



Dear Friends in Christ,

In today's Gospel we hear parables about the kingdom of God. In the parable about the weeds among the wheat, Jesus reminds us that in the present age, God allows his children to live alongside the children of the evil one until their day of judgment. In theory, we can all probably nod and think to ourselves that yes, this is good because God is love and God loves all people, including those people represented by the weeds, and he wills the salvation of all. Therefore, giving people more time for conversion, more time to turn away from sin, is a good thing.

But what is the implication of God's goodness and patience in our own lives? The wheat in the parable must grow and bear fruit despite the weeds that are growing alongside them and that are competing for resources from the same soil. Like this wheat, we, too, must persevere in giving good and abundant fruit, despite the variety of conditions in which we live: conditions that might be made easy by virtuous people, or more difficult by people around us who are unkind or thoughtless. It is easy to want *God* to love such people. It is not so easy for *us* to be loving and patient with them – especially with those who have hurt us or our loved ones.

How can we persevere in love and charity? How can we resist the urge to lash out, to lose our patience, to get back at those who have harmed us? Just as the wheat needs nutrients from the soil and rays from the sun to grow and produce fruit, we also need nutrients to grow and produce good fruit in our spiritual lives. And the great news is that the Lord offers these necessary goods to us freely and abundantly.

We know what these nutrients are: the sacraments. What greater and more powerful gift to strengthen us in charity than the Lord himself, present in the Eucharist? There is also the sacrament of reconciliation. Sometimes, with this sacrament, we focus exclusively on forgiveness of sins –something we all need, of course. But in addition to forgiving *past* sins, this sacrament also strengthens us to resist sin in the *future*. Finally, there is prayer. As Paul reminds us, even at those times when we don't know what or how to pray, the Holy Spirit can pray for us, intercede for us – for what we need.

May we give thanks and praise to the Lord for all he has done for us, giving us light and nourishment, including his very self in the Eucharist, to grow as saints amidst the competing tendencies of this world. With his help, we can persevere in love and charity and bear good fruit.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Fr. Marco



The Maryland Knights of Columbus 54th Annual Incentive Raffle benefit is underway! Monies raised will benefit the state's charity and scholarship programs as well as the charities and programs of IHM's Knights of Columbus Council #9968. Raffle tickets are available in the foyer after Mass until Sunday, September 17.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** On Monday, July 31 stating at 7 pm in the conference room. All are invited to attend!



## RCIA CATECHISTS NEEDED!

We are each called to be Missionary Disciples. You don't have to go on a mission half-way around the world! Grow where you are planted right here at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) ministry is in need of team members for various positions:

- Catechist for Children age 7-12
- Catechist for Teens age 13-17
- Catechist For Adults
- Prayer Team members
- Hospitality
- Sponsor/Godparent

The Archdiocese of Washington is offering RCIA training on August 5th, at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Solomons, MD. Please Contact Damaritza Ortiz in the Faith Formation Office at (301) 863-8793 to begin this adventure!

## HIGH SCHOOL PILGRIMAGE TO ST. CLEMENTS ISLAND

The Southern Maryland ROOTS Youth Group is excited to announce the 2nd annual high school pilgrimage to historic St. Clement's Island on Saturday, September 30 from 8 am until 8 pm. Cost is \$65.00 per Student or Chaperone before August 30, \$90 until September 29. Price includes boat transportation, lunch/dinner/snacks/ Journey T-shirt, drawstring bag with goodies and so much more. Scholarships are available. Any student needing a group/chaperone can contact Cookie Pontzer at 301-672-0075, [cookiepontzer@protonmail.com](mailto:cookiepontzer@protonmail.com) To view the promotional videos, visit [https://youtu.be/Bp\\_tSwS5-30](https://youtu.be/Bp_tSwS5-30) or <https://youtu.be/8o5L2Je2MM8>. To learn more about this event and to register, visit: [southernmarylandroots.org](http://southernmarylandroots.org) or email [southernmarylandroots@gmail.com](mailto:southernmarylandroots@gmail.com).

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



July 24 — July 30

<b>Monday</b>	Ex 14:5-18/Ex 15:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mt 12:38-42
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>John Flynn (S)</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/ Mt 20:20-28
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Stephania Thompson (L)</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15/Ps 78:18-19, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28/Mt 13:1-9
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Ann Marie Thompson (L)</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b/Dan 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Mt 13:10-17
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>Ann Elizabeth Jackson (D)</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Ex 20:1-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/ Mt 13:18-23
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Corrine Geraty (D)</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Ex 24:3-8/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Jn 11:19-27
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Luis Nicolas Martinez (L)</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>Mary Stevens (L)</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Dcn. Ronnie Chavez (L)</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>All IHM Parishioners</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Rev. Marco Schad (L)</b>

## Events Calendar

July 24 — July 30

Wed: 10 am Bible Study w/ Fr. Taylor  
Thurs: 6 pm-7:30 pm IHM Men's Group

**BIBLE STUDY** Fr. Taylor Colwell is leading a bible study about, "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" The study will be Wednesdays at 10 am in the Large Classroom until August 30.

**CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION** for the 2023-2024 school year will be available after all Sunday Masses during the month of July as well as Sunday, August 27. Both new and returning students must register! This includes Catholic School students in 2nd and 8th grade preparing for 1st Communion or Confirmation.

**TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE** St. Mary's Catholic School in Bryantown, MD is seeking a Part Time Science Teacher for grades 6-8. This position could be full-time, if needed, by also facilitating STEM classes for grades 3-5. This teacher will follow the Archdiocese of Washington Academic Standards for each grade level. For more information, please contact Catherine Silverstone, Principal, at silverstone@bryantown.org, or 301-932-6883.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

### THE SICK

#### THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Linda Miedzinski, Damaritza Ortiz, Michael Briscoe, Blanche Allen

*Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.*

### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY

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.

**FORMED** To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

**MASS INTENTIONS** may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing [julian@ihmrcc.org](mailto:julian@ihmrcc.org). Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

**CRAFT FAIR AT IHM** Immaculate Heart of Mary will be hosting a craft/vendor fair on Saturday, September 30. If you would like to rent a space or have any questions please contact Martha Worrell at [craftfair@IHMRCC.org](mailto:craftfair@IHMRCC.org). Sign up and payment is available online at [fairvendor.ihmrcc.org](http://fairvendor.ihmrcc.org).

Follow us on



# JULY 22 & 23, 2023

**IN NEED OF FOOD DONATIONS** St. Vincent de Paul of IHM is greatly in need of non-perishable food donations and monetary donations! The number of people in the community that are in need of our services has greatly increased and we are struggling to provide those services and require help. Food donations can be placed in the brown containers at the main entrances to the church. Financial donations can be marked for St. Vincent de Paul of IHM and placed in the collection baskets at the Masses. We thank you for helping us in our mission to provide assistance to those in need in our community.

**MASS AT ST. IGNATIUS CHURCH** On July 30 Mass will be celebrated at 11 am at Historic Saint Ignatius church in Saint Inigoes, Maryland. This Mass is in anticipation of the Feast of St. Ignatius on July 31. Father William George, S.J. will be the celebrant. He will share the history of this historic church which was built on Saint Inigoes Manor, established in 1639. A brief history of the Jesuit property at St. Inigoes is available for visitors at the church. Address: 47750 Villa Road, St. Inigoes, MD 20684.



**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER** The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Find the buried treasures in your marriage by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on Oct 13-15, 2023 in College Park, MD and Sep 22-24, 2023 in Herndon, VA. Early sign up is recommended. For more information visit our website at: <https://moments4marriage.org> or contact us at [applications@moments4marriage.org](mailto:applications@moments4marriage.org) or 301-500-0871.

**TEACHING POSITION AVAILABLE** Little Flower School is currently seeking a Middle School Social Studies Teacher and After Care Teacher. If you are interested in either position, please contact Ms. Keeton at [ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org](mailto:ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org). You can read the full job descriptions at [www.schoolspring.com](http://www.schoolspring.com).

**LIVING GREEN** Camp Maria Retreat Center is hosting an opportunity to learn about "Living Green" and our call as Christians to care for our Earth. The talk is Thursday, August 3 from 6 pm to 8:30 pm. The cost is \$15, with dinner served at 6 pm. The presenters are Cherie Dewar, a Parish Green Team Member, and Mike Thompson. For questions or to make a reservation, please call 301-475-8330 or visit [campmaria.org](http://campmaria.org).

**ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES** If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at [cindy@ihmrcc.org](mailto:cindy@ihmrcc.org).

**CATECHISTS NEEDED** The Faith Formation office is in need of catechists (teachers of the faith) for both the Children's Faith Formation and for the RCIA Teens and Adults. If you have a desire to teach the next generation of Catholics or just want to learn more about this calling, please contact Damaritza Ortiz at 301-863-8793 or [cff@ihmrcc.org](mailto:cff@ihmrcc.org).

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

**SIGHT AND SOUND THEATER** St. Joseph's Women's Group in Pomfret, MD is sponsoring a Bus Trip to Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. The play is the "Miracle of Christmas" and the trip takes place on December 6. The cost is \$140 and the bus boards at 7 am from St. Joseph's. Join us for an awe inspiring Christmas show! For details or for details, call or text Georgana Navarro, 301-643-0948.

**CPR CLASS** There will be a CPR Class Saturday, July 29 from 9 am until 12 noon. Please contact Adam Miller at (619) 820-8467 or email [adam.r.miller74@gmail.com](mailto:adam.r.miller74@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.



**SPONSOR A NEW CATHOLIC** This week we will go over the basic qualities of a sponsor. The canonical requirements\* of a sponsor are; they have to have completed their 16th year, be a confirmed Catholic, fully initiated in the sacraments and lead a life in harmony with the faith. If married, the marriage must be recognized by the Catholic Church. They also have to be in good standing with the Church and not be the mother or father of the catechumen. Sounds rigid and it is! But think for a moment...the sponsor is the single lay representative of the faith to the catechumen, so the Church wants to ensure the integrity of this critical link. If you are interested in helping the RCIA as a sponsor, please contact us at the number below. \*Reference Canon 874.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or joining the Catholic Church, please contact Damaritza Ortiz ([damaritza@ihmrcc.org](mailto:damaritza@ihmrcc.org)) or the parish office (numbers are in the bulletin). We are anxiously waiting to hear from you!



July 23, 2023

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 12:13, 16-19 | Rom 8:26-27 | Mt 13:24-43

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

The parables were always my favorite Gospel readings when I was growing up. One we just heard, regarding the wheat and the weeds, was particularly comforting to me as a child. It was simple to understand, I thought: Those of us in God's Church were obviously the wheat and, of course, destined for salvation. We just needed to endure living among "the weeds" while we are in this world. As an adult, however, I realize that Jesus' message is much more challenging – much more convicting regarding my own failures and sins: I could be a weed! And while I certainly don't like that thought, I also don't like considering that anyone would be thrown into the "fiery furnace." After all, we are supposed to love one another and desire that they become part of the body of Christ and have eternal life. The reality of this world, however, is that temptation and sin surround us. Fortunately, Jesus gives us himself as the Bread of Life in the Eucharist, and we have the gift of mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation. These sacraments, as well as prayer, give us the "nutrients" we need to ensure that we remain the wheat God has sown in his field, and that we can help others be that too.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

#### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

While the sacraments can fortify our faith, what about our neighbors, friends or family who are not Catholic or who have fallen away from the Church? This is where evangelization comes in – inviting someone to join you at Mass or suggesting a religious book they might enjoy reading. If you don't think such a simple act could make much difference in the life of another, take heart in the parables contained in the long form of today's Gospel. In those, Jesus reminds us that it doesn't take much to spread the Good News of the kingdom of heaven. The smallest of seeds can turn into the largest of plants and a small amount of yeast can leaven much flour. And if we have moments where we lack courage or feel in need of assistance, St. Paul reminds us that "the Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness." Never underestimate the power of the Advocate: he can help us pray, can intercede for us, and provide what we need to be good seed in the world.

**PRAY** Let us pray this week for the strength to live out our baptismal promise to reject evil, and to gain courage so as to be a witness to God, and to work toward building his kingdom on earth wherever and whenever we can.

