

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of Loving Service*

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**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**  
**July 12, 2020**

**First reading Isaiah 55: 10-11**

**An Invitation to Abundant Life!**

In this passage, the Lord contrasts His **thoughts** and **ways** with sinful Israel's. Human plans inevitably fail and falter, but the Lord's plans are different. When He promises forgiveness and restored blessing for His people, he will be true to His **word**. Just as the rain and snow fall to the ground and fulfill their God given purpose unhindered, God's promises and purposes will be realized.

*The seed that falls on ground will yield a fruitful harvest!*

**Second reading Romans 8:18-23**

**From Suffering to Glory!**

The Greek word for **groan** is a derivative of *stenos*, meaning "to sigh or groan because of an undesired circumstance." It appears three times in chapter 8 and refers to the non-rational animate and inanimate creation, including animals, trees, mountains, rivers, plains, and heavenly bodies. Paul pictures an audience eagerly waiting for the sons of God to come into their true glory. The word **futility** is translated into "mataiotes" in Greek, meaning the inability of something to fulfill the purpose for which it was created. It can also mean emptiness or absurdity.

Christians groan negatively because of sin's presence in the world, its power in their bodies, and the practice of sin around them. They positively groan for the gift of the Holy Spirit to guarantee their glory and because they are looking forward to their adoption being final and the redemption of their bodies.

*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**

**Parable of the Sower!**

With His words, His works, and His authority rejected, Jesus changed His methods. Until now, His message had been "the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Now He would begin using parables to reveal previously unknown truths about the kingdom of heaven.

Thirty-five parables, or short stories, of Jesus are recorded in the four Gospels.

The parable of the sower is recorded here, and its interpretation is given in 13:18-23.

The parable has three main elements: the **sower**, the **seed**, and the **soils**. The sower represents the Lord, the seed represents the Word of God, and the soils represent four categories of hearers, each with a different response to God's Word.

In Jesus' day, sowers would drape a bag of seed over their shoulder, and as they walked up and down the often-uncultivated furrows, they would throw handfuls of seed across the ground.

Preaching the truth of God is like taking God's seed-the Word of God- and scattering it everywhere.

More than 700 years before Jesus' day, **Isaiah** prophesied a time when the Messiah would be made known to the Jewish people. They would witness His miracles, His great teaching, and the way He fulfilled all the prophecies concerning Him – yet they would

not hear. When people receive God's Word and fail to act on it, they gradually become callused in their hearts, get cataracts on their eyes, and lose their hearing. But as Jesus outlines in the next parable, those who willingly **see** and **hear** will be **blessed**, bringing forth fruit.

*"But blessed are your eyes, because they see...!"*

*The fruitfulness of God's word depends on the openness of the heart into which it falls.*

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS**

Call the office for an appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call, for an appointment

**For Pregnancy Support:**

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

**MASS INTENTIONS July 11 - 17**

**Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Bishop Richard Garcia**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Cecily Olsen**

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Alexis Oliver

Thursday 9:00 a.m. The Oliver Family

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Constantino Silva

**ROSARY** We pray the Rosary in your home and with your family, for the country!

**Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries!**

**Women's Club/Prayer Group**

We meet the 4th Wednesday of each month from 1 – 2:30 pm. **July 22<sup>nd</sup>!**

Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** Can be sent to [christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com](mailto:christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com)

**Required Changes to Previous Guidance**  
**Regarding Mass – July 4, 2020**  
**The following changes are to be implemented:**

**Discontinue all singing and chanting.**

**Facemasks are to be worn by everyone over the age of 2.**

**Continue to remind the people that distribution of Holy Communion is to be "in the hand, as has been previously communicated.**

**Churches are to be closed for visitation, except for scheduled services, whenever possible. No food may be sold or given away at the church (other than at food pantries).**

**There is to be no veneration of articles (e.g. kissing a cross or image).**

**A few reminders:**

**All outdoor events must have a strict six feet of distance between each household unit. The capacity is limited by the space, and no more than 100 people.**

**Thank you for your cooperation!**

**Prayer**

**Please Lord grants us the grace, to change our hearts, to open our minds.**

**Grant us the grace, to bless our small corner, to encourage each other.**

**Grant us the grace, to pray for the world, to care too much.**

**Grant us the grace, please Lord.**

**TREASURY REPORT SUNDAY**

**July 4 & 5, 2020**

**Plate collection \$827.00**

**Please Consider Electronic Funds**

**Transfer (EFT) for your ongoing giving to Christ Child. It is a safe, convenient, and efficient way to give to our Parish.**

**Contact Rosanna Kennedy to sign up...**

**[rosannakennedy@yahoo.com](mailto:rosannakennedy@yahoo.com)**