

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 16, 2023

*“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

— *Matthew 11:28*

### GOD’S WORDS

Each day we are bombarded with thousands of words. From the moment our clock radios click on in the morning, until the last moment of the day when the television is turned off or someone bids us “good-night,” our life is filled with words. Some words that we hear bring news that leaves us feeling low. Some words lift our spirits. Many of the words we hear are trying to get us to buy something. Some words are hurtful. Today the Church focuses our attention on hearing the word of God. Are God’s words just more of the same—part of the endless stream of words that flow into our ears each day? The challenge today is to allow God’s word to inspire us in new ways so that our outlook and attitudes align themselves more closely with the heart and mind of Christ Jesus.

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### TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — My word will achieve the end for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:10-11).

**Psalms** — The seed that falls on good ground will yield a fruitful harvest (Psalm 65).

**Second Reading** — We, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves awaiting the redemption of our bodies (Romans 8:18-23).

**Gospel** — Some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit (Matthew 13:1-23 [1-9]).

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Tuesday:** St. Camillus de Lellis

**Wednesday:** St. Apollinaris

**Friday:** St. Lawrence of Brindisi

**Saturday:** St. Mary Magdalene

### ~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

#### DRIVER’S PRAYER

*Gracious God, You led Abraham and Sara from their home and guarded them in all of their travels. You guided them safely to the destination You had chosen for them. Be with us now as we travel and guard us every mile of our journey. Help us to be attentive, cautious and concerned about our fellow travelers. Make our highways safe and keep us from all danger. Sacred Heart of Jesus, guide us to our destination and help us to be prayerful careful drivers. Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. Amen.*

### REFLECTION

The seed is a wonderful symbol of the kingdom—small, hard, attractive to the senses. Yet within it lies the promise of life, of growth, of harvest. But for all its promise, it remains only a seed, unless it surrenders itself to an environment that can realize its potential. When that happens, the seed grows gently, quietly; there is no instant produce. There is a good parable for Ordinary Time when the festal seasons are behind and before us, and we are in the weeks of patient planting and slow germination, of cultivating and fertilizing the word of God in the soil of our daily lives, persevering in the hope of the coming kingdom.

This parable can help us review how well we live our discipleship. At different times, even in the same day, and individually and communally, we can be the people who receive the Word on the edge of the path, those who skirt the real issues, disciples of surface commitment and no depth. Or our lives can be rocky soil, enthusiasts of the moment who soon lose interest. Again, we may offer a patchy, thorn-infested welcome to the seed of the Word, and the potential for its growth is endangered but our entanglement with self-seeking concerns or apathy, and so the seed does not come to maturity and bear fruit. Then there are the times when we are “good soil” for the seed, when we welcome, obey, and witness to the Word, and God enables us to bear a fruitful harvest for the kingdom.

### JOKE OF THE WEEK

Jim lost 50 pounds though the efforts of his wife controlling his food habits. Now she has got a job in a restaurant. When she returned after her first day of work, she gave her husband a big hug. He seemed to cling to her longer than usual.

“Did you really miss me that much today, dear?” she asked.

“No,” came the reply, “but you smell so much like pancakes that I hate to let you go.”

### DO YOU KNOW?

**PEOPLE WHO REGULARLY HELP OTHERS  
TEND TO BE SIGNIFICANTLY HAPPIER  
AND LESS LIKELY TO BECOME  
DEPRESSED AS THEY GET OLDER.**

### OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,289.00	\$1,115.00
Number of Families contributing	65	48
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (25 Weeks)	\$86,593.00	\$87,832.00
Received to Date	\$71,337.00	\$57,561.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$15,256.00	\$30,271.00

### LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$114.00	\$5,120.00

Fifteen ladies contributed last week.

### PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$80.00	\$49,095.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

### BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$71,565.00

### CATHOLIC APPEAL OF SOUTH CAROLINA (BAA)

Amount given to date	2023 GOAL
\$4,536.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

3 CHILDREN contributed \$12.00.

### FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. The Daughter and Family of Jimmy Whip Jones on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his death;
2. a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

THANK YOU to a parish member for a donation in thanks to St. Anthony.

### FARMWORKER MINISTRY CLOTHING DRIVE

The Diocese of Charleston is collecting baseball caps and long-sleeved T-shirts of all sizes for migrant/seasonal farm workers. All parishes are asked to help assist men and women migrant farm workers who travel to our state annually for agriculture work. There will be a box in the Church where you can donate these items. When the box is full a Farm Worker coordinator will pick it up.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Infirm Priests*. Please be generous.

**DON'T PASS ME BY**  
*Don't pass me by Jesus,  
My soul must not be lost.  
My heart must be unfettered,  
No spirit tempest tossed.  
Stay at my side, my Jesus,  
Please guide me on my way.  
Through the narrow passage  
Protect me from the fray.*

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Monday:** *Funeral.*

**Tuesday:** For John Damon on his 17<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

**Wednesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus of Prague and St. Joseph for all the sick and for all the holy souls in purgatory; for Thoms Miller on his Birthday; for Pat Gorman on his Birthday; for Jimmy Gorman; and for the repose of the soul of Jimmy Whip Jones on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of his death.

**Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of T.K. on his Birthday.

**Friday:** In honor of the Holy Souls and Precious Blood.

### READERS

**Sat. July 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**

Paris &  
Mary Martha

**Sun. July 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Jimmy Joseph &  
Lauren Ashley

**Sat. July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 4:00 P.M.**

Julie Ann &  
Mary Duggan

**Sun. July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00 A.M.**

Jimmy Joseph &  
Lauren Ashley

### READERS – WEEKDAYS

**Monday** - Christina  
**Tuesday** - Macy  
**Wednesday** - Monroe  
**Thursday** - Julie Ann  
**Friday** - Paris

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAYS

**Monday** - Theresa Hun  
**Tuesday** - Jack's Mary Rita  
**Wednesday** - Julie Ann  
**Thursday** - Cathy Carroll  
**Friday** - Rosie Cat

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

**Saturday 4:00 P.M.**

**Right**  
**Left**

**July 15<sup>th</sup>**

Jack's Mary Rita  
Cathy Carroll

**Sunday 10:00 A.M**

**July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Ned's Rose Marie

**July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Ned's Rose Marie