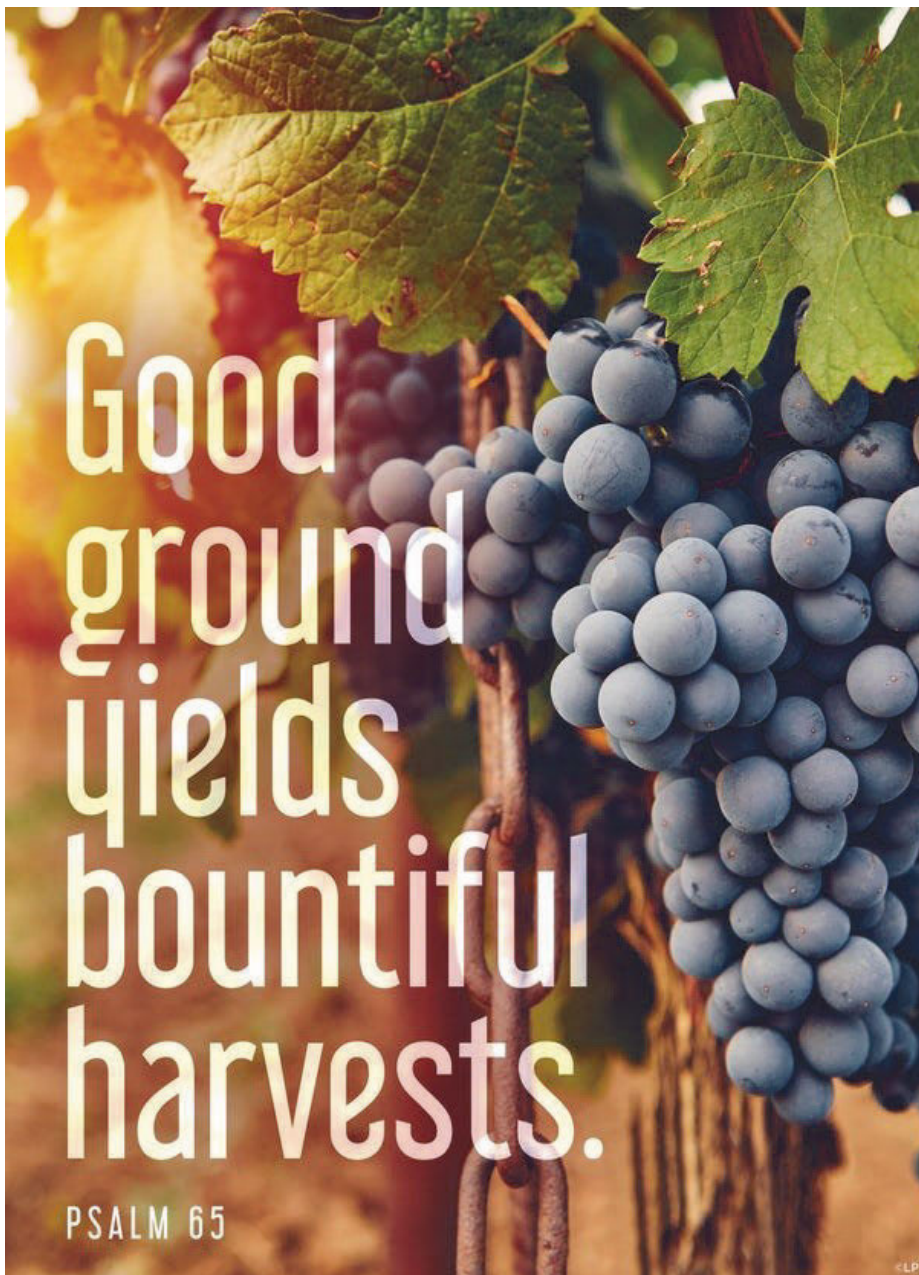


# Queen of Peace

## Welcome!

We, the Catholic community of Queen of Peace Parish,  
centered in the Eucharist, strive to grow in our faith  
and our relationship with God as a welcoming people,  
working for peace and justice through service to others.



### OUR LADY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH

8747 W. Lawrence Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60656  
Ph. (773) 625-3369

#### RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

#### MASSES:

Tuesday:	7:00 am
Thursday:	7:00 am
Sunday:	10:00 am

### ST. EUGENE CHURCH

7958 W. Foster Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60656  
Ph. (773) 775-6659

#### RECTORY OFFICE HOURS:

Mon. - Thur.:	9:00 am - 7:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday:	9:00 am - 1:00 pm

#### MASSES:

Monday:	9:00 am
Wednesday:	9:00 am
Friday:	9:00 am
Saturday:	8:30 am
Sunday Vigil Mass:	5:00 pm
Sunday:	8:30 am
	11:30 am

CONFESSIONS	4:00 pm
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#### ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday:	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Benediction:	5:45 pm

July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 | 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



## *From the desk of Father Rich Yanos*

Next Weekend we will be having the Annual Propagation of the Faith Summer Missionary Appeal. Our mission speaker will be Fr. Joyanto Sylvester Gomes.. So, I encourage all in our parish to offer Fr. Joyanto Gomes a warm Queen of Peace welcome.

Fr. Joyanto Sylvester Gomes was born on 23 September 1960 and finished his Degree level studies from Notre Dame College, Dhaka. He was ordained a Priest on 27 December 1988. Later he received his Master's in Mass Communication from the University of Ateneo De Manila. He has been serving as a Parish Priest in a very large Parish in Dhaka. He has worked in different capacities such as in Formation in the Minor Seminary, headed the Christian Social Communication Centre and was the Coordinator of Radio Veritas. He is a very responsible, hard-working and a dedicated Priest in the Archdiocese.

**Introduction:** Bangladesh is predominantly a Muslim country, about 90% are Muslims, total population is 168 million people, the rest are Hindu and Buddhists, less than one percent people are Christians. There are eight Dioceses in Bangladesh. Dhaka is a mega city, more than 20 million people live in this city, one of the most densely populated and most polluted city in the world. There are many poor who live in the slums who lack proper food, housing and are deprived of a healthy sanitary system. This Diocese was mostly built by the American Holy Cross missionaries about 175 years ago. At present there are 85,000 Catholics in 26 Parishes and 24 Sub-Centers. There are about 35 Religious Congregations.

**Situation:** It is an underdeveloped country whose 70% of its inhabitants live in rural areas and depend on their agricultural products. The unpredictable weather becomes a big problem, like drought, heavy monsoon rain, natural calamities like cyclone, floods etc. It is one of the poorest countries in the world, 60% are poor. The government health service is very poor and inadequate, it provides for only 40% of the people. Many people go to the village doctors where they are treated by traditional medicines. The treatment in private hospitals is very expensive. One physician is allocated for 10,000 people. In the government health sector, there is high degree of corruption and mismanagement. There is no health insurance. Many hospitals and doctors are very much business oriented.

**Purpose for Mission Appeal:** Firstly, we have a small hospital in Dhaka city with 20 beds, it is meant for the low-income generating families and the poor. The last two years we ran the hospital in deficit. Now we can manage the running expenses. We hope to extend more services to the poor and needy. Therefore, we need to create more facilities to do so. Secondly, out of four regions of Dhaka in one region there is a possibility of evangelization especially among the indigenous people. We would like to spend money from the Mission Appeals for these two intentions.

**The 2nd Collection next weekend will be taken up, then, for the Annual Summer Mission Appeal that will support the dedicated work and ministry of Fr. Joyanto Gomes. Please be generous.**







## 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”  
- Mt 13:3, 7-9

# Mass Intentions for Queen of Peace Parish



## **SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023**

### **5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Joseph Cortese, Elmer & Grace Frelka,  
Judith Shepherd, Frederick Tomzik,  
Concetta Tumminello

## **SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023**

### **8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Nicholas Calabrese, Ted & Jean Fornek,  
Maria & Salvatore Tenuta,  
Dorothy & George Thierman

### **10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church**

George Capps, Joe Cozzone, Esther Dorgan,  
Maria Fosco, Nicola Fosco, Anthony Seminario  
Zaharias, Efrosyni & Petroula Fountas,  
Elizabeth Giradi, Pietro Pisello,  
Stefania Rebacz,

### **11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

People of the Parish  
Nick Caldarulo, Dominic Cullotta,  
Krzysztof Dabros,  
Dec'd Mbrs D'Agostino & D'Avino Fams.,  
George & Pearl Giovannoni,  
Hillard (Mike) Michalek, Michael Michalek,  
Giuseppe Randazzo, Thomas Scianna

## **MONDAY, JULY 17, 2023**

### **9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Purgatorial Society  
Wladyslaw Gwozdz, Mary Piotrowski,  
Thomas & Vicki Uglinica

## **TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023**

### **7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church**

Roberta Finland

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2023**

### **9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Hopkins & DeCaro Fams., Norman Nowaczyk,  
Salvadore Pintabele, Robert P. Reilly, Jr.,  
Mary Stroud

## **THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2023**

### **7:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church**

Mitchell Dzik, Sarah O'Neill,  
Katie Szpinalski,  
Ron Tabor

## **FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2023**

### **9:00 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Rick & Judy De Felice,  
Juan Diaz, Randy Oberheim,  
Jozef Rebacz

## **SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023**

### **8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Clotilde Cozzone, Fernando Lising,  
Sharon Mac Intyre,  
Frances O'Neill & unborn baby O'Neill

### **3:00 pm Wedding:**

Thomas Stewart Stoll, Jr. & Kelly Marie Taylor

## **SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2023**

### **5:00 pm Saturday Vigil Mass - Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Denis & Marie Egan, Elmer & Jean Frelka,  
Wayne Greco, Kathy Kuc, George Stryker,  
Helen & Walter Wojtas

## **SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023**

### **8:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

People of the Parish  
Nicholas Calabrese, Ted Fornek,  
Lucyna Piechowicz, Mary Sparacino,  
Regina Swiecicka,  
Maria & Salvatore Tenuta, Concetta Tumminello

### **10:00 am Mass at Our Lady, Mother of the Church**

Margarita Panopio Aspi,  
Lois Costable—B-day Remembrance,  
Diego Di Cola, Dolores Dorgan,  
Earnest Girardi, Stanley Jachym,  
Anna Lizak,  
Sam & Vito Moretti,  
Vincent A. Nardi,  
Pietro Pisello

### **11:30 am Mass at St. Eugene Church**

Anna & Domenico Battista,  
Healing for Lorraine Ferraris,  
Angela & Christina Greco,  
Krys, Dabros & Wytrol Fams.,  
Hillard (Mike) Michalek, Michael Michalek,  
Mike Parente, Sr.,  
Giuseppe Randazzo,  
Joseph Rossi B-day Remembrance



We pray for our loved ones who are serving in any branch of the Armed Forces during this time of conflict.



Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.  
Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families  
for the selfless acts they perform for us  
in our time of need. We ask this in the  
name of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Amen

Major Adamczyk  
Joseph Antosh, Jr.  
Ghaleb Azroui  
Donald Bellisario  
Matthew Calderisi  
Timothy Emmett Carolan  
Melissa Rose Cortese  
James Vincent Degrazia  
Patrick Edward Dillon  
Zbigniew Dudkowski  
Kurt Feiereisel  
Matthew Scott Forrest  
Major Dirk Haller

Andrew Hopkins  
Christopher Jenkins  
Bernard Edward Kusinski  
Antonio James Lim  
Payne Manczko  
Chris Marchiori  
Daniel Meaney  
Keith Miller  
Michael Morales  
Mike Mroszczak  
Thomas Neuhengen  
Eric Norwood  
Elliott O'Claire

Vincent Page  
Chad Pritchard  
Nicholas Ranch  
Adam Roberts  
Joseph Saineghi, Jr.  
Holly Schippers  
Michael Schippers, Jr.  
Sean Sherlock  
Sharon Sherlock  
Phillip R. Simonsen  
Tony Strzalka  
Dominic John Guerrieri, Jr.

## Schedule of Liturgical Ministers

Date	Celebrant	Extraordinary Minister	Altar Server	Lectors
<b>Saturday, 7 / 22</b> 5 pm - St. Eugene	Rev. Greg Rom	L. Feist - WB R. Cantal - B MB Glynn - C T. Crivlare - O C. Bobka - WO	A. Ek M. Marrinan	L. Olen
<b>Sunday, 7 / 23</b> 8:30 am - St. Eugene	Rev. Ed Pacocha	J. Kolaski - WB R. Kennedy - B R. Sparacino - C M. Egan - O C. Hill - WO	E. Burzawa L. Parrillo-Hall A. Czubek	S. Sparacino
<b>Sunday, 7 / 23</b> 10:00 am - OLMC	Rev. Jacek Dada Deacon Chris Virruso	N. Mosk - C R. Catalano - T	D. Flynn	A. Divinagracia - 1st P. Peterson- 2nd
<b>Sunday, 7 / 23</b> 11:30 am - St. Eugene	Rev. Rich Yanos	P. Tomzik - WB M. Tomzik - B J. Nardi - C M. Holder - O T. Moore - WO	A. Tekampe D. Luna A. Boccia	L. Vasich

## Rosaries for Pope Francis and His Intention, a Eucharistic Life

This week, the Rosary intention of the Rosary Guild is for the Holy Father and his July prayer intention, "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 with all their brothers and sisters." Rosary Guild members pray at least one Rosary per week for the weekly intention. Please reach out to the rectory office to become a member, along with Emily A., Lori G., James H., John I., Evelyn K., Terri K., Gilda M., Lonnie M., Mary M., Ted M., Josephine N., Emilie P., Stefania P., Jean R., Shirley S., and Milabelle T.



### Living Rosary

Pray a Mystery or Mysteries of the Rosary daily for the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in honor of the patron of the Living Rosary, St. Philomena. The next available Mystery is the first Glorious Mystery, the Resurrection. To sign up for this Mystery, please contact the rectory office.

#### Joyful Mysteries

Annunciation – Ted M.  
Visitation – Barb R.  
Nativity – Josephine N.  
Presentation – Karen R.  
Finding in the Temple – Mary M.

#### Luminous Mysteries

Baptism of Jesus – Barb R.  
Wedding at Cana – Mary M.  
Proclaim the Kingdom – Ted M.  
Transfiguration – Emily A.  
Institution of Eucharist – Emily A.

#### Sorrowful Mysteries

Agony in the Garden – Jean R.  
Scourging at the Pillar – Jean R.  
Crowning with Thorns – Mary M.  
Carrying of the Cross – Ted M.  
Crucifixion – Demi S.

### Prayer to Our Lady of Mount Carmel - Her feast day is July 16

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart, to succor me in my necessity (make your request). There are none that can withstand your power.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us that have recourse to thee (pray 3 times).

Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (pray 3 times). Amen.



## Queen of Peace Marian Devotions

*Queen of Peace Marian Devotions*

Every First Saturday there is a devotion to Mary after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at St. Eugene Church.

The Mother of Perpetual Help devotion is prayed on Tuesday after the 7 a.m. Mass at OLMC.

The Rosary is prayed before Mass Monday through Saturday.

People also pray on their own at least one Rosary for a weekly intention, forming the Rosary Guild.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Congratulations  
to all of the couples married in 1973,  
who are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year!

The Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass is scheduled  
on Sunday, September 17, 2023,  
at 2:30 p.m.,  
at Holy Name Cathedral,  
735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60654.

To register, go to  
<https://pvm.archchicago.org/events/golden-wedding>



### 2<sup>ND</sup> WEDDING BANNS

Mark F. Cardish & Brittney D. Garcia

### 3<sup>RD</sup> WEDDING BANNS

Thomas Stewart Stoll, Jr. & Kelly Marie Taylor

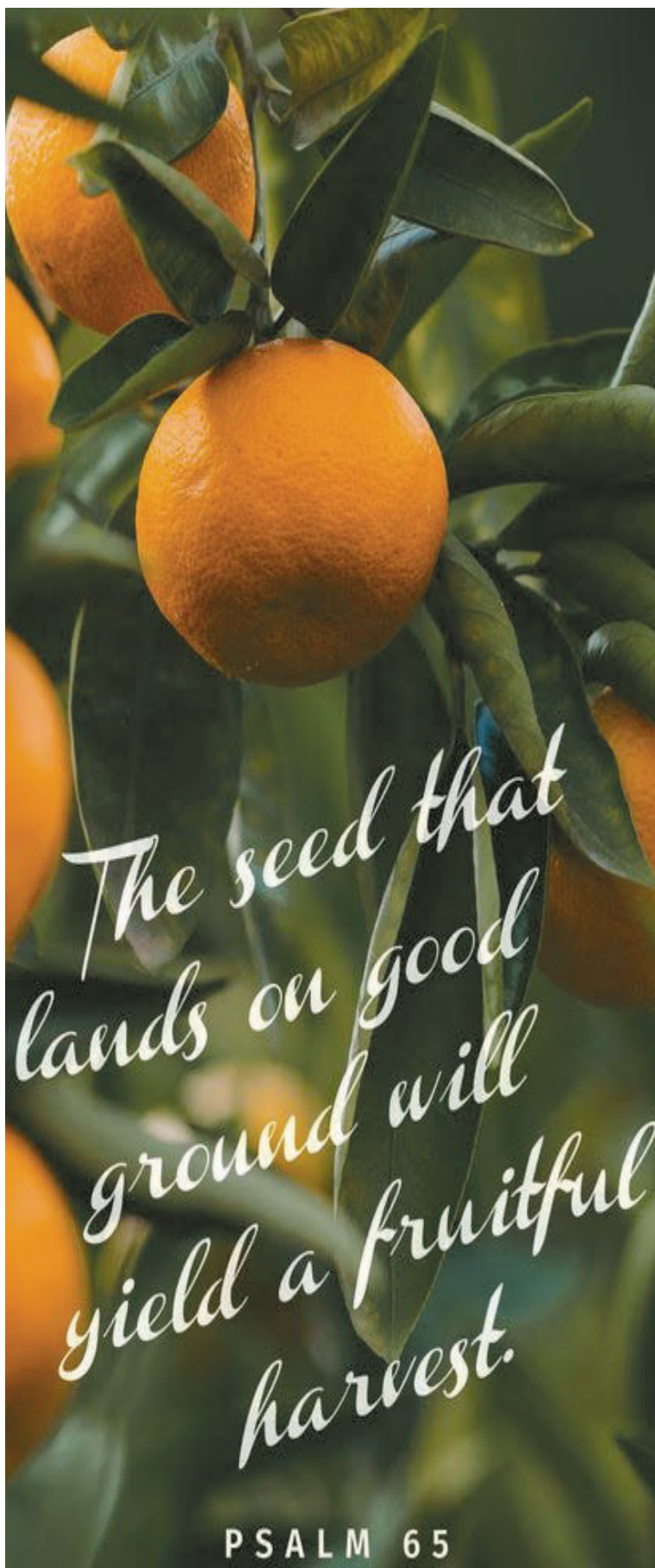
**This week's at**  
**Our Lady, Mother of the Church**  
**Sanctuary Lamp**  
**Is in memory of**  
**Józef Rebacz**



### REMINDER

Anyone going on the trip  
to Four Winds Casino on Wednesday,  
July 19, must be on the bus  
in the south parking lot of  
Our Lady, Mother of the Church  
by 9:00 a.m.

We will return by approximately 5:00.





# Thirsting for God?

Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in another Christian tradition, who is thirsting for what it means to be Catholic? Do you know someone already Catholic but has not yet received Confirmation & Communion? They may be thirsting too!



**The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)** is a process by which one enters the Catholic Church through prayer, study, and discussion.

More info: Fr. Jacek at [jdada@st-eugene.org](mailto:jdada@st-eugene.org) or please call 773.775.6659 ext. 108

## BIBLE STUDY

When was the last time that you have had a talk with our Lord? Or when was the last time that you have picked up the Bible to read? This is an invitation for all **Queen of Peace** parishioners to join us for an hour or so to pray, to read and discuss the coming Sunday readings, and any other questions about our faith that we find interesting. At different times we can find subjects that arouse our interest, such as, the Sacraments, or Beatitudes, and taking apart a prayer so we can really understand what it is that Jesus want us to know.

My name is Frank Lizak and I have been coordinating the Bible Group for the last 10 years. When Divine Savior Parish closed, our group missed a couple weeks. But it did not take long for us to find each other, and a room in the Eisenhower Public Library where we have been having our meetings. The good news is that we have acquired room 110 at St. Eugene School for Wednesday mornings from 10:00 thru 12:00 starting May third. I hope that all will take advantage of dropping in to see what we do. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to send me an email at [fjlizak@comcast.net](mailto:fjlizak@comcast.net). We always leave with something new to think about.

**Now Enrolling Preschool - 8th Grade  
for the 2023-2024 School Year  
Discover the St. Eugene Difference!**

Please Call 773-763-2235 or Visit Our Website at [www.steugene-school.org](http://www.steugene-school.org) to  
Schedule a Tour and Find Out More Information.

# LITURGICAL MINISTRIES



## Help Needed for Liturgical Ministers

Have you ever considered serving the Church as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. This role is extremely important for the celebration of the Eucharist. This ministry puts you at the center of the Church's life.

Currently, we need 5 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at every Sunday Mass except for the third Sunday of every month at the 5PM Mass when there is a Celebrant and a Deacon. Anytime there are multiple Priests and/or Deacons, they take precedence over any Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

Our greatest need for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is at the 11:30 AM Mass on Sunday. This means that our current Ministers at 11:30 Mass must get scheduled more frequently.

If you are interested in becoming an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please fill out the information below and drop in the Sunday collection basket or return to the parish office. I will call you to give you additional information and answer any questions you may have to make your decision.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (Zip Code)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Coordinator of Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Communion Lois Feist*



Donation Information not available.  
It will be reflected  
in the next available bulletin.

Please continue your contribution  
in the usual way, until we finalize  
the merger of the databases  
and electronic giving accounts.

**Thank you for your support!**



**Eucharistic Adoration**  
**St. Eugene Church**  
**Mondays 4-6pm.**  
**Benediction at 5:45pm**



### **Queen Of Hearts Raffle Tickets and Footballmania Tickets**

Available After All Masses  
In Rear Vestibule  
(Tickets are Also Available  
In SE Rectory Office)

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Second Collection**

St. Eugene School Support

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Second Collection Next Weekend**

Summer Mission Appeal



## **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!



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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## 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?"

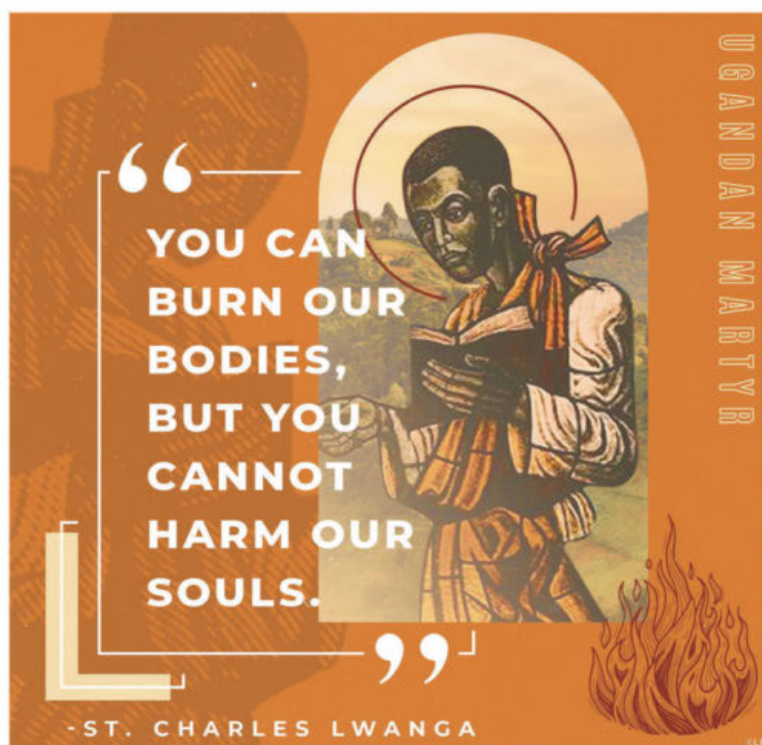
### Gospel Reading

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?



### Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn't be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.



SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## 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

farme	<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	_____



SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





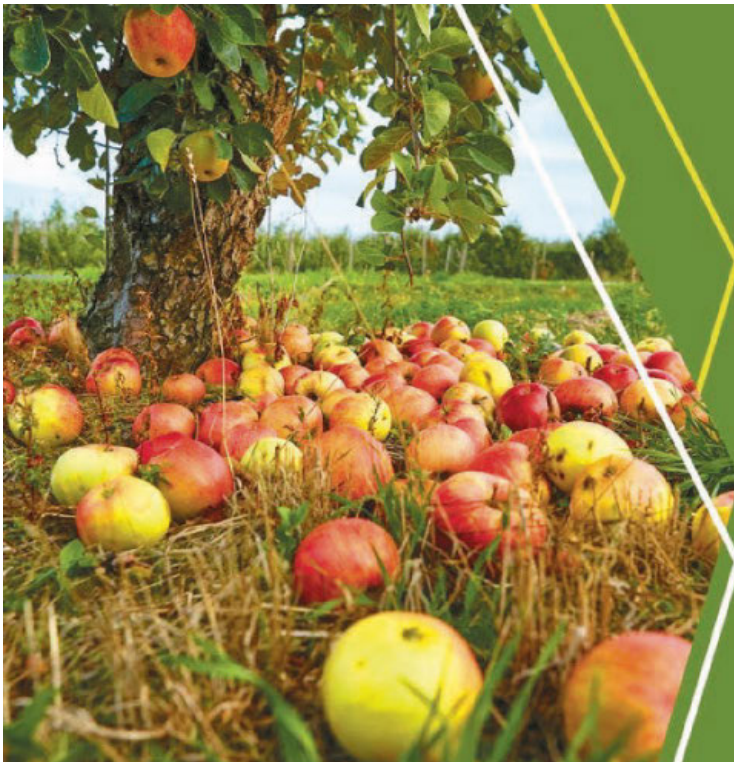
# PRAYER REQUESTS

Lord God, we place our worries in your hands. We place our sick under your care and humbly ask that You restore your servant to health again. Above all, grant us the grace to acknowledge your will and know that whatever you do, you do for the love of us. We thank You and praise You through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Pat Apida  
Annabella Amato  
Ralph J. Amelio  
Victoria Amelio  
Patricia & Lawrence Basili  
A. & V. Bischof  
Virginia Bongiorno-Lawrence  
Anthony Bongiorno  
Johnmar Castillo  
Gracie Carey  
Karen Cazolas  
Mary Ciliak  
Joseph F. Coglianesi  
Mark Corrado  
Sharon Crowley  
Susan Curtin  
Angela & Rocco D'Alessandro  
Joseph Duna  
Don Feist  
Barbara Fandrey  
Bob & Carol Gasiorek

Patricia Gelfond  
Jeff Herden  
Renee Holm  
Terry Katz  
Mary T. Keating  
Arthur Kopeck  
Thomas Landeck  
Rose Mary Maratto  
Pam & Mickey Margelewski  
Stanisław Mazek  
Azucena Melendrez  
Dolores Michalek  
Linda Morton  
Jean Muglia  
Michael C. & Virginia Muscarello  
Michael J. Muscarello  
Rodney Niewinski  
Joe Notaro  
Joey Notaro  
Anthony Notaro  
Catherine O'Hara

Karen Palvis - Karasawa  
Anthony Parisi  
Kay Phelan  
Joe Portenlanger  
Rita Rogers  
Diane Rizzuto  
Pat Schippers  
Shirley Schindler  
Peter Schroeder  
Robert Shelton  
Dolores Scorza  
Maria Slomski  
Daniel Staniec  
Emily Steckiewicz  
Lavergne Suchor  
Bob Schu  
Tom Szczech  
Dave Tudron  
Dolores Wilk



## 15<sup>th</sup> 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



## Divine Savior's Marian Shrine, Now known as the Queen of Peace Statue, Will be coming to a new location!

The Unification Committee has approved the relocation of the beautiful Marian Shrine, from the campus of Divine Savior, to Saint Eugene's Church. The shrine was erected by the parishioners in 1987, and was ironically named the Queen of Peace, the name of our new parish. It is fitting that she is moved to the new location.

The Queen of Peace is an 8' stainless steel sculpture weighing 1,200 pounds. The brick base that she sits on cannot be moved and will need to be reconstructed. 3G Construction has been hired to move the statue and replicate the base. The owners of 3G Construction are long-time active parishioners. The statue will be placed in a prominent place along Foster Ave.

We are asking for your financial support for the success of this project. Our goal is to raise \$30,000 which will cover the relocation cost, build a new base, beautify the landscape around the statue, and include lighting and benches.

Will you be able to donate to this project?

Here are ways to contribute:

- ◆ Complete the tear off sheet below and Place in an envelope with the Sunday collection.
- ◆ Donate online thru Give Central – Click on the Relocation of Statue link;
- ◆ Mail the form below in or drop off a check to the parish office.

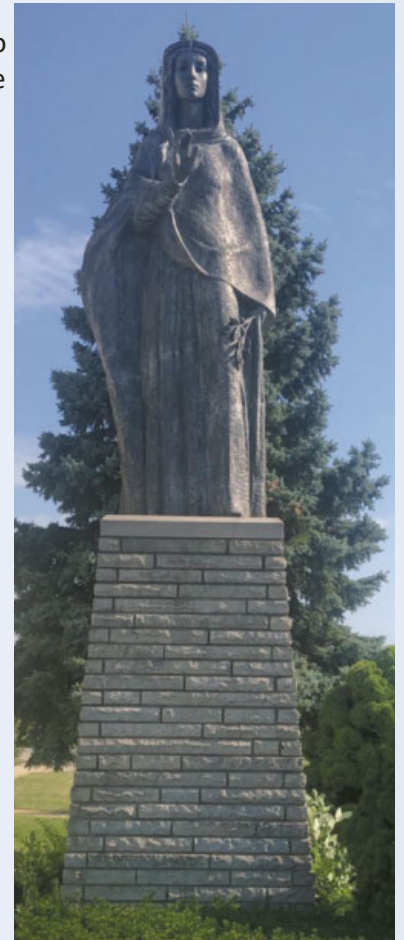
As we move into the future, we are certain that the Blessed Mother, the Queen of Peace, will reign in our hearts and in her new location as we unite under her mantle.

### Questions?

Contact Ralph Cantal at 708-453-5303,

Domenica Duszynski 773-213-3629

Lonnie Muehlfelder 773-895-4553



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Envelope

# \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate on your check that the donation is for the "Queen of Peace" Sculpture



# Liturgical Life

## (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).

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# 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>)

**SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



# Worship & Meditation

## 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



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## 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

SUNDAY, JULY 16, 2023 | 15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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