



SAINT
JOSEPH



Mater
Dolorosa



Saint
Wendelin

Roman Catholic Parishes of Northeastern Butler County

DISCERNING WHEAT & WEEDS



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 by PHONE only:

M. T. Th. - 9:30am-Noon

Mater Dolorosa Parish

Located at 409 North Main St.

Chicora, PA 16025

724-445-3713

Office Hours by PHONE only

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 19, 2020

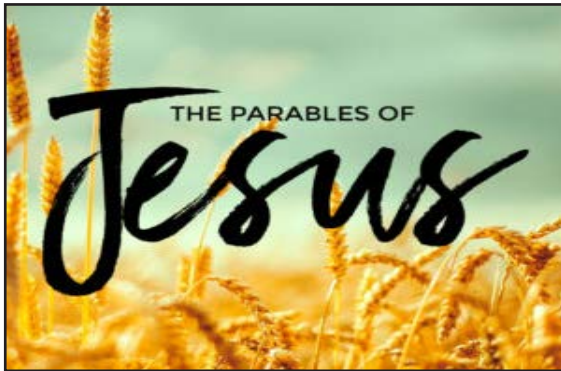
The Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Message from Fr. Matt...

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week the theme of planting and growing continues. Jesus speaks of the growth of the Kingdom of God in three parables. Each one is remarkable and shows that the way God works is sometimes surprising and, many times, not the way we think God should work.

The Kingdom of God grows like yeast in dough. When I hear this I think of the moment during the Liturgy of the Eucharist when the priest calls down the Holy Spirit to come upon the gifts of bread and wine like the dew fall. It is invisible. It is quiet. Sometimes we don't even see it coming or happening but all of the sudden it is gently there. Like yeast silently raises the dough, the Kingdom of God, grows silently within us. It's growth is many times hidden, until all of a sudden, we see the risen dough.



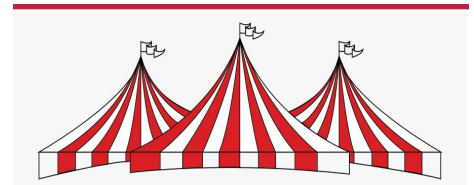
The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. Just as it is surprising that this smallest of seeds produces the largest of plants, the Kingdom of God will grow unexpectedly. Scott Hahn says of the growth of the Kingdom of God, "it is improbable," yet it happens. In ways and through events good and bad that we do not expect, the Kingdom of God grows.

The Kingdom of God grows like wheat planted with weeds. It is confusing to us that sometimes God allows the good and evil to coexist. Those who don't believe in God think this is a reason to doubt. You have heard people say it, maybe even have said it yourself, "Why would God let this bad thing happen?" But Jesus shows us the long vision that God has for growth of the Kingdom. Sometimes God allows the evil to exist because tearing it out too early might destroy what is good. In the Parable, Jesus says allow the weeds and the wheat to grow together for a time. When the time is right, they will be separated. In the end, what is evil will be burned. What is good will be saved. Jesus says that the growth of the Kingdom of God works in this challenging, somewhat confusing, trust-necessitating way.

What is bedrock and key to understanding all three of these Parables is believing that God is good, God is on your side, and God is always doing what is good for the growth of the Kingdom. The other Readings today back up this statement. The First Reading speaks of God's patience and leniency toward us. God's goal isn't just to be right, it is to save us, so God is patient and forgiving, hoping to bring us to repentance. The Psalm says that God is good and forgiving. The Second Reading speaks of God coming "to aid of our weakness." God wants what is best for us and so God brings us to a place where we can freely choose to be a part of the Kingdom.

So today brothers and sisters, God is telling us to keep our chins up and our eyes open. Don't be discouraged when things aren't making sense or seem to be going the wrong way. God is on the move. Evil will not triumph in the end. Have faith. Trust in God. The Kingdom of God grows in hidden, unexpected and sometimes confusing ways. Do not be afraid. Do not lose heart. Be patient. God is on the move for you, for us.

Peace and Love,
Fr. Matt



SWP "PICNIC" INFO

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. Also available are tickets for a chance on our awesome raffle baskets, all hands-off.

**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.



JULY 20-26

MONDAY:

Mt 6:1-4, 6-8; Ps 50:5-6, 8-9, 16BC-17, 21, 23; Mt 12:38-42

TUESDAY:

Mt 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 85:2-8; Mt 12:46-50

WEDNESDAY:

SG 3:1-4B OR 2 COR 5:14-17;
Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

THURSDAY:

JER 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13; Ps 36:6-7AB, 8-11; Mt 13:10-17

FRIDAY:

JER 3:14-17; JER 31:10-12ABCD, 13; Mt 13:18-23

SATURDAY:

2 COR 4:7-15; Ps 126:1BC-6; Mt 20:20-28

SUNDAY:

1 KGS 3:5, 7-12; Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130; ROM 8:28-30; Mt 13:44-52 [44-46]



SO MUCH TO CELEBRATE! Last week, St. Wendelin hosted three First Communion Masses and a Baccalaureate Mass for recent high school graduates. Top left is the group from St. Wendelin School; top right is the group from Butler Catholic School; bottom left is the group from the Faith Formation Program; and bottom right are the high schoolers who celebrated graduation this year and are heading to colleges and jobs and apprenticeships. ***CONGRATS TO ALL!***

Schedule for Monday, July 20-Sunday, July 26 ~ MASSES, CONFESSIONS, OPEN CHURCHES

Monday, July 20

Noon Mass at MD
For Bernard "Bean" Callihan
By Mike (Burger) & Donna
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Tuesday, July 21

8am Mass at SW
For Frances Weiland
By Bill & Sally Gahagan
Open church after Mass till 10am

Wednesday, July 22

Noon Mass at SW
For Rose Marie Snyder
By Joan Hartzel
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Wednesday, July 22 *continued*

6pm Confessions at MD
Open church 6pm till Mass
starts at 7pm at MD
For Fr. William Ritzert
By Bill & Rosemary McGrady

Thursday, July 23

8am Mass at SW
For Paul Miller
By Rob & Grace Weiland
Open church after Mass till 10am

Friday, July 24

Noon Mass at SJ
For Jeremy Miller
By Family
Open church 11am till Mass starts

Saturday, July 25

11am Confessions at MD and SW and
11:45am at SJ
4pm Mass at SW
For Tomasovic Family & Neff Family

Sunday, July 26

8am Mass at MD
For Tom Sherwin
By Anna Marie Sherwin
9:30am Mass at SJ
For Doris Stephenson
By Dick & Shirley Graham
11am Mass at SW
For Anna Daugherty
By Family

Grouping Information

This week's St. Wendelin School

Student of the Week is:

LILLY BAUER

Lilly will soon be in the Second Grade at St. Wendelin School. She has an older brother, Damian. Lilly's favorite subject is Math, because she likes working with numbers.

Lilly has earned awards for Math and straight A's. Outside of school, she likes to color, play games, and play in her room. She also enjoys playing basketball at recess. Lilly has a great sense of humor and enjoys being with her friends.

Congratulations to this week's St. Wendelin School Student of the Week, LILLY BAUER!

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:
CARE OF CREATION

Care of Creation calls us to be stewards of creation, to care for and protect our environment for generations, and to show respect for God the Creator.



Caring for God's Creation

Care for God's Creation is one of the seven principles of Catholic social teaching, as outlined by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, or USCCB. We believe that God created the world and all living things. Creation reflects God's glory: "Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made." (Romans 1:20) We honor God by taking care of what he has created and being good stewards of the earth. By caring for creation, we also help protect people and the planet. Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. We are motivated by the example of Jesus Christ to assist poor and suffering people in more than 100 countries on the basis of need, without regard to race, religion or nationality. Founded in 1943, CRS reaches 85 million of the world's poorest people each year with innovative solutions to poverty, hunger, drought, disease and emergencies. CRS works in close partnership with the Catholic Church around the world, and with local, national and international organizations that share our commitment to finding ways to meet immediate needs while empowering communities for the long term.



Parish Offertories

July 11 & 12

ST. JOSEPH PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/12	\$491.00
Offertory Online	\$25.00
Total Offertory	\$516.00
Weekly Goal	\$1,500.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$75,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$1,137.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$29.00
PSP Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$29.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$6,289.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$10,278.00

Thank you for your generosity to Parish Ministries!

MATER DOLOROSA

Offertory at Mass 7/12	\$1,080.00
Offertory Online	\$295.00
Total Offertory	\$1,375.00
Weekly Goal	\$3,400.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$175,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$3,071.00
House	\$500.00
Parish Share: Monthly Envelope on Appeal	\$340.00
PSP Online	\$15.00
Total Parish Share	\$355.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$20,985.00
Total Received 2020/21	\$12,190.00
Ascension	\$10.00
Peter's Pence	\$20.00

ST. WENDELIN PARISH

Offertory at Mass 7/11 & 12	\$2,607.00
Offertory Online	\$596.00
Total Offertory	\$3,203.00
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00
Fiscal Year Goal	\$300,000.00
Total Toward Fiscal Year Goal	\$10,975.00
Project Fund	\$45.00
Project Fund Online	\$5.00
Adopt A Child	\$55.00
Adopt A Child Online	\$30.00
Parish Share	\$955.00
Parish Online	\$00.00
Total Parish Share	\$955.00
2020 Parish Share Goal	\$47,710.00
Total PSP Received 2020/21	\$16,404.00