



What is **YOUR** soil like?



VICARIATE
 FOUR
 GROUPING
 438
 N. Oakland
 Chicora
 Carbon Center

St. Joseph Parish
 Located at 864 Chicora Rd.
 Chicora, PA 16025
 724-445-3713
 Fax: 724-607-1183
 Office Hours:
 M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish
 Located at 409 North Main St.
 Chicora, PA 16025
 724-445-3713
 Office Hours
 at St. Joe Rectory:
 M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

St. Wendelin Parish
 Located at 210 St. Wendelin Rd.
 Butler, PA 16002
 724-287-0820
www.stwendelinbutler.com
 Office Hours:
 M. W. F. - 9:00am-Noon

July 12, 2020

The Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Fr. Matt...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is a spot, right by the door to the parish office at St. Wendelin, where the roof of the church comes down and almost meets the roof of the office. It forms a little enclosed space. I think it was probably designed that way so that the priest could walk from the house into the church without getting rained on. It was probably a good idea, but it has some unintended consequences. At certain times of the year, if the wind is blowing just right, in that small space between the church and the office, all of the scent of whatever the farmers from two hills over, have put on their fields, collects. I can't really think of a word for it. Actually yes I can. It stinks!

To be honest, I don't smell it as much as I used to. I guess it is familiar after eight years! But when I first got here, I remember thinking, "Good Lord, what is that? That can't be normal? Did something die?" What I have come to know is that, this smell is actually not a smell that means death. But I've learned that smell too. No, this smell, is a sign of hope for new life, new growth. It is still a rough smell, but it means good things.

The Readings for this week have a very agricultural theme. The First Reading, the Psalm and the Gospel all talk about seeds being planted and crops being grown. We hear of God's care for what has been planted, that it is nurtured and watered. We hear that the seed that is God's Word is nurtured similarly and in the First Reading, that this seed of God's Word will produce what is expected. There is certainty in what Isaiah and the Psalmist say.

There is a little less certainty in the Gospel. Jesus speaks of God's Word being planted in four different types of ground. The success of the seed depends a lot on the type of ground in which it is planted. There is some certainty here though. What is certain is that Jesus is saying, the sower is going to sow. The seed is for sure being planted. That certainty should make us feel good. It means God is working. He is on the move. But, it also pivots some of the responsibility for what God has planted, to us. What kind of soil is your life? What kind of soil is mine? If we want God's word to take root and grow in our lives, we want our soil to be rich.

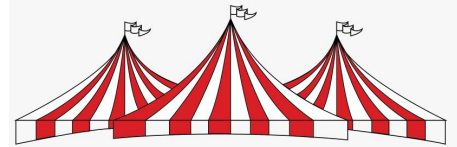
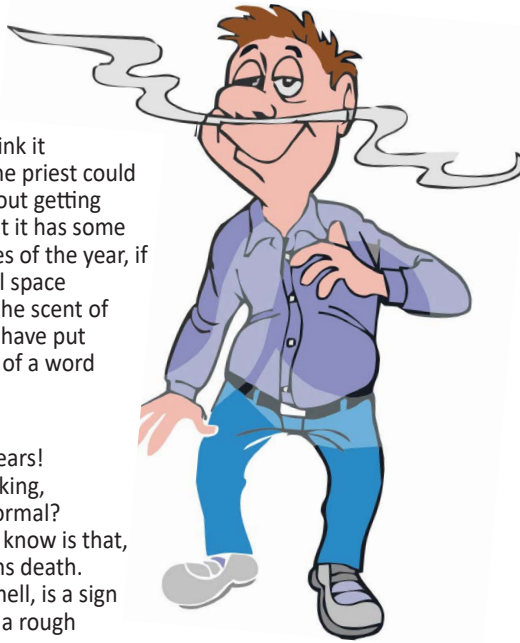
Sigh...when I think of my life, what kind of soil it is today, I just don't know. I am not sure I'd call it rich. A bunch of mistakes, bad decisions, doubts, anger, fear, unsettled. How about yours? I bet all of us could think of grudges, jealousy, things we wish we hadn't said or done. We look at our lives right now and see so much uncertainty and a lack of connection with others. We look at our world, full of division, sickness, blind hatred. For sure there is some good soil in me. For sure there is some in you. For sure there is some in the world. But there sure are a lot of bad things too. How do we get rich soil? What does rich soil even look like?

Maybe a better question is, what does rich soil smell like? I'll tell you. It smells like _____! It smells like that smell that is trapped at the front door of the office when the wind blows just right! Don't get me wrong, we all could do more things to help the soil of our lives. We could weed out the bitterness, the sin in our lives, the over indulgence in things, the harsh judgment of ourselves and others. We could let God rain down on us by spending more time in prayer. All this is good. It is necessary. But maybe what we are forgetting is that some of the bad, smelly stuff of our lives and our situation right now, could actually be just what we need.

A lot of this year has stunk. So many things that we missed. Milestones for our high school kids, like senior seasons in sports, proms and graduations, were just taken away or changed so that we couldn't celebrate like we wanted. We don't know what is coming next. It stinks! But, guess what else stinks? Rich soil!

I think the Lord this week is calling for an attitude adjustment. The Lord is asking us to embrace the stinky stuff in our life right now as a sign, not of death or ruin, like it seems, but as a sign of new life and enriching the soil. Breathe it in brothers and sisters! Smell the stink! Let it bring you hope! New life, new growth, is coming!

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



SWP "PICNIC" INFO MANY HAVE ASKED!

SWP plans to host a Dinner and Basket Auction on **Sunday, August 16**, starting at Noon. We will have a **DRIVE THRU** dinner, featuring our famous char-grilled chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, green beans, cole slaw, cucumbers, and dessert. Please note it is **DRIVE THRU only**. We will greet you at your car, share our tasty dinner, and send you on your way! Also available are tickets for a chance on our awesome raffle baskets, all hands-off: you will touch nothing but the basket you win!

**ALL OTHER PICNIC ACTIVITIES
SUSPENDED FOR THIS YEAR.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Basket Auction Donations

Please no individual items, ONLY COMPLETED BASKETS, cash, lottery tickets or gift cards. Drop at the SWP Office. Deadline is **Wednesday, July 29** - and there are NO EXCEPTIONS!

Cupcakes - Bake Away!

To keep items as hands-off as possible and the drive thru line moving, donate only cupcakes for the dinners. Drop off at SWP Hall on **Saturday, August 15** and **Sunday morning, August 16**.

Volunteers

High school age and older, call SWP Office to offer a two-hour time slot on **Sunday, August 16**, or for veggie cutting on **Saturday, August 15**, or bread cutting on **Wednesday, August 12**.

Donations

Cash donations welcome to defer the cost of the dinners. Call SWP Office.

ATTEND THE JULY 14 MEETING

In St. Wendelin Hall at 6:00pm
All workers and ideas welcome

The seed that falls on
good ground will yield
a fruitful harvest

—Lk 8:8

SAINT JOSEPH

Mater Dolorosa

Saint Wendelin

We Have A New Website

In keeping with DioPitt Communications Department, our Grouping has a new e-Catholic website. Until January, 2021, when our merger is complete, it will remain accessible through the current domain name: stwendelinbutler.com.

TECH GEEKS NEEDED!

We are looking for a few TECHIES interested in volunteering with our new Live Stream programming. All ages are welcome, but you need to be comfortable with computers, cameras, and video and audio equipment. Call Gina at the SWP Office.

2021 Lottery Calendar

As our three Parishes come closer to merger completion, we want for all businesses in our area to have the opportunity to advertise in the 2021 Lottery calendar. People will see your business ALL YEAR LONG! Contact Nicole at 724-287-0820.

Schedule for Monday, July 13-Sunday, July 19 MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES THIS SCHEDULE IS TEMPORARY.

Monday, July 13

Noon Mass at MD
For Special Intention
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Tuesday, July 14

8am Mass at SW
For Garry MacKrell
By Floyd & Dolores
Open church after Mass till 10am

Wednesday, July 15

Noon Mass at SW
For Leo Rosenbauer, Jr.
By Curt & Theresa Tosi
Open church 11am till Mass starts
6pm Confessions at MD
Open church 6pm till Mass
starts at 7pm at MD
For Pat Liberto

Thursday, July 16

8am Mass at SW
For Living & Deceased of the
Serafine & Graziolo Families
By Vic & Bev Serafine
Open church after Mass till 10am

Friday, July 17

Noon Mass at SJ
For Rose Filges
By Norma Miller
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Saturday, July 18

11am Confessions at MD and SW
and 11:45am at SJ
4pm Mass at SW
For Gladys Steighner
By John & Evie Stutz

Sunday, July 19

8am Mass at MD
For Parishioners of St. Joseph,
Mater Dolorosa & St. Wendelin
9:30am Mass at SJ
For Rodney Kriess
By Bud & Norma O'Donnell
11am Mass at SW
For Gerald Geibel
By Bob & Joyce Geibel



CONFIRMATION IS SCHEDULED! We have received word from the Bishop's Office that Parish Priests will be confirming candidates this year, which means Fr. Matt will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for our soon-to-be ninth graders. That is GREAT news! Because of group assembly restrictions, two dates are available for families: Thursdays, July 23 and July 30, both at 6:30pm, at St. Wendelin Church. These are Services, NOT a Mass. Each Service will have 18 candidates and their sponsors. Services will be live streamed. **Candidates: Remember you need to attend your assigned review session.** It's Sunday, July 19 is you're attending July 23 Service, and Sunday, July 26, if attending on July 30. Again, candidates only, no sponsors. We will meet in the Pavilion for review sessions.



Parish Offertories

July 4 & 5

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/5	\$511.00
Offertory Online	\$25.00
Total Offertory	\$536.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$75,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$536.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$430.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total PSP	\$430.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$9,829.00

**Thank you for your generosity
to Parish Ministries!**

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 7/5	\$1,296.00
Offertory Online	\$390.00
Total Offertory	\$1,686.00
Weekly Goal	\$3,400.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$175,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$1,686.00
House	\$10.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$810.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$810.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$11,835.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/4 & 5	\$1,863.00
Offertory Online	\$1,041.00
Total Offertory	\$2,904.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$300,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$2,904.00
Project Fund	\$57.00
Adopt A Child	\$67.00
Parish Share	\$151.00
Parish Online	\$180.00
Total Parish Share	\$331.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$15,449.00
Endowment Fund Y-T-D	\$530.00
Peter's Pence	\$30.00

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School
Student of the Week is:

ABIGAIL WEICHEY

Abigail is looking forward to starting Second grade in the Fall at St. Wendelin School! Her favorite subject is Math, because she likes to learn about numbers. Abi is a member of the St. Wendelin School Outdoor Club and chorus. Outside of school, she enjoys sled riding, skiing, and riding her bike. Abi participates in dance, Girl Scouts, cheerleading, and pageants. Abi has a great personality and always has a smile on her face. Congratulations to this week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week, ABIGAIL WEICHEY

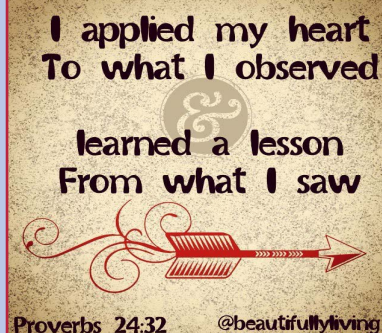
Catholic Identity Program

This program highlights a variety of virtues and values through short lessons, prayers, Scripture references, and more.

This Week's Virtue is:

REFLECTION

Reflection is the capacity to contemplate the experiences of life and, through the cultivation of spiritual practices, to discern God's will for us.



Reflection from Proverbs 24:23-32

- 23 These also are Words of the Wise:
To show partiality in judgment is not good.
- 24 Whoever says to the guilty party, "You are innocent," will be cursed by nations, scorned by peoples;
- 25 But those who render just verdicts will fare well, and on them will come the blessing of prosperity.
- 26 An honest reply—
a kiss on the lips.[i]
- 27 Complete your outdoor tasks,
and arrange your work in the field;
afterward you can build your house.[j]
- 28 Do not testify falsely against your neighbor
and so deceive with your lips.
- 29 Do not say, "As they did to me, so will I do to them;
I will repay them according to their deeds." [k]
- 30 I passed by the field of a sluggard,
by the vineyard of one with no sense;
- 31 It was all overgrown with thistles;
its surface was covered with nettles,
and its stone wall broken down.
- 32 As I gazed at it, I reflected;
I saw and learned a lesson:
- 33 A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the arms to rest—
- 34 Then poverty will come upon you like a robber,
and want like a brigand.

St. Wendelin School Notes

HELP WANTED - The school is looking for a full-time custodian. For details, contact Principal JoLynn Clouse at 724-285-4986 or stwend@zoominternet.net. Safe environment clearances are required prior to commencement of employment.

FALL REGISTRATION - Registration is open for Grades PreK-Eighth for the 2020-21 School Year. Contact the school for information: 724-285-4986 or stwend@zoominternet.net. You can download registration forms at <https://www.stwendelinschool.com/> and click the drop-down menu under Admissions.



**JULY 13
THRU
JULY 19**

MONDAY:

Is 1:10-17; Ps 50:8-9, 16BC-17, 21, 23;
MT 10:34 - 11:1

TUESDAY:

Is 7:1-9; Ps 48:2-8; MT 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY:

Is 10:5-7, 13B-16; Ps 94:5-10, 14-15;
MT 11:25-27

THURSDAY:

Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19;
Ps 102:13-14AB, 15-21; MT 11:28-30

FRIDAY:

Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8;
Is 38:10-12ABCD, 16;
MT 12:1-8

SATURDAY:

MT 2:1-5; Ps 10:1-4, 7-8, 14;
MT 12:14-21

SUNDAY:

Wis 12:13, 16-19;
Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16;
Rom 8:26-27; MT 13:24-43 [24-30]