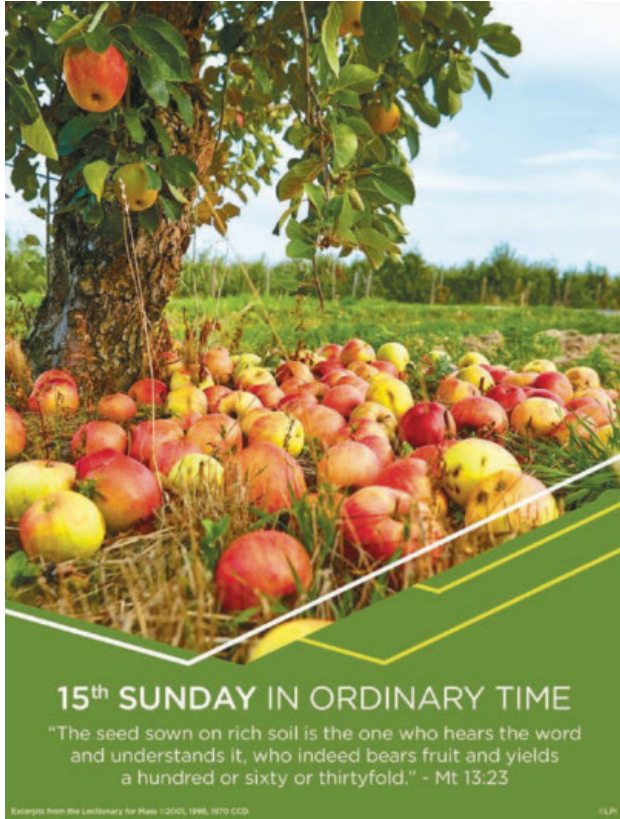




## 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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



### 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

Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass © 2005, 1998, 1979 CCC.

July 16th, 2023

## CONTACT US | ST. HELENA PARISH

### St. Helena Catholic Church

421 2nd St N, PO Box 796  
Ellendale, ND 58436  
701-349-3297

### St. Patrick Catholic Church

207 Monroe St N  
Fullerton, ND 58441

Fr. Patrick Parks  
Cell Phone: 701-261-4816 or  
Patrick.Parks@fargodiocese.org

### Mass Schedule

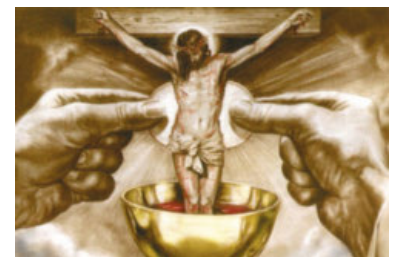
**Saturday** (vigil) 5pm, St. Helena  
**Sunday** 8:30am (1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)  
10:30am (2nd, 4th Sundays)  
**Tue** 7pm  
**Wed-Fri** 8:00am

### Confession Schedule

**Saturday** 3:30-4:30pm  
**Sunday** Before 8:30 am mass  
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)  
**Tuesday** 6:30-6:50pm  
**Wed-Fri** Before 8:00 am daily Mass  
Or by appointment, call parish office

### Adoration

**Wed** 5pm-8pm



## ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

### Mass Schedule

**Sunday** 10:30am  
(1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays)  
8:30 am (2nd, 4th Sundays)  
**Thursday** 9:00am

### Confession Schedule

**Sundays** after 10:30 am Mass  
By appointment - call parish office

# FROM OUR PASTOR : A Tour Continued: Our Lady of Happy Meetings

## Continued from last week

The messenger's fidelity triumphed over this long "eclipse of Laus." At long last, the Bishop of Embrun awoke from his apathy. In 1712, six years before Benoite's death, the direction of the Pilgrimage was entrusted to some good priests, called the *Pères Gardistes*, "a deeply religious group of sound doctrine, moved by an ardent desire for the apostolate." On March 18, 1700, Benoite's Guardian Angel had told her, "The Laus devotion is the work of God which neither man nor the devil can destroy. It will continue until the end of the world, flourishing more and more and bearing great fruit everywhere."

On the one hand she was tormented by the demons in Hell for the sake of the conversion of sinners, but on the other, she lived in familiarity with the Angels. She was especially close to her Guardian Angel, to whom she confided all her pain and sorrows, consulting him at every moment. He responded to this absolute trust with all kinds of services which, because of Benoite's perfect simplicity, did not even surprise her. He taught her the virtues of plants and helped her to clean the little chapel. One time, she had forgotten her shawl, little more than a rag, which she had left hanging on a branch in the woods. As she was suffering bitterly from the cold that night, her Angel brought it back to her. On many occasions he opened the church door for her and said the Rosary with her. But he also knew when to correct her. One day he confiscated a beautiful Rosary that had been given to Benoite, but to which she was too strongly attached. And it was quite some time before he gave it back to her.

To the end, in spite of continual sufferings, Benoite remained Mary's faithful pupil and auxiliary with sinners. When her good Mother stopped visiting her to purify her, and Satan cried out, "She has forsaken you . . . You will no longer have any recourse but in me!" Benoite replied, "Oh, I would rather die a thousand times forsaken by Mary, than forsake Her for a single moment!"

But now a burning fever consumed her, and for her, the nights seemed to be "as long as years." She became bedridden one month before her death. On Christmas Day of 1718, after asking forgiveness of those who were present, for the bad examples she might have given during her lifetime, she requested and received Holy Viaticum. Suddenly her good Mother reappeared before her eyes, leaving behind a fragrance that pervaded the very poor chamber.

The *Pères Gardistes* prayed for her cure. "Two more years, Lord!" they implored. But on December 28th she insisted on receiving Extreme Unction, knowing full well that she would be joining the Holy Innocents

on their feast day. She received the Last Sacraments at three in the afternoon. There was no death agony; she appeared very happy.

"We are your children," Father Royere said to her. "Will you bless us before leaving us?"

At first Benoite's humility inclined her to refuse, but then her simplicity won out. "It is up to our good Mother to bless you," she said. And at once she raised her hand from her bed, not wanting to refuse them this consolation, and she said to them, "I give it to you most willingly, good Fathers."

She said a calm farewell to everyone.

Around eight in the evening, after the prayers for the dying had been recited, she asked her goddaughter to recite the Litany of the Child Jesus. And so she passed away in joy. She was seventy-one years old when she died in the odor of sanctity, as stipulated by the inscription on her grave. Sister Benoite Rencurel was declared Venerable in 1871 and beatified in 1984. The church in Laus was raised to the rank of a minor basilica in 1893.

Among the great figures who had a special devotion to Our Lady of Laus, let us mention Saint Eugene de Mazenod (1782-1861), founder of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate; Saint Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868), founder of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers and Servants; Dom Jean Baptiste Chautard (1858-1935), Abbot of Sept-Fons; and there are certainly many others who remain unknown to us.

At the request of the bishop of the diocese, Saint Eugene de Mazenod assumed responsibility for the Shrine from 1819 to 1840. During that period he transferred his novitiate and scholasticate to Laus, where it was attended by Father Bruno Guigues, who became the first Bishop of Ottawa, Canada.

As for Saint Peter Julian Eymard, he was scarcely eleven years old when by repeated insistence he obtained permission to make a sixty kilometer pilgrimage on foot while begging for his bread. He spent nine days at the holy shrine in preparation for his First Communion. Later he wrote, "That is where I first came to know and love Mary." He had a great devotion for his "Good Mother of Laus" all his life. In times of crushing fatigue, he loved to retire to that shrine.

**Our Lady of Laus, Refuge of sinners, look down with kindness and compassion upon the physical and moral miseries of our age! Have mercy on thy children and deign to convert us all entirely to the love of thy Divine Son!**

- 7/18- Adoration after Mass with Divine Mercy Chaplet and Rosary for World Peace
- 7/19- Adoration 5:00—8:00 pm

## 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 ©LPi

## 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)

### 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)

## WHY DO WE DO THAT?

**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

## ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING

August 6 after early mass. Meeting will be in the parish center. All women of the parish are welcome to attend.

## Fall Dinner and Raffle information

Fall Dinner September 17, 11-2  
Raffle drawing at 1:30

Raffle tickets are ready and available for pick up in the back of the church.

Sign up sheets for the Fall Dinner are also available.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for food pantry Saturday August 12 and August 26 9:45-12noon Contact Michele Thorpe if you can help. Thank you!

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).

©LPi

# ST HELENA MINISTRY SCHEDULE

<b>July 22/23</b>	<b>5:00 pm</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>
Usher	Volunteer	Mark Thielges
Collection		Rick Ulmer Jeff Ulmer
Lector	Volunteer	Bernie Thielges
<b>EMHC</b>		Marilynn Wall
Gift Bearers	Volunteer	Thielges Family
Altar Servers		Devin

## Breakfast servers for July

First one on the list contact the others

July 30	Knights of Columbus
August 6	Colleen Durheim, Kerry Waldo, Sue Boniek, Lorraine Betting

# WEEKLY GIVING

Sunday	July 2	July 9
Adult	653.00	1047.00
Children	.75	6.00
Plate	157.00	65.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$810.75</b>	<b>\$1118.00</b>

Thank you for your generosity!

# ST. PATRICK MINISTRY SCHEDULE

## Sunday July 23 (8:30am)

Lector	Ruby
Gift Carriers	Allen & Ruby
Altar Servers	Liam, Beckett, Vincent

## For the Month of July

Breakfast Server	
Collection Counters	Ruby and Denny
Church Cleaners	Alana and Linda
Altar Society Meeting	None this month

### God's Gift Appeal 2023

*This is MY BODY that is for you*

Report as of 7-7-23

St. Helena's: \$7950. 42.11% participation, 41.98% of goal  
St. Patrick's: \$10,925. 35.71% participation, 165.04% of goal

Thank you for your support!

## WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

**Tues. July 18**

8:00 am +Ann Brokaw

**Wed. July 19**

8:00 am +Phyllis Zvorak

**Thur. July 20**

8:00 am (St. H) +Paulette Flaherty

9:00 am (St. P) Shannon Glynn

**Fri. July 21**

8:00am (St H) +Mark Flaherty

**Sat. July 22**

5:00pm (St H) +Sylvia Durheim

**Sun. July 23**

8:30am (St. P) Don and Jeanne Glynn

10:30am (St H) All Parishioners

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If you or someone you know would like to be added to, or removed from this list please call the parish office.








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