



SAINT

Clare

PARISH COMMUNITY

Santa Clara, California

**Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

July 30, 2023

**Decimoséptimo Domingo
del Tiempo Ordinario**



**“THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A TREASURE
BURIED IN A FIELD.” —MT 13:44**

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**“EL REINO DE LOS CIELOS SE PARECE A UN TESORO
ESCONDIDO EN UN CAMPO”. —MT 13, 44**

17^º DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

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PARISH COMMUNITY

Parish Mission Statement

*Founded in 1777,
Saint Clare Parish is
an ethnically diverse
Catholic community
of faith, united in
worship, discipleship
and service.
In welcoming
immigrants,
newcomers and
strangers, we strive to
live the virtues of
justice and love, so as
to be the face of
Christ in the world,
becoming in Him a
sign of unity and an
instrument of God's
peace.*

From Monsignor Fran Cilia

In today's gospel reading, Jesus presents the Reign of God in terms of a treasure buried in a field and a pearl of great price. People are willing to sell everything to possess the treasure and the pearl.

As in recent previous weekends, Jesus was not teaching about searching and finding things that are of monetary value any more than He was teaching farmers how to plant their crops or to pull weeds. He was using images familiar to his hearers; in so many ways these images continue to resonate with us 2000 years later.

In another place (Matthew 6:21), Jesus taught that "wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be." It is for us to discern what is so important in our lives that we would be willing to do anything to pursue it, no matter the cost. Perhaps, the way to God's Reign is to discover for ourselves what things are most important in our lives, for which we would be willing to give up everything else.

So a question for each of us is this: "Where is your heart on this last weekend of July?"

Prayers for World Youth Day Pilgrims



Our young pilgrim parishioners will be flying to Lisbon, Portugal, on Monday, arriving on Tuesday morning for a week full of activities. Please keep our Youth Minister, Ryan Bao, and all of them in your prayers, which will be very much appreciated.

Welcome, Father Roy Palatty for our Mission Co-Operative Plan 2023

Next weekend, Father Roy Palatty, CMI, will share with the parish information about the work of Shalom Media (<https://www.shalommedia.org>). We hope to have information on the parish website to complement Father's presentation of the Masses.

The Mission Co-Operative Plan is a way for every parish in the Diocese to take part in prayer and financial support in the far-flung mission activities of the universal Church. In a way, each of us is called to share the work of missionaries and so become one at least for a short time. The second collection next weekend will benefit Shalom Media's work and, at the same time, help to support our diocesan office of the Propagation of the Faith.

Saint Thérèse Lisieux, "The Little Flower" (1873-1897), is Patroness of the Missions, though in her short life she never traveled to mission lands. In the same way, we can be missionaries even if we do so from the comfort of Santa Clara and San José.

Looking Ahead...

On the weekend of August 12-13, we will have our parish celebration of our Patroness, **Saint Clare of Assisi**, marking 770 years since her death on August 11, 1253. We hope that your schedule allows you to be with us for Mass that weekend.

On Sunday, August 13, our Portuguese Community will celebrate the Festa of the Brotherhood of Saint Anthony. This is one of those five times each year that the Portuguese Mass will be at 10:30 in the church.

On that day, **our 10:30 English Mass will be in the Tent**, also at 10:30. Please plan accordingly and join us for our Saint Clare Feast day at that and the other Masses that weekend.

Creation Care Tips



What policies does your local government have in place to reduce plastic use? Consider writing a letter or email, or speaking at a city council meeting to encourage passing policies limiting plastic waste such as plastic straws. See <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/get-involved/what-you-can-do/category/local-government/> for more ideas.

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Weekly Justice Challenge

Family reunions happen a lot during the summer months. You may have seen signs or notices in parks where families have reserved space to come together to catch up on news, share family stories and food and to celebrate their heritage. When we take time to nurture relationships and to support and celebrate our families, it is a blessing. Our families are the first places we learn about faith and what it means to be a part of God's family. There are some things we know about being a part of God's family: we must feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to those who thirst and visit those in prison. Our families help us do this good work. How has your family been a witness to you of being Christ in the world?



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“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind.”

- Mt 13:47

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Father Martin Ezeador
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Mass Schedule

Weekend Masses

Saturday Evening Vigil

(Livestreamed)

5:00 p.m. (English)

Sunday

7:30 a.m. (English)

9:00 a.m. (Portuguesa)

10:30 a.m. (English)

12:00 p.m. (Español)

Livestreamed

Liturgy of the Word for Children

During 10:30 a.m. Mass
(English)

Liturgia de la Palabra para Niños

Durante Misa de
12:00pm (Español)

Weekday Masses

Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Holidays - 9:00 am

Confessions

Saturdays 3:00 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.

(In the church)

Office Hours

9am - 5pm

Monday - Friday

Address:

725 Washington Street
Santa Clara, CA 95050
www.stclareparish.org

E-mail:

stclareparish@dsj.org

Emergencies

(for the sick and dying):

408-248-7786

Follow the prompt,
then press 9

Youth Ministry

Please pray for our 6 young people who are heading to Lisbon to celebrate our Catholicism with hundreds of thousands of other young people and the pope!

Our pilgrims are: **Estefani, Beatris, Justin, Ryan, Esmeralda, & Marco**

If you would like to support us, you can use the QR code!



We are in the works of creating a youth space in the church basement. The vision is to give young people a space to hang out, do their homework, and host youth meetings. If you have any furniture that you are willing to donate to this project, please contact Ryan (ryan.bao@dsj.org). We are looking for couches, lounge chairs, rugs, bookcases, and anything else you think would go well in a youth space!



Saint Clare School

Now Enrolling TK-8th Grade for 2023-2024

Saint Clare School prepares students to become ethical and moral servant leaders. Visit <https://www.stclare.school/admissions-2> to learn more.

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Call Cherell Rizzo, Recruitment, Retention, and Marketing Manager: 408-246-6797 or email cherell.rizzo@dsj.org | ENROLLING TK-8TH GRADE: Schedule a tour: <https://www.stclare.school/schedule-a-tour>

Mrs. Catherine Kogura, Principal
catherine.kogura@dsj.org | 408-246-6797 | www.stclare.school

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE WWW.MYTADS.COM

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FORMING STUDENTS WITH HABITS OF THE MIND, HEART, AND SPIRIT

CONTACT US:
408-246-6797

Mass Intentions
July 29– August 5, 2023



PARISH COMMUNITY



Daily Readings

Monday:

Exodus 32:15-24, 30-34
 Psalms 106:19-20, 21-22, 23
 Matthews 13:31-35

Tuesday:

Exodus 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28
 Psalms 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13
 Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday:

Exodus 34:29-35
 Psalms 99:5, 6, 7, 9
 Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday:

Exodus Ex 40:16-21, 34-38
 Psalms 84:3, 4, 5-6a & 8a, 11
 Matthew 13:47-53

Friday:

Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,34b-37
 Psalms 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab
 Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday:

Leviticus 25:1, 8-17
 Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 7-8
 Matthew 14:1-12

Sunday:

Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14
 Psalms 97:1-2, 5-6, 9
 2 Peter 1:16-19
 Matthew 17:1-9

Saturday	5:00 pm	Saint Clare Parishioners
Sunday	7:30 am	Paulita C. Enrile - Health
	9:00 am	Ernesto Gonsalves † Manuel & Cristina Jeronimo † Dora de Oliveira † Maria Mello † Mrs. Edward Gillick † Jose Manuel Correia † Vidalia Gaspar Rocha † Luiz F. & Maria Alice Madruga † Jose & Lilia Almeida † Lavia Freitas - Hogan
	10:30 am	Marie Dunn
	12:00 pm	Alicia Suárez - Health Ida López - Health Apolinar Perez Gutierrez †
Monday	8:00 am	The Bautista Family
Tuesday	8:00 am	Zenaida Arce Bantolo †
Wednesday	8:00 am	John Burgoon †
Thursday	8:00 am	The Rose Family
Friday	8:00 am	Santa Clara Carmelite Nuns
Saturday	8:00 am	Agnes Toribio - 77th Birthday



Parish Organizations
Organizaciones Parroquiales

Parish Pastoral Council

Parish Finance Council

Jerome Alabado
Jerome.alabado@gmail.com

Social Justice Committee

Anne McMahon
mcmahonam@sbcglobal.net

Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Mick Gonzales
(408) 645-0506

Hispanic Council

Elania Tablada
(408) 482-8234

Portuguese Council

Claudia Madruga
cmadruga38@yahoo.com
(408) 568-3115

Eduina Faria
(650) 420-9908

**San José Chinese
Catholic Mission**

Mandarin Community
Father Alberto Olivera, Pastor
aolivera@dsj.org

Cantonese Community

Andrew Lin
linlin2002@gmail.com

Serra Club of Santa Clara

Cathleen Lencioni
(408) 248-6728

Young Ladies Institute (YLI)

Dolores Wriglesworth
doloreswrigs@yahoo.com

Knights of Columbus

Tony Colombo
a_colombo1726@comcast.net

Boletim Paroquial Português
30 de Julho de 2023; Domingo XVII do Tempo Comum – A
Reflexão por João Pereira Arruda

O rei Salomão que a Primeira Leitura, tirada do Livro dos Reis, dá-nos uma imagem de como falar com Deus. Ilustra-nos como o poder que a oração tem perante Deus é eficaz e agrada a Deus porque o objectivo da oração não ajuda o orante mas vai cumprir-se no ajudar os outros filhos de Deus.. Fazer-se ouvir perante Deus e ser atendido é a grande aspiração do homem que reza. Porém a oração, sem deixar de ser pedido, é essencialmente acção de graças. E na justa medida em que é pedido, é compromisso: Comprometemos a repartir o pão; a perdoar as ofensas de que por acaso somos vítimas, a respeitar a dignidade humana. Contribuímos assim para a realização do nosso desejo que no fundo é a vontade do próprio Deus. Salomão sendo jovem sentiu o peso da responsabilidade de governar o seu povo. O seu pedido a Deus foi de ter sabedoria para saber governar o seu povo com justiça e equidade. Deus quer os seus filhos todos serem governados com justiça e equidade e deste modo Salomão estava a se oferecer a Deus para ser parte do plano amoroso de Deus para o seu povo.

Do Evangelho de hoje pode Jesus diz-nos que: Aquele que semeia a boa semente é o filho do homem e o campo é o mundo. A boa semente são os filhos do reino e o joio são os filhos do maligno e o inimigo que semeou é o demónio. A ceifa é o fim do mundo e os ceifeiros são os anjos. Como o joio é apanhado e queimado no fogo. Assim será no fim do mundo O Filho do homem enviará os seus Anjos que tirarão do seu reino todos os escandalosos e todos que praticam a iniquidade e Não-de lançar-los na fornalha ardente, aí haverá choro e ranger de dentes/ Então os justos brilharão como o sol no reino de seu Pai, Continuamos no contacto com as arábolas do Reino”. O Evangelho deste Domingo apresenta-nos mais um bloco de três imagens ou comparações (parábolas) que pretendem revelar aos discípulos e às multidões que rodeavam Jesus a realidade do Reino. Das três parábolas que nos são hoje apresentadas; duas são o do grão da mostarda e o fermento procedem da tradição sinóptica, a outra parábola a do trigo e do joio aparecem numa antiga compilação de ditos de Jesus, conhecido como Evangelho de Tomé. Percebe-se nas parábolas a preocupação pastoral de Mateus, ele não “é um jornalista a transcrever o que disse Jesus, mas é um pastor que procura exortar, animar, ensinar e fortalecer a fé dessa comunidade cristã a que o Evangelho se dirige.

Enquanto que a linguagem usada nas parábolas são com termos e objectos muito comuns e de uso para as civilizações do tempo que Jesus veio ao mundo, se fosse hoje quais os termos, os objectos que Jesus usaria para que aqui e agora as populações deste mundo compreendessem o Plano de Salvação que Deus tem para o seu povo? Se cada um de nós se propusesse a concentrar-se dos objectos que se rodeia, dos meios habituais em que vive, dos programas de vida a que mais tempo lhe tiram de se aproximar de Deus pela oração? Será que compreenderia-mos melhor o Reino de Deus?

Sermos Comunidade – Família.: A Missa Portuguesa a que estamos acostumados a celebrar vem desde Abril de 1973. Iniciada , pelo então padre Gilberto Avelar SJ, venceu vários obstáculos que bloqueavam o nosso querer de ter uma missa em português e para isso ter um sacerdote que pastoreasse a comunidade a crescer em espiritualidade. Isso aconteceu a partir de Setembro de 1975 com a vinda do padre José Ribeiro SJ. O crescimento aconteceu depois daí e hoje somos uma comunidade madura que através destes cinquenta anos tem conrespondido aos desafios que se nos apresenta. Uma das características positivas da nossa comunidade é que somos “teimosos” no nosso querer de continuar vivos e activos na vida desta paróquia de Saint Clare’s. Outra característica é que compreendemos que necessitamos de apoiar o Conselho Paroquial Português. Com o regresso do padre Francisco a Portugal; mais do que nunca precisamos de avivar adentro do possível essas duas características. Precisamos vir ao altar da comunhão que nos une como Comunidade – Família, temos necessidade de vir escutar a Palavra de Deus que alimenta as nossas almas.

Um Santo e Alegre Domingo para todos!!!

De Monseñor Fran Cilia

En la lectura del evangelio de hoy, Jesús presenta el Reino de Dios en términos de un tesoro enterrado en un campo y una perla de gran precio. La gente está dispuesta a venderlo todo para poseer el tesoro y la perla.

Como en los últimos fines de semana anteriores, Jesús no estaba enseñando acerca de buscar y encontrar cosas que tienen valor monetario más de lo que estaba enseñando a los agricultores cómo sembrar sus cultivos o arrancar las malas hierbas. Estaba usando imágenes familiares para sus oyentes; de muchas maneras, estas imágenes continúan resonando con nosotros 2000 años después.

En otro lugar (Mateo 6:21), Jesús enseñó que “donde esté tu tesoro, allí estará también tu corazón.”. Depende de nosotros discernir qué es tan importante en nuestras vidas que estaríamos dispuestos a hacer cualquier cosa para lograrlo, sin importar el costo. Quizás, el camino hacia el Reino de Dios sea descubrir por nosotros mismos qué cosas son las más importantes en nuestra vida, por las cuales estaríamos dispuestos a renunciar a todo lo demás.

Así que una pregunta para cada uno de nosotros es esta: “¿Dónde está tu corazón en este último fin de semana de julio?”

Oraciones por los Peregrinos de la Jornada Mundial de la Juventud



Nuestros jóvenes feligreses peregrinos volarán a Lisboa, Portugal, el lunes, y llegarán el martes por la mañana para una semana llena de actividades. Mantenga a nuestro Ministro de la Juventud, Ryan Bao, ya todos ellos en sus oraciones, las cuales serán muy apreciadas.

Bienvenido, Padre Roy Palatty para nuestra Misión Plan Cooperativo 2023

El próximo fin de semana, el padre Roy Palatty, CMI, compartirá con la parroquia información sobre el trabajo de Shalom Media (<https://www.shalommedia.org>). Esperamos tener información en el sitio web de la parroquia para complementar la presentación de las Misas del Padre.

El Plan Cooperativo de la Misión es una manera para que todas las parroquias de la Diócesis participen en la oración y el apoyo financiero en las actividades misioneras de la Iglesia universal. De alguna manera, cada uno de nosotros está llamado a compartir el trabajo de los misioneros y así llegar a ser uno al menos por un corto tiempo. La segunda colecta el próximo fin de semana beneficiará el trabajo de Shalom Media y, al mismo tiempo, ayudará a apoyar nuestra oficina diocesana de Propagación de la Fe.

Santa Teresa de Lisieux, “La Pequeña Flor” (1873-1897), es Patrona de las Misiones, aunque en su corta vida nunca viajó a tierras de misión. De la misma manera, podemos ser misioneros aunque lo hagamos desde la comodidad de Santa Clara y San José.

Mirando hacia adelante...

El fin de semana del 12 al 13 de agosto tendremos nuestra celebración parroquial de nuestra Patrona, Santa Clara de Asís, marcando 770 años desde su muerte el 11 de agosto de 1253. Esperamos que su horario le permita estar con nosotros para la Misa ese fin de semana.

El domingo 13 de agosto nuestra Comunidad portuguesa celebrará la Festa de la Hermandad de San Antonio. Esta es una de esas cinco veces al año que la misa portuguesa será a las 10:30 en la iglesia.

Ese día, nuestra **Misa en inglés de las 10:30 será en la Carpa**, también a las 10:30. Por favor planifique en consecuencia y únase a nosotros para nuestra Fiesta de Santa Clara en esa y otras Misas ese fin de semana.

Stewardship of Leisure Time: Refreshing Our Spirits



In a 2016 newspaper essay titled *In Defense of the Three-Week Vacation*, the writer makes the case for longer American respites from work. Jynne Dilling argues for trips that take us away from cell phone coverage and internet, and urges relaxation that includes reflective walks at dawn and time to get lost in a foreign habitat (New York Times, 9 June 2016). Many of us have neither the time nor the resources for long overseas sojourns, but all of us can resonate with the need to really “get away” from work or the daily grind or the constant demands of social media. Good stewardship of our bodies, minds and souls obliges us to get away on a regular basis (see Luke 5:16).

Leisure is necessary for human wholeness. Leisure reconnects us to the wider mysteries of our world and our God. It helps us daydream, imagine, pray. It refreshes our spirit.

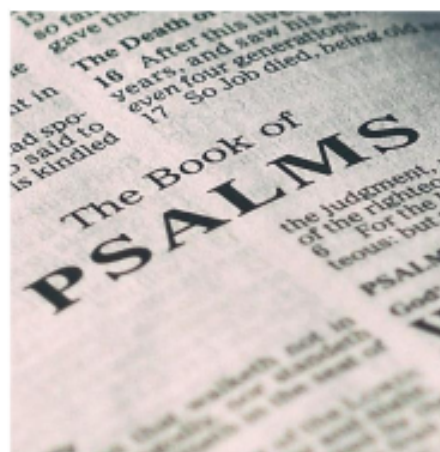
As Christian stewards, we aren't just encouraged but obligated to consider how we approach our stewardship of leisure time. Stewards are aware of their need to be busy doing God's work, but often forget that downtime is equally important to spiritual growth. Leisure time, whether it's our evenings, our weekends, or our vacation, provides spiritual, physical, mental and emotional recharging. Leisure is necessary for human wholeness. Leisure reconnects us to the wider mysteries of our world and our God. It helps us daydream, imagine, pray. It refreshes our spirit.

Today, connectivity has become almost an obsession. People check their emails, their messages and calls with alarming repetitiveness. Accidents, both pedestrian and automobile, happen because people can't put down their phones. Employers expect their workers to be available for evening emails. The lines between work and free time increasingly blur, as do the lines between solitude and always being present “online.” We can't imagine putting aside screens for a two-week vacation. But we must give ourselves time to renew and recharge, not just two weeks of the year, but each day and each week.

July offers an opportunity to reconnect with the rhythms of God and nature. We need to take time off from screens and phones, and practice giving undivided attention to the things before us. When we pray, we commit time and silence. When we enjoy time with our friends and family, we practice being totally present. When we sit on the patio or at the beach, we give ourselves wholly to the wind or the waves. Be a good steward of your body, mind and soul. Don't overschedule your time off. Listen to the quiet whisper of God encouraging you to relax.

An Ancient Psalmist Calls Us to Gratitude

If you are looking for some Biblical wisdom during these summer months, you might try the Book of Psalms. Historically, the psalms are so closely linked to King David that many believe some of them were written by him. They provide prayers for every aspect of the life of the Israelites, and today they reveal a spiritual wisdom that can draw the Christian steward into a deeper intimacy with God, especially through the fundamental notion of gratitude.



Keeping in mind that all we have is from God, and remains God's, Christian stewards awake each morning to say with humility,
“Thank you.”

Psalm 50 provides an insightful look at gratitude. The psalmist felt so strongly about the call to thankfulness to the Lord that he even chose to speak with the Lord's voice, assuring the people that God did not need their burnt offerings: “I shall take no young bull out of your house nor male goats out of your folds. For every beast of the forest is Mine. The cattle

Continued on next page

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on a thousand hills. I know every bird of the mountains, and everything that moves in the field is Mine." No, God tells the people, everything is already God's, so your cattle and birds and young bulls need not be offered to their Creator.

So what does God want from us? The psalmist urges us to "offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving."

Keeping in mind that all we have is from God, and remains God's, Christian stewards awake each morning to say with humility, "Thank you." The ancient psalmist's words make sense to a modern Christian, because the God who gave us free will does not possess our thankfulness until we freely give it. And we're asked for more than a



So what does God want from us? The psalmist urges us to "offer to God a sacrifice of Thanksgiving."

perfunctory show of gratitude. The God who already possesses cattle on a thousand hills and every bird of the mountain is calling us to a deep sense of conversion, a sense that we stand before the God who has gifted us with everything we possess.

Go to your Bible this month. Take some quiet time to pray some of the psalms. And remember to be thankful for what he has done for us.

Eucharist and the Spirituality of Stewardship

Part I of a four-part series by author and lecturer, Reverend Joseph D. Creedon from his 2018 book, *Stewardship: A Life-Giving Spirituality*.



Baptism makes us disciples with a mission and a ministry; Confirmation seals us with the seven-fold gifts of the Holy Spirit. Eucharist feeds our body, mind and spirit to help us live our faith to its fullness. We eat the bread and drink the wine to make sure that we do not forget the love that motivated Jesus to suffer and die for us; to make sure that we never forget that his love was rewarded when his father called him back

to life and changed human history forever! Eucharist is the Stewardship sacrament *par excellence*.

Without a grateful heart, Eucharist cannot be fully experienced. As all of us are painfully aware, attendance at Sunday Mass is at an all-time low. The explanations for the scandalous decline in Mass attendance are many and it is doubtful that any one explanation can explain fully why participation in the Eucharist on Sunday fails to motivate so many people.

There are some who believe that when the liturgy was no longer celebrated in Latin that we lost our sense of mystery. Once the mystery was gone, people began to drift away. While it cannot be disputed that the beginning of the drop in attendance at Sunday Mass began about the same time that English was introduced most would agree that the relationship is coincidental rather than causal.

Others believe that the drop in Mass attendance is the result of secularism. When I was a young boy all of Sunday, but especially Sunday morning, was reserved for church. There was no shopping because all the stores were closed. There were no Sunday morning road races, no soccer matches and no football games. Sunday morning was for Church. Obviously this is no longer the case. For too many folks Sunday is the only day they do not work. Sunday is now seen as personal time for those who work too long and too hard. Religion now has to compete with an ever-increasing number of opportunities on Sunday and we are not winning the battle.

Some folks were driven away from Church as a reaction to the sexual abuse scandal that is ongoing in our Church. Some think that as believers get better educated their need for church wanes. Still others insist that the new English translation of the Mass, which is certainly new but certainly not English, has added to the problem of declining participation in Sunday Mass. In addition to all of these contributing factors is the reality that more and more people do not believe that missing Mass on Sunday is a sin. Whatever the real reason or reasons, no one can deny that we have a problem and we need to find a solution. I firmly believe, though, that the spirituality of stewardship is the best solution to the problem of declining Sunday Mass attendance. (See Part II in the August ICSC eBulletin).



July 30, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 | Rom 8:28-30 | Mt 13:44-52

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It is no secret that Jesus often taught using parables; last Sunday we heard three, and today there are more. Today's parables seemed obscure until I focused on the repeating phrase "kingdom of heaven," which is likened to treasure, a pearl of great value, and then a fish net. What a contrast! But when I thought about it longer, it made perfect sense: The kingdom of heaven is the greatest treasure, one that should compel us to give up everything like the person who finds treasure buried in a field or the merchant who buys the pearl, just to make sure we have it in our possession. The kingdom is also something that requires hard work, hence the analogy with fishermen throwing nets into the sea to capture fish and then sort the good from the bad. Think of that net as the predestination St. Paul mentions in today's epistle. God predestined mankind to be called to him, to be justified and glorified in his name, yet we all maintain free will to choose otherwise. So, at the end of the age, when the angels "separate the wicked from the righteous," each of us will learn how precious the treasure of heaven is according to the way we chose to pursue it during our lifetime.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

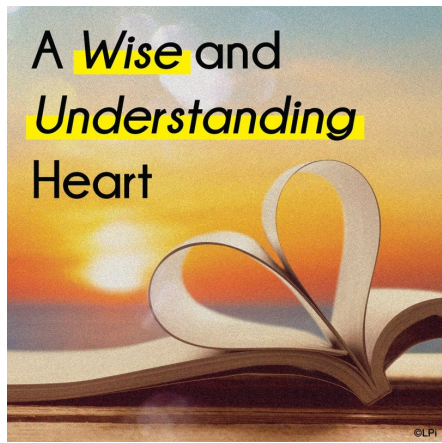
In the midst of the daily grind, heaven can seem so far removed from our lives until it's Sunday and we're standing in pews during Mass. But the kingdom of heaven isn't contained within the single act of attending Mass on Sundays. Jesus didn't say "attend church for one hour each week and you're all set" – the parables he speaks today show people who put in work, searching for treasure until they found it and did everything they could to ensure they kept it. Jesus taught in parables in order to extend his invitation to the kingdom of heaven to everyone who would listen. With these parables, the kingdom is more of an encounter than an end goal. When we are in a loving, prayerful relationship with God, we are able to recognize and know the joy and the infinite value of the kingdom. We are able to experience God's kingdom in the day-to-day experiences of our lives. We know that the kingdom can be found in Jesus, who is the way. And we know that Jesus is here with us now.

INVITATION In the first reading Solomon said to God: "Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart." Take a few minutes and read Solomon's Prayer of Dedication for the temple that occurs a few verses later in 1 Kings (8:22-61). In it, he asks God to be with his people always – a prayer for us today as well.



Confessions
Every Saturday 3:00 p.m.– 3:30 p.m.
in the church

Confesiones
Todos los sábados de 3:00 p.m. a 3:30
p.m. en la iglesia



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Our culture seems more polarized and divided than ever. Into this wounded situation, our Catholic faith has a healing remedy to offer: the gift of wisdom. When the Lord offers to give King Solomon anything the monarch desires, he requests “an understanding heart” (1 Kings 3:9). In his polarized situation, the King doesn’t ask for power to defeat his enemies. He asks for a wise and understanding heart to judge right from wrong. This wisdom is elevated and fulfilled in Jesus who teaches us to bring forth “both the new and the old” (Matthew 13:52).

In our fractured society, we Christians should stop pining for political power to crush our perceived enemies. That often just makes things worse. Rather, it’s much more useful to beg for the grace of true wisdom which transcends both sides of the aisle. This places us in a fresh position from which we can help our culture see what is true and good all across the ideological spectrum. Sometimes we’ll look like liberals (e.g., in our love for the poor and marginalized) and other times like conservatives (e.g., in our sexual ethics and views on religious freedom). Because this wisdom is free from ideological narrowness, it will help to heal these painful fractures. Lord Jesus, this week, pour into us your healing wisdom.

- Father John Muir

©LPi

Stewardship Report

**Sunday Collection:
July 22nd & 23rd**

**Goal: \$9,000.00
Actual: 6,632.50**

Thank You

Saint Clare Parish Catechists Needed!

Calling all potential Catechist and
Catechist Assistants.

Anyone interested in participating in our upcoming Catechetical year 2023-2024 for school grades 1-7. Saint Clare Religious Education Program is made possible by the volunteer catechists who share their faith with the children they teach.

For more information contact:
Sandra Quintanilla at 669-270-2702
or sandra.quintanilla@dsj.org



Parish Office Hours

9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday through Friday.

*The office closes
between 12:00 and 1:00 for
lunch.*





worldwide
**marriage
encounter**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been renewing marriages for 50 years!

Any married couple that desires a fuller life together deserves a WWME experience. It is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together, whether they have been married for a short time or for many years.

Take an opportunity this year to invest time for your marriage. Experiences in the Bay Area for the remainder of 2023 are on September 29 - October 1 and November 17 - 19.

**PROMOTE
YOUR
BUSINESS
HERE**



If interested in placing an advertisement in our Sunday Bulletin, please contact Msgr. Fran.



NATIONAL
**Eucharistic
Revival**

JOIN THE REVIVAL!

<https://www.dsj.org/eucharistic-revival/>



Welcome!

PARISH COMMUNITY

Our warmest welcome to all who celebrate with us, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. We thank God for you.

If you are not registered, please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the parish office.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Would you like to receive envelopes?

_____ Yes _____ No



¡Bienvenido!

PARISH COMMUNITY

Nuestra más cordial bienvenida a todos los que están celebrando con nosotros, ya sea que han estado por largo tiempo o estén recién llegados a la parroquia. Damos gracias a Dios por ustedes.

Si aún no está registrado, por favor, llene este formulario y póngalo en la canasta de la coleta o mándelo por correo a la oficina de la parroquia.

Nombre(s): _____

Dirección: _____

Ciudad: _____ Código postal: _____

Numero teléfono: _____

Correo electrónico: _____

¿Desea recibir sobres de contribución?

_____ Si _____ No