

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle

St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (*Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays*)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

July 16, 2023

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: When I cried to the Lord, he heard my voice; he rescued me from those who attack me. He humbled them, the ones who are before all ages, and endures forever. Entrust your cares to the Lord, and he will support you.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial: Psalm 65 *The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest.*

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel Acclamation: *The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will have life forever.*

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Communion Antiphon: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me and I in him says the Lord.*



Welcome to St. Columban

Parish Staff

360-458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext 6

Jennifer Langham PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 1

Matthew Tolar PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records
matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 4

Gabriela Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org *habla Español* Ext. 2

Chad Lucero Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 3

Steve Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston

stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

"Take, beloved son this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; who ever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire."

— Our Lady of Mt. Carmel to St. Simon Stock

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY July 17

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY July 18 **St. Camilus de Lellis, Priest**

Mass 9:00 AM Church

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Parish Hall

WEDNESDAY July 19

Mass 9:00 AM Church

Bible Study 11:00AM St. Peter

Knights of Columbus Meeting 6:00PM Parish Hall

THURSDAY July 20 **Saint Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr**

Mass 9:00AM Church

Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

Sunday Scripture Study 6:30PM RE Building

St. Vincent de Paul Meeting 7:00PM Parish Hall

FRIDAY July 21 **St. Lawrence of Brinisi, Priest & Doc.**

NO 9AM MASS

Kintzley Funeral 11:00AM St. Peter Mission

SATURDAY July 22 **St. Mary Magdalene**

Confession 3:30PM Church

Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

SUNDAY July 23 **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter

Sunday Mass

10:30 AM *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

11:45AM Knights of Columbus Breakfast Parish Hall

From the Parish Office

Week of July 2, 2023

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$4,305.00	\$1,208.00
Online Giving	\$965.00	\$175.00
Net	(\$530.00)	\$383.00
Special Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$250.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$14.50	\$21.00
Flowers	\$20.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$96.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Second Collection	\$100.00	\$0.00

St. Peter's Circle would like to thank everyone who donated to this years' Summer Backpack Project!

A large amount of food items and \$215 in cash were donated.

Thank You for your generosity!

Sign up for updates via email or text: saintcolumbanyelm.flocknote.com

A Word from Father Thompson



Since I talked about Anger/Wrath last week, I might as well cover the other deadly sins over the next few weeks. The seven deadly sins strike at core wounds sin has made in our humanity. For those who are interested in a humorous but insightful approach to this, I would recommend John Zmirak's *The Bad Catholic's Guide to the Seven Deadly Sins*, which is arranged around contrasting each of the Seven Deadly Sins with their contrary Heavenly Virtues. (his other Bad Catholic's Guides are also very funny and educational).

Gluttony, which is opposed to the virtue of temperance, is bad for us and offensive to God because it is animalistic. Animals are ruled by instinct, but humans are rational creatures that need not be ruled by our appetites. Our appetites are good things as they prompt us to enjoy the goodness of God's creation, but gluttony overdoes it, seeking food and drink and even experiences in an unhealthy way or amount. In a way, gluttony also overlaps with the lack of hope that can be found in the sin of Greed—hoarding and not trusting that good things will also be there later. Similarly, given that gluttony is a being ruled by appetites, it overlaps Lust in many ways as well.

Not connected to food or drink per se, a great example of Temperance versus Gluttony is illustrated in CS Lewis' novel *Perelandra*, wherein a man flies to another planet and meets the woman who is effectively that world's Eve. He walks through a waterfall with her, and he feels so refreshed that he wants to walk through it again and again. The sinless woman finds this impulse in him incomprehensible and confusing; then man reflects on her questioning his actions and realizes experiencing the thing again will never be the first experience again anyway and can only lead to a futile chasing after the experience that might sour or dull appreciation of the refreshment he got the first time. It is better to let each experience be its own moment and enjoyed in the right time, place, and amount.

A more pointed example is GK Chesterton's advice about alcohol (he loved tobacco and whiskey, by the way, not a prudish man): that a drink when one would enjoy it can be a good thing, but to drink when one no longer is enjoying it—or worse, “needs” it—is a fast path to Hell (in this life and the next). He gives the vivid example of a “giggling peasant” surrounded by friends and family, for whom wine is to experiences what salt is to food, bringing out fuller flavor when used in proper proportion; he opposes this to a “gin-soaked bum in the gutter” who is ruled by his need (and yes, we now know there is a mental health component to that as well, but the example still stands for what it is worth).

Catholics are not prudes: eat, drink, and be merry! But make sure your appetites are not devouring you.

In Christ,

Remember in Your Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers:



The Sick and Homebound

Jessica Nash, Mary Taylor, Dan & Jeanine Kavanaugh, Vivienne Hayden, Eitan Hadayo, Tracy Slater, Forrest Slater, Stan Villadelgado, Megan Soha

The Deceased

Sue Kintzley

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm's way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.
- + All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes. St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join, contact the parish office.

The Pope's Prayer Intention for July 2023: For a Eucharistic life We pray that Catholics may place the celebration of the Eucharist at the heart of their lives, transforming human relationships in a very deep way and opening to the encounter with God and all their brothers and sisters.

Faith Formation

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

©LPi

Education classes for all students Kindergarten thru 5th Grade. Sacramental prep begins in 1st Grade with First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion being received in the 2nd Grade. Youth Ministry activities are open for all students 6th –12 grade. Confirmation prep begins in 6th grade with the reception of Confirmation in 7th grade. –Gaby

All classes for K-12 Faith Formation begin in the Fall. I will be in the narthex after Sunday Mass on August 6 and 13 for any families that would like to register. There will be Elementary Religious

July 16th is the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Since this falls on a Sunday this year, the feast will not be celebrated liturgically. However for this Sunday, we will take a break on our series on the liturgy and instead discuss this title of Blessed Virgin Mary and the associated sacramental, the Brown Scapular, popularized by the Carmelite order.



OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

The origins of this feast reach all the way back to the Old Testament. In the book of Kings, we read the story of the prophet Elijah. Much of his prayer, fasting, and public ministry occurred from Carmel, a mountain in Israel. Christian hermits -- seeking solitude -- made their homes on the mountain during the first millennium. Over time, the hermits assembled into a community and were given a Rule of Life. They named their church after Mary -- Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Political upheaval forced the Carmelite order out of the Holy Land and into Europe, where they established monasteries for both men and women across the continent. Many great saints and doctors of the Church have come from

the Carmelite order, including St. Teresa of Avila, St. John of the

Cross, St. Therese of Lisieux, and St. Edith Stein. Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Pray for us!-©LPi

Brown Scapular Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Carmelites) A.D. 1251

"The Brown Scapular of our Lady of Mount Carmel," associated with the Carmelite Order, is the most well-known. In A.D. 16 July 1251, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock in Cambridge, England after he prayed for help for his Order. She appeared to him with the scapular and said, "Take, beloved son this scapular of thy order as a badge of my confraternity and for thee and all Carmelites a special sign of grace; whoever dies in this garment, will not suffer everlasting fire. It is the sign of salvation, a safeguard in dangers, a pledge of peace and of the covenant."

Whether this happened *exactly* in this way or not (St. Simon's original descriptions of the vision are not extant and the wording may not be exact), the Scapular was given to St. Simon Stock, and the devotion spread and was well-known by the 16th c. What can be safely believed because of papal decree is the promise known as the "Sabbatine Privilege." The Sabbatine Privilege is the promise that Our Lady will intercede and pray for those in Purgatory who, in earthly life:

- wore the Scapular in good faith;
- were chaste according to their state in life;
- daily recited the Divine Office or, with the permission of one's Confessor, the Little Office of Our Lady [a shorter form of the Divine Office in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, used by certain religious orders and laity. It is similar to the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary from the Roman Breviary] or the Rosary; and
- departed earthly life in charity.

You can be enrolled in the Confraternity of our Lady of Mount

A PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL

O Mary, Queen and Mother of Carmel, I come today to consecrate myself to you, for my whole life is but a small return for the many graces and blessings that have come from God to me through your hands.

Since you look with special kindness on those who wear your Scapular, I implore you to strengthen my weakness with your power, to enlighten the darkness of my mind with your wisdom, and to increase in me faith, hope and charity that I may repay each day my debt of humble homage to you.

May your Scapular bring me your special protection in my daily struggle to be faithful to your divine son and to you. May it separate me from all that is sinful in life and remind me constantly of my duty to imitate your virtues. From now on, I shall strive to live in God's presence, and offer all to Jesus through you.

Dearest Mother, support me by your never-failing love and lead me to paradise through the merits of Christ and your own intercession. Amen.

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Carmel by any priest. Just obtain a scapular, take it to him to have it blessed, and express your desire for enrollment.

Warning: Some *falsely* believe that wearing the Brown Scapular offers some sort of guarantee of salvation because of the legendary words attributed to Our Lady. *This is against Church teaching, is superstitious and a grave error.* Sacramentals are not magical ways to manipulate God; they are Church-instituted rituals/objects that remind us of what we are supposed to be doing/thinking of, that depend on the faith, hope and love of the user, and which help prepare us to receive God's saving grace. One must do more than "wear the scapular"; one must wear it *worthily*.
- Fisheaters.com

(Practicing) Catholic - Recognize God in your ordinary moments

Weirdly Christian

For some time, I have worn a brown scapular. If you don't know much about this devotional practice, here is a very quick-and-dirty version, greatly lacking in detail: it's two little pieces of brown cloth, connected by a cord and worn around the neck beneath one's clothing. One of the cloth pieces depicts Our Lady of Mount Carmel appearing to St. Simon Stock, and the other piece — the one that is sometimes visible at the nape of my neck — depicts Our Lady's "scapular promise:" Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.

This reflection is not about the brown scapular, but let me just quickly say that, while I believe the scapular promise, I do not view the scapular as a get-out-of-jail-free card, and neither does the Church. I don't wear it for the purpose of avoiding eternal fire. I wear it as a reminder to myself of my Marian consecration and as an act of humility and prayer.

I have sometimes cringed at the thought of how it looks to the person standing behind me in line at the coffee shop, should they happen to glimpse my scapular and read its brazen promise. We don't go in for talk of hellfire and salvation in polite society these days. I wonder if they think I'm a crazy person. I wonder if I should try to tuck the scapular back down below my collar.

Sometimes I do. But more often than not, I take a deep breath and decide that it's okay for me to feel self-conscious and trust that, if God wants to use this moment for His glory, he will — and if He doesn't, all I've lost is the esteem of others, which isn't worth that much to begin with.

I've always heard it said that if you do Christianity right, the rest of the world should think you're just a little bit weird.

"...the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows him." — John 14:17

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman, @LPi

Q&A: Marian Feasts

Question: Why does Mary have so many feast days and names?

Answer: Christians first began celebrating feast days in honor of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the fifth century. That celebration (originally called the Feast of the Dormition and now known by Roman Catholics as the Solemnity of the Assumption) was celebrated on August 15. Very soon, however, other special days dedicated to Mary began to appear in Jerusalem, Rome, and other major cities of the Christian world. These days of feasting became important parts of the life of the community. But, more importantly, each of these unique celebrations became an opportunity to focus on a different facet of the Christian faith, as believers focused their attention on specific events or mysteries of the lives of Mary and her Son.

Over the centuries, some of these celebrations became universal (such as the Assumption on August 15, the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1). Other celebrations were more closely tied to certain religious orders (such as the Carmelites celebration of "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" on July 16 or the Servite Friars feast of the "Seven Sorrows of Mary," which is now celebrated as the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15).

In more recent times, Marian apparitions (like Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Fatima) have inspired special liturgical celebrations. Pope Francis has added two new celebrations of Mary to the Church's calendar: The Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church (on the Monday after Pentecost) and the Commemoration of Our Lady of Loreto (on December 10). The various titles of Mary (like those we find in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary) help us to reflect on different aspects of Mary's faith and the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in her and through her, especially as the Mother of Jesus.

In the end, whatever the event or mystery being celebrated in a particular liturgy or the title of Mary being used, we are invited to always see Mary in connection with the saving work of her Son. She is, of course, a patroness and protector for every Christian, but she is also a model of discipleship and contemplation: "Having entered deeply into the history of salvation, Mary, in a way, *unites in her person and re-echoes the most important doctrines of the faith: and when she is the subject of preaching and worship she prompts the faithful to come to her Son, to his sacrifice and to the love of the Father*" (*Lumen Gentium*, 65).
-©LPi



Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

First Reading: *The rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful.* (Is 55:10)

The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. How might you help friends or family trust more in God?

Second Reading: *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.* (Rom 8:18-19)

Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption?"

Gospel: *And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow." (Mt 13:3)*

Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?

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Parish Ministries & Events

Please contact Jennifer at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with our various parish groups: 360-458-3031 x1 jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org




 **Altar Society**
Meets every Thursday
after Daily Mass to clean
the church.

 **Daughters of Mary**
St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA


Next Fellowship
July 9th after the 10:30AM
Mass
Parish Hall
Monthly Meeting
July 25, 6:00PM
Parish Hall
[daughtersofmary@
saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org)

 **Knights of Columbus**

Council 17152 /
Assembly 3947
CHARITY + UNITY
FRATERNITY + PATRIOTISM
Next Council Meeting:
July 19, Begins with Vespers in
the Church at 5:30 PM
 **Next Assembly
Meeting:**
July 17
Join us for our next
breakfast!
July 23, after the 10:30 Mass

Prayer Groups
Rosary Group Mondays 7pm,
Church
Spanish Group Tuesdays
6:30pm, Church

**Society of
St. Vincent de Paul**
Monthly Meeting
July 20, 7:00 PM Parish Hall

 **St. Peter's Circle**
St. Peter Mission Tenino
Next Meeting
August 8, 9:30 AM

You have the power to save lives
Give Blood
St. Columban Parish Hall
Friday, August 4, 11am - 5pm

Pre-register for an appointment online:
redcrossblood.org Search for "KnightsYelm"



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 **Knights of Columbus**
St. Columban Council 17152



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Catholic Media Recommendations for Everyone

THIS WEEK ON FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to formed.org/signup and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in access these suggestions at watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed



Easter in Art: Mary Magdalene (Part 3 of 3)

Learn about the "apostle to the apostles" in this discussion with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp. They take a look at a famous painting of Jesus's encounter with Mary Magdalene following the Resurrection.



Where are You? | Forgiven | Session 1

This captivating series explores Catholic themes of redemption, grace, and forgiveness through compelling storytelling and thought-provoking narratives. It offers a profound understanding of the transformative power of forgiveness and its significance in personal growth and spiritual renewal.

Outside Events



FAITH ON FIRE CATHOLIC FAMILY WEEKEND

August 11-12 St. Mary's Catholic Church, Anacortes

Faith on Fire is the signature Catholic event of the Pacific Northwest, a spiritually transformative celebration of Catholic fellowship, family, prayer, and vocations celebrating the joy and beauty of our Catholic

Christian faith and facilitating authentic encounter with Jesus Christ for mission in the 21st century. Our event typically draws approximately 250-400 attendees of all ages, from young children through senior citizens, from the Northwest and British Columbia.



Featuring Keynote Speaker, Sarah Swafford: Her talks on Saturday August 12th will be:

Emotional Virtue for a Drama Free Life (for men and women – all ages) Sarah Swafford will help guide you through friendships, relationships, and the challenges of being a man or woman today. Whether from wounds of the past, social media, or the environment around them, men and women face intense pressure, draining their confidence, interior identity, and overall pursuit of meaning in their lives. Sarah targets this battle within by setting forth a vision of virtue in the twenty-first century, one that focuses on beginning with the end in mind and building what will last.

Gift and Grit: How Heroic Virtue Can Change Your Life Have you ever felt like you were lost and aimless in life, experiencing a lack of meaning and purpose? So often in our attempts to find meaning in life, we look to things like pleasure, success, prestige, or relationships to be our ultimate source of fulfillment and happiness. True meaning, however, is received as gift—as a gift from the Lord who created us for a purpose. And authentic happiness is found only in making a gift of our lives in return. But to really live this out takes grit! In this talk, Sarah will give practical insight on how to live with meaning, purpose, and grit which can transform everything about our lives.



REGISTER NOW

AUG 5-10th, Camp Hamilton, Monroe WA

A Catholic Camp aimed at Middle School aged boys to grow in Friendship, Leadership, and Discipleship



worldwide marriage encounter

"But some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." Help

your marriage be like the rich soil by taking part in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: Oct 13-15, 2023 at Archbishop Brunett Retreat Center at the Palisades, Federal Way, WA, Oct 6-8 Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, Spokane, WA or Aug 25-27 Beaverton, OR. For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit www.wyme.org. For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Weekend, feel free to contact Jeff and Sandy Corneil at 360-930-2321.

Calling all local high school students and college-aged young adults!

JOIN US LOCALLY FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY



Aug. 1 | Anacortes
Aug. 3 | Vancouver
Aug. 5 | Seattle

As youth from around the world celebrate World Youth Day with the Pope in Lisbon, Portugal, the Archdiocese of Seattle is participating locally with three regional gatherings, creating a mini version of the experience at Lisbon, with speakers, Mass, activities, lunch and more. Join for one or all three events.



Seeds Scattered and Sown

July 16, 2023

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

God sows the seed of his word into our hearts, and it is up to us to receive, interpret, and let it take root in our lives.



Read

Take time to read and reflect
on the Scriptures for
this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings
or download an app such as *Laudate*
or *iBreviary* to access the
Mass readings.

"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."
(Matthew 13:12)

When our faith is diminished or withered away, it can be difficult to see the hand of God in our lives. Our vision becomes clouded, and our minds fail to perceive the miracles that fill our day-to-day experiences.

On the other hand, when a person sees life through the eyes of faith, it is easy to receive the word of God with openness. This creates a sense of expansion, hope, and courage, even in times of trial or sorrow.

May the Holy Spirit transform our hearts into rich soil for the seed of God's word.

Isaiah 55:10-11

"My word shall not return to me void."

Psalms 65:10-14

"The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest."

Romans 8:18-23

Creation awaits with eager expectation.

Matthew 13:1-23

The seed that falls on rich soil bears fruit.

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

“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.” (Matthew 13:23) Think of a time when you heard the word of God clearly in your life. Perhaps it was a time when you needed a sense of direction, or a moment when you were in search of inspiration. How did it feel to hear God’s voice in your heart? How did the experience influence your actions during that time? What kind of impact did this experience have on your life or the lives of those around you? Reflect on these experiences and share them with your family.

When we hear God speaking to us, it can inspire us to make choices that alter not just our own lives but also the lives of others. Sometimes, the impact we have on others extends beyond what we can see with our own eyes. But it is easier for us to see the impact that others have on us when they choose to follow the calling of God in their own lives. Think of the people who have had an impact on your faith life – in what ways did God use them to help you grow in your faith?

***Lectio Divina* is an ancient and powerful way to pray the scriptures. Below is a step-by-step guide to the practice of *Lectio Divina*, excerpted from “Busy Lives & Restless Souls” by Becky Eldredge.**

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO LECTIO DIVINA

To begin, you might open with a short prayer, asking God to guide your prayer time. Then do the following:

Read. Slowly and thoughtfully, read the Scripture passage the first time. What word or phrase captures your attention and grabs your heart? Linger with it whenever this happens.

Reflect. Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage again. What is God saying to you in this passage? offering you? asking you? What feelings are arising within you?

Respond. Slowly and prayerfully, read the passage again. Respond to God from your heart. Speak to God of your feelings and insights. Offer these to God.

Rest. Possibly read the passage another time. Sit quietly in God’s presence, asking, “What are you saying to me?” Rest in God’s love, and listen.

As you end your prayer period, you might close with an Our Father or another short prayer. It might be helpful to jot down in a journal what arose during this time. What did you speak to God, and what did God offer you?

Source: <https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/prayer/personal-prayer-life/different-ways-to-pray/lectio-divina/>

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://www.athomewithfaith.org>



SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023

15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“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.” - Mt 13:23

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful. (Is 55:10)

Psalm:

The seed that falls on good ground will yield a
fruitful harvest. (Ps 65)

Second Reading:

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. (Rom 8:18-19)

Gospel:

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:
"A sower went out to sow. (Mt 13:3)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

We are all sowers in the field. Our time, our
money, our attention: these finite resources
are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we
scatter them. Do we focus our efforts on soil that
will bear fruit for the kingdom?

Observances for the week of July 16, 2023

- Sunday:** 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
Thursday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr
Friday: St. Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest and
Doctor of the Church
Saturday: St. Mary Magdalene
Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

Saint José Luis Sánchez del Río was a 14-year-old boy when he was put to death by Mexican government officials trying to eliminate religious freedom locally. Despite continuous public torture and his eventual murder, he refused to ever renounce his Catholic faith.

Prayer

Dear Lord,

Help me to be courageous and steadfast in my devotion to You. Help me to identify causes and injustices in my day that are worth defending and standing up for. Give me perseverance and a desire to help others at any cost. Help me to revere Christ as the king of my life.

Saint José Sánchez del Río, pray for us.
Amen.

(Prayer Source: <http://secretariat.synod.va/content/synod2018/en/youth-testimonies/saint-jose-sanchez-del-rio.html>)

Readings for the week of July 16, 2023

Sunday:

Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/
Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

Monday:

Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt
10:34—11:1

Tuesday:

Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt
11:20-24

Wednesday:

Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt
11:25-27

Thursday:

Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-
27/Mt 11:28-30

Friday:

Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc,
17-18/Mt 12:1-8

Saturday:

Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4,
5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

Next Sunday:

Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
(5a)/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or
13:24-30



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a relationship, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— *Father John Muir*



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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like “Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard.” I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that it's all about the soil.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

*“...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”
— Isaiah 55:11*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we use incense at Mass?

Answer:

The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church's liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, “Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering” (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it's because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow...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."

- Mt 13:3, 7-9

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The prophet Isaiah assured the Israelites who were exiled in Babylon that God's word is reliable and purposeful. How might you help friends or family trust more in God?

Second Reading

Paul sees creation itself sharing in the redemption and future glory that awaits all believers — "For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God." What do you imagine earth would look like filled with God's glory, absent any "corruption?"

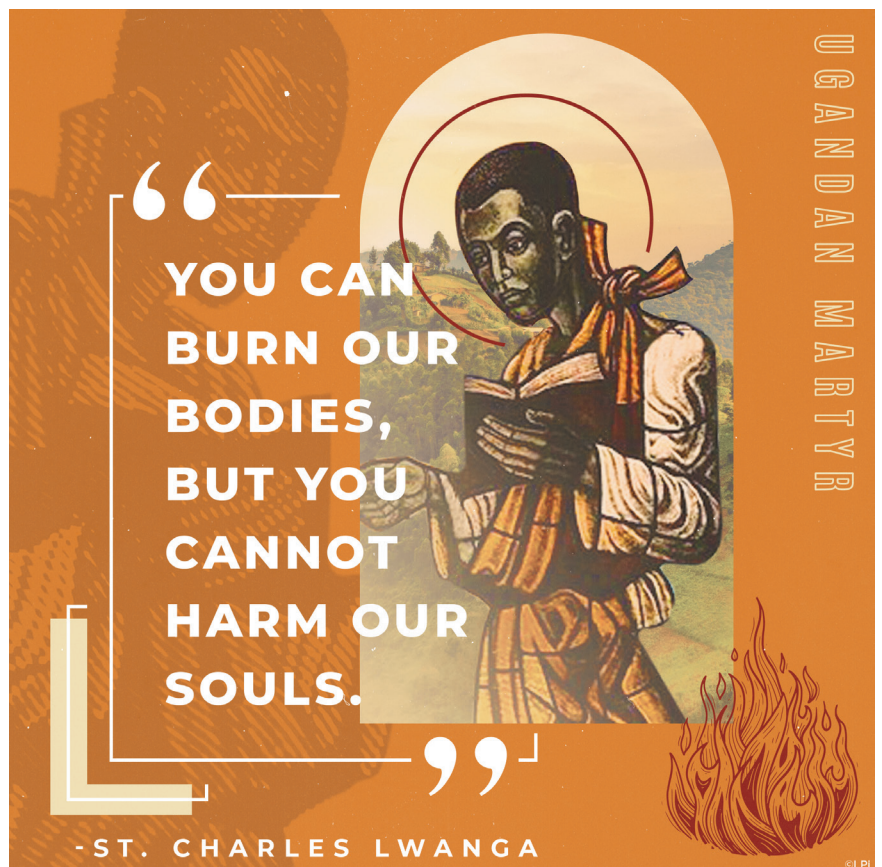
Gospel Reading

Over the next few Sundays, we will be hearing many parables from Jesus. Today's parable of the sower and the seeds speaks to how people react differently to the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. How would you describe your reaction to Jesus's parables of the kingdom?



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*The seed that
lands on good
ground will
yield a fruitful
harvest.*

PSALM 65

“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.” - Mt 13:22-23

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Prayer

God, help my heart to be soft. Help your Word to change my life.

Mission for the Week

Visit a garden center. Learn why plants need good soil to grow.

Sharing the Gospel

The farmer is God. The seed is God's Word. That makes the soil your heart. If your heart is angry or stubborn, God's Word can't sink in. If your heart is shallow, God's Word can't take root. Instead, you will worry about getting power or riches. If your heart is discouraged by people who hate God, your faith will choke. If your heart is soft, God's Word will change your life, and it will show.

Now color the picture!



Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

farmer
soil
root

rocky
thorns
path

birds
choked
seed

frarme	<u>f</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>m</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u>
sede	___ _ _ _ _
ptah	___ _ _ _ _
brisd	___ _ _ _ _
rkyoc	___ _ _ _ _
tohrsn	___ _ _ _ _
rtoo	___ _ _ _ _
cohekd	___ _ _ _ _
silo	___ _ _ _ _





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