

# July 23, 2023

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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**With Prayer and Repentance We Receive God's Grace and Strength to Overcome Our Weakness**

Today's Gospel is a parable from St. Matthew 13:24-43 and is Christ's answer to the question so frequently asked: "Why does God permit evil to triumph so often in this world, why are the wicked allowed to prosper?" The triumph of the wicked is short-lived, the reward of the Christian who suffers from their wickedness is everlasting. The very wickedness and injustices of evil-doers are one of the ways that God uses to perfect his elect. It is only on a battlefield that a true soldier can be proved.

In the parable, the weed does not destroy the wheat. It only makes it more difficult for the wheat to grow to maturity. So it is with the Christian. No one can take his faith from him, but living up to it is made more difficult by the evil influence and bad example of sinners. If some succumb to this evil influence and give up the practice of their faith, the fault is theirs. God can force no man to serve him.

The patience of the farmer in letting the weed grow on until harvest time, exemplifies the infinite mercy of God toward sinners. The weed could not change its nature, but the sinner can change his ways and God gives him every chance and every help to do this, up to his last moment of life. No sinner will be excluded from heaven because of the sins he committed but because he did not repent of these sins while he had the opportunity.

We must learn a double lesson of patience from this parable. First, to be patient with those who make our spiritual progress more difficult for us—they are actually helping us to be better Christians if we bear with patience the injuries they inflict on us. Second, we must try to imitate the patience God shows in his dealings with sinners. While we must not approve of their evil deeds, or their sins, we must still look on them as our brothers and do all in our power to put them back on the right road to heaven. We can do this by good example, and by fervent prayer for their conversion. This is not easy for human nature, but we can be certain that God will give us the necessary grace and strength to subdue our natural weakness and aversion, if we try to act with charity and true brotherly interest toward our erring fellowmen.

By acting thus, we will not only be helping a weak brother on the rugged road to heaven, we will also be making doubly sure of our own arrival there, for God will never be outdone in generosity.

—Excerpt by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M. at <https://www.catholicculture.org/>

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**2 New Online Forms Available!**  
Forms can now be accessed on the Holy Cross Website  
**holycross-wagoner.org**

**1) New Parishioner Registration**  
For new members of our faith community, please register yourself/family by completing a Parishioner Registration form.

The printed forms are located in the vestibule and are also ***now available on the church website to be completed and submitted online on the website.***

We welcome and appreciate your Holy Cross registration and it assists us with getting to know you, communication and Holy Cross ministry efforts.

**Also, for both new and established parishioners**

**2) Ministry/Volunteer Opportunities**  
Please complete the Ministry Opportunities Survey Form to find ministry and service opportunities that suit your God-given talents. Everyone is encouraged to complete this form as a new parishioner or any parishioner that would like to update their interests and ministry involvement.

This form is also located in the vestibule and ***now available as an online form to be completed and submitted on the church website.***

**We are excited to have you join us in finding ways to build God's Kingdom!**

***A Special Thank You***  
to all those that helped with the Confirmations & Reception last weekend!

**The Holy Cross Catholic Charities**  
**Mobile Food Pantry**  
**Thursday, July 27th, 10 a.m.—Noon**  
**Food Boxes Available & Distributed While Supplies Last**  
**using a drive-through format**

### Congratulations to the Confirmands

**TLM**  
**Annalina Martino**  
**Samuel Dufour**  
**Clair Dufour**  
**Joachim Martin**

**English**  
**Isaac Ervin**  
**Kinney Herndon**  
**Abby Higginbottom**  
**Matthew Higginbottom**  
**Elizabeth Sullivan**

*Spirit of God, grant them and us all:  
The gift of **wisdom** To see the world through your eyes,  
The gift of **counsel** To make difficult decisions,  
The gifts of **knowledge** and **understanding** To use our mind to know you and to love you,  
The gift of **fortitude** To have the courage to live in the faith despite the difficulties and disappointments,  
The gift of **piety** To be able to express our special love and commitment to you, and the right kind of awesome **fear** That makes us pause to wonder and revere God's Love. Amen.*

July 22 (Vigil)	July 23		July 29 (Vigil)	July 30
Sherry Ruyle Carolyn Greer	Mike Cucchiara Bill Scrimsher	<b>USHERS/GIFT BEARERS</b>	Judy Helms Richard Helms	Heather Jordan Eric Jordan
Larry Chekofsky	Liam, Makenna, & Larry Chekofsky	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>	Larry Chekofsky	Liam, Makenna, & Larry
Kay R./Dorene Mc.	Elaine H./Mike H.	<b>EUCCHARISTIC MIN</b>	Carolyn G./Paul R.	Bille C./Chris H.
Charlie Moe	Seth Yoder	<b>READERS</b>	Dorene McMahan	Chris Holland

**Memorial of Bl. Stanley Rother, July 28**  
O God,  
who gave your priest Blessed Stanley the heart of a pastor and the fidelity of a martyr,  
grant, through his intercession,  
that the humble flock may reach where the brave Shepherd has gone before. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



***BE HOLY: THE ART OF CHRISTIAN LIVING***  
***AUGUST 18-19, 2023***  
**Tulsa Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center**  
Registration at <https://dioceseoftulsa.org/faith-formation-conference-registration-1>  
Friday ONLY - \$25; Saturday ONLY - \$35,  
Both Days - \$50

**Volunteers Needed!**  
Anyone who can assist with the dead tree removal on the east church lot is asked to contact  
Seth Yoder, 918-869-9129

**Observance of the World Day of Prayer for Grandparents & Elderly Persons**  
**Sunday, July 30th**  
May the gift of the Holy Spirit intercede for me: sustain my weakness; breathe into my heart the consolation that I may leave traces of faith among the young, bearing witness to the beauty of life, knowing that life has a limit and that beyond it lies before us our Father's embrace. Amen.

## Happy Birthday!

Samuel Dufour 7/1  
Mike Hickman 7/7  
David Atanasio 7/8  
Blair Kuehn-Smith 7/9  
Carolyn Greer 7/12  
Fr. Leo Ord. Anniv. 7/17  
Leah Jameson 7/21  
Denise Jones 7/30



Please Pray for Our Military Men & Women for  
a Safe Deployment and Return Home

especially parishioner,  
**Andrew Higginbottom**, US Navy Westpac

## Weekend Collections July 15-16

General Collections **\$3,316.00**

Capital Improvement **120.00**

**TOTAL \$3,436.00**

## Daily Mass Readings—July 23-29\*

Sunday	Wis 12:13, 16-19/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30
Monday	Ex 14:5-18/Mt 12:38-42
Tuesday	2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28
Wednesday	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Mt 13:1-9
Thursday	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Mt 13:10-17
Friday	Ex 20:1-17/Mt 13:18-23
Saturday	Ex 24:3-8/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

\*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text)  
also available on Holy Cross Website:

**www.holycross-wagoner.org**

To place information in the bulletin or on the  
church website, contact Karol Watson,  
karol\_watson@yahoo.com or 918-640-5819

For issues/help with Flocknotes, contact Kay  
Rodriguez, msrod@sbcglobal.net  
or 405-659-0507

## FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker  
Judy Wright, parishioner  
Becky Harding, parishioner  
Meredith Zehr, parishioner  
Hope Watson, parishioner  
Sam Sanco, parishioner



**WE PRAY TO THE LORD**

## Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross  
Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to  
our community and the world. As your  
disciples, help us to touch the hearts of  
everyone in a way that enhances human  
spirituality and will bring all people into the  
fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ,  
our Lord, Amen!

	<i>Altar Linens</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>July</i>	Kay Rodriguez	Karol Watson Carolyn Greer
<i>Aug</i>	Sherry Ruyle	Kathy Hickman

**Stay Connected — Stay Informed  
with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross  
Family**

*Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins,  
Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events*

**www.holycross-wagoner.org,  
Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB) &  
https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/  
dashboard**

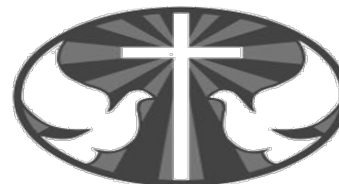
**Finding solutions for  
your financial need.**



**Seth A. Yoder**  
Financial Advisor  
114 East Cherokee  
Wagoner, OK 74467  
918-485-0992

**Edward Jones**  
Member Since 1971  
edwardjones.com

## Holy Cross Catholic Church



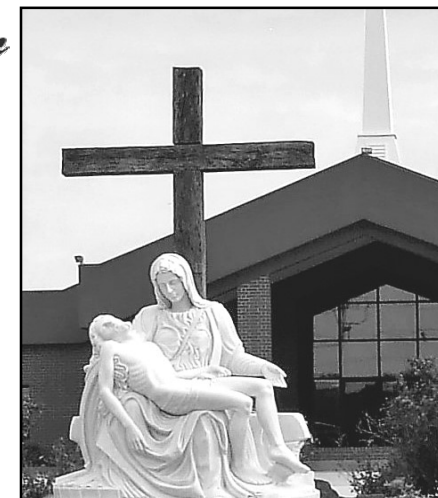
**Holiness - Disciples - Community  
Wagoner, Oklahoma**

P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.  
539-209-9988

**Email:** holycrosswagoner@gmail.com

**Website:** http://www.holycross-wagoner.org

**Facebook:** Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK



**July 23, 2023**

**Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

<b>Pastor</b>	Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu holycrosswagoner@gmail.com 539-209-9988
<b>Visiting Priests</b>	Fr. Gabriel Garcia & Fr. Alessandro Calderoni
<b>Deacons</b>	Dcn James Ruyle (Retired) jandsruyle@gmail.com 918-485-8228
<b>Secretary</b>	Earlyne Hutchens earlynehutchens@gmail.com 918-894-0474
<b>Religious Education</b>	Mary Feichtinger maryfeichtinger@yahoo.com 303-519-0605 Kay Rodriguez (Youth Group) msrod@sbcglobal.net 405-659-0507
<b>Parish Council</b>	Karol Watson karol_watson@yahoo.com 918-640-5819
<b>M&amp;M Society</b>	Sherri Moe smworks@hotmail.com 918-521-9127
<b>Men's Group</b>	Seth Yoder seth.yoder@edwardjones.com 918-869-9129

## MASS TIMES

**Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday — 8:30 a.m.**

**2nd & 4th Sundays (Latin) — 10:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 a.m.**

**First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.**

## ADORATION AND BENEDICTION

**Fridays following 5:00 p.m. Mass**

## CONFESSIONS

**30 minutes before weekend Masses**

**Or by appointment/request**

## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**Breaking Bread Book  
Pages 179-180**

**Vatican II Hymnal  
Pages 597-598**

