 Parish Mass
Monday, July 20
Weekday/Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
 Mi 6:1-4, 6-8/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday, July 21
Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Mt 12:46-50
 † Bernard Bearth
Wednesday, July 22
Saint Mary Magdalene
 Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
 † Allen and Catherine Kobilka
Thursday, July 23
Weekday/Saint Bridget, Religious
 Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13/Mt 13:10-17
 Joe Carlson
Friday, July 24
Weekday/Saint Sharbel Makhlü, Priest
 Jer 3:14-17/Mt 13:18-23
 Cruz-Espenal Ancestors
Saturday, July 25
Saint James, Apostle
 2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28 (Morning Readings)
 † Bernhard Drutschmann
Sunday, July 26
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52
 † Al & Joan Bierwerth
 Parish Mass

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

July 19—July 26

The celebration of public Masses has resumed for a limited number of participants!

Please sign up online or call the parish office!

Other Schedule Information:

- Sacrament of Reconciliation resumes on Saturday 3:00 - 3:45 PM in the building or call for an appointment.
- Livestream Mass—**Tuesday-Friday at Noon, Saturday at 4:00 PM and on Sunday at 9:00 am** on Facebook or watch later on our You Tube channel link via our website.

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

July 11/12 2020

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,566.00
Education Fund:	\$ 5.00
Other Operational Income:	\$ 1,080.00
Total :	\$ 4,651.00

Please check out our new website!!!

Blessed Sacrament has adopted new ways to communicate with our parishioners: Our website is totally redesigned and our emails to you come via Flocknote. Our website can still be found at blessedsacramentsp.org. We pray that you feel inspired and informed by our church.



In our efforts to contact the parishioners over the last several weeks we have found many phone numbers no longer in service. If you have dropped your landline and would like to update this information, please contact Joy in the parish office. If you would like to change your communication preferences or update **any** of your contact details, please contact the parish office with any address or preference changes.



Stay connected this summer

. Visit our **NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE** to be evangelized and informed.

. Take advantage of our parish's subscription to FORMED.org. New content is added

to the site weekly. Create your own personal library of movies and talks on this Catholic version of Netflix.

en español

Visite la nueva página de nuestro sitio web y lea en su idioma nativo.

Póngase en contacto con Connie para obtener ayuda en español.



Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

FAITH FORMATION



Faith Formation Next Year

Early registration is open through August 31. We are excited to offer Family Formation for the 2020-2021 school year. Parents, be empowered as the primary educators of your children. Learn and teach the faith all year, with or without any quarantine.

Multiple sessions are available: 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings OR 2nd and 4th Sunday mornings. We have two format options: one is in-person and at-home on alternating weeks and the other is fully online and at-home. We plan for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd on semi-monthly Wed evenings, Sun mornings, and a NEW Tuesday morning option. Confirmation prep and Youth Ministry depends on you! Parents, expect to volunteer and expect blessings!



Communication

All families should get familiar with Flocknote and our new website page. We will use these tools heavily to provide resources and up-to-date information about Faith Formation. Watch for "Ask Father Benny" in August. Contact Connie with any questions.

Confirmation

Pray for all our candidates in the final weeks of preparation for Confirmation. This year, Masses will be held at Blessed Sacrament on Saturday August 1st and Sunday August 23.



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED Sacrament

NEW LOGO!

Why does a church need a logo? A logo is a quick and clear message about who we are and what we believe. Churches are marketers in our call to evangelize. Our new logo captures the past, present, and future of our parish with an image of Jesus fully present in the Precious Blood and Sacred Host. It conveys hope and strength through Mass and Adoration. If our logo could speak it would say, ***"We are Blessed Sacrament. Let us make Jesus known and loved in our worship and our service."***



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