

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 30, 2023

“All things work for good for those who love God.”

— *Romans 8:28a*

A SHARE IN GOD’S KINGDOM

Today concludes a three-week series of Gospel texts in which we have listened to a total of seven parables about the Kingdom. The believer is asked to consider the request that God made of Solomon in today’s first reading: “Ask something of me and I will give it to you” (1 Kings 3:5). Today’s parables about the treasure buried in the field and the pearl of great price should prompt us to answer, “A share in your kingdom, O God!” Today we discover that the kingdom of God is beyond value, a priceless treasure. Unfortunately, our culture bombards us with things that it believes are priceless treasures—the bigger and better SUVs, anti-aging and anti-balding creams and salves, miracle diets, and so much more. Having a share in God’s kingdom and helping to bring about that kingdom are the greatest treasures that we can ever hope to gain.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Solomon prays for an understanding heart (1 Kings 3:5, 7-12).

Psalm — Lord, I love your commands (Psalm 119).

Second Reading — All things work for good for those who love God (Romans 8:28-30).

Gospel — The one who knows of the kingdom of heaven brings new and old from the storeroom (Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: St. Ignatius of Loyola

Tuesday: St. Alphonsus Liguori

Wednesday: St Eusebius of Vercelli;

St. Peter Julian Eymard

Friday: St. John Vianney; First Friday

Saturday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; First Saturday

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~ GRANT US JESUS

Lord Jesus, grant this day, to direct and sanctify, to rule and govern our hearts and bodies, so that all our thoughts, words and deeds may be according to your Father’s law and thus may we be saved and protected through your mighty help. Amen.

REFLECTION

Using three mini parables Jesus teaches us that God’s Kingdom is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl or a net thrown into the sea. Possessing that treasure demands from us a total commitment if we are to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God’s reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God’s Kingdom will be rewarded. Through the first and second parables of the treasure and the pearl, Jesus teaches us that identifying God’s will and live according to the Gospel are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. Through Jesus and his Gospel, we come to know and understand the real meaning of life, the will of God for us each day, and the most important things we must do to secure our eternal salvation.

We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, social status, or worldly pleasures. Thus, the really valuable “pearl” of sharing in God’s life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven, is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world’s joys and pleasures within the framework of God’s Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. St. Paul says, “I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ” (Phil. 3:8) St. Augustine writes in his Confessions, “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”

ALL ARE FREE

The richest wealth is WISDOM.

The strongest weapon is PATIENCE.

The best security is FAITH.

The greatest tonic is LAUGHTER.

Surprisingly, ALL ARE FREE.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$2,604.00	\$2,008.00
Number of Families contributing	66	52
Total Pledge for 2023	\$160,375.00	\$163,292.00
Pledged to Date (27 Weeks)	\$92,695.00	\$94,020.00
Received to Date	\$75,899.00	\$61,410.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$16,796.00	\$32,610.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$269.00	\$5,497.00

Twenty-one ladies contributed last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2023
\$110.00	\$49,265.00

Five 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
\$4,746.00	\$19,882.00

POOR BOX totaled \$73.00.

3 CHILDREN contributed \$26.00.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Mary O'Hara in loving memory of Johnny Howard on his Birthday;
2. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

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

FIRST SATURDAY MASS Beginning in August we shall have Mass at 10:00 A.M. on the first Saturday of each month.

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.

ASKED BUT.....

**I asked for Strength,
And God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for Wisdom,
And God gave me problems to solve.
I asked for Prosperity,
And God gave me a brain and energy to work.
I asked for Love,
And God gave me troubled people to help.
I received NOTHING I wanted,
But I received EVERYTHING I needed.**

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For a special intention.
Tuesday: For the repose of the soul of Raid on his Birthday; for Jimmy Gorman; and for Buck's Jay on his 83rd 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 Tommy Duggan on his Birthday; for the repose of the souls of Maul's Jim and Bridget Ann; for the repose of the soul of Barbara Jean Carroll on the 5th Anniversary of her death; for the repose of the soul of Pete Jason on his Birthday; for the repose of the soul of Johnny Weaver; and for the repose of the soul of Big Jimmy's Bridget Ann on the 27th Anniversary of her death.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of Petie Cat Gorman on his Birthday.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Eddie Carroll on his Birthday.

READERS

Sat. July 29th, 4:00 P.M. Christina & Macy
Sun. July 30th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Lauren Ashley

Sat. Aug. 5th, 4:00 P.M. Julie Ann & Natalie
Sun. Aug. 6th, 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 Jack's Mary Rita
Left Cathy Carroll

Sunday 10:00 A.M
July 30th Ned's Rose Marie
August 6th Ned's Rose Marie