

PARISH CALENDAR

Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 16, 2023

I will be filled with the vision
of the Lord's glory!

Saturday, July 15	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, July 16	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, July 17	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, July 18	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, July 19	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, July 20	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, July 21	..... 10:30 a.m.	Funeral -Mass - Franklin Donahue, Jr (+)
Saturday, July 22	..... 4:00-4:45 p.m.	Confession - Church
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Wis:12:13, 16-19: *Though powerful, the Lord judges with mercy and governs with care.*

Rom:8:26-27: *Paul reminded the Romans that the Spirit helps God's people in their weakness and intercedes for them.*

Mt:13:24-43: *Through parables, Jesus encouraged his disciples, assuring them that God's saints would shine like the sun in the heavenly reign.*

We continue to Live Stream the Sunday Mass @ 9:00 a.m. @ <https://www.sritananakuli.org/livestream>

Gospel Reflection Growing Rich in Grace

"To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand." Matthew 13:12-13

How is it that someone can look without seeing or hear without listening or understanding? This is only possible when one's eyes and ears are working properly, but the mind is distracted, not attentive to what is seen or heard. For example, say you were listening to a book being read and suddenly you realized that even though you heard what was read, your mind was elsewhere and you had no idea what was spoken. This is a common experience for everyone from time to time.

This portion of the Gospel quoted above comes immediately after Jesus spoke the Parable of the Sower to the crowds from a boat. In that parable, seed fell on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in rich soil. Only the seed on the rich soil grew and produced good fruit. Therefore, Jesus' teaching quoted above, as well as His parable spoken before it, teach that there were many who heard the Word of God and witnessed Jesus' miracles but failed to allow His teachings and miracles to produce faith in their hearts.

This Gospel passage is especially important for those who have been Catholics for many years but have become stagnant in their faith. When someone goes to Mass every week, listens to the Gospel and shares in the Eucharist but fails to continually grow in holiness and understanding of the Mysteries of Heaven, then they will slowly lose even the little faith they have. They will become lukewarm Catholics who go through the motions but fail to produce the good fruit that comes from authentic faith. When you look back at your life as a practicing Catholic, what do you see from year to year? Was there a time when you were strong in faith but have slowly closed your ears to the Gospel and have drifted away from a deep and prayerful interior engagement with our Lord? Or when you look back do you see that the Lord has continuously given you more and more, leading you to a life of true spiritual riches? Has the Gospel entered not only your ears, but also your mind and your understanding? Do you both see and perceive the action of God in your life and in the world around you? Are you actively engaged with the life of grace and find that you grow closer to God every day? Or, sadly, have you lost interest and zeal and now find yourself slowly drifting away from the fruitful practice of your faith?

Reflect, today, upon these important questions and strive to answer them honestly. If you do not see yourself growing in faith every year and becoming truly rich in the grace of God, then know that something needs to change. Stagnation and lukewarmness in the faith are not good. They lead to the slow loss of everything. As you reflect upon your own faith journey, recommit yourself to a zealous embrace of the Gospel so that your soul will be truly rich soil that continually produces an abundance of good fruit.

Lord, You desire that all people hear Your Word and see Your action in their lives. Please continue to pour forth Your grace into my life so that I will continually grow rich in Your mercy. I pray that my eyes and ears will be open to You more fully every day. Jesus, I trust in You. (My Catholic Life)



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

WORD OF LIFE: "Because of our belief and hope in the Resurrection, we can face death not with fear, but with preparation. . . . We prepare for eternal life by choosing to love and follow God now, in our daily lives and decisions. "Read more at www.respectlife.org/endoflife-considerations. "USCCB Secretariate of Pro-Life Activities "Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing

WEEKLY READINGS

Jul 16 Sun: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa:55:10-11; Ps:65; Rom:8:18-23; Mt:13:1-23

Jul 17 Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:1:8-14, 22; Ps:124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8b; Mt:10:34-11:1

Jul 18 Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:2:1-15a; Ps:69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34; Mt:11:20-24

Jul 19 Wed: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:3:1-6, 9-12; Ps:103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7; Mt:11:25-27

Jul 20 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:3:13-20; Ps:105:1 & 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27; Mt:11:28-30

Jul 21 Fri: Ordinary Weekday

Ex:11: 10-12:14; Ps:116:12-13, 15 & 16bc, 17-18; Mt:12:1-8

Jul 22 Sat: Saint Mary Magdalene

Sg:3:1-4b; Ps:63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; Jn:20:1-2, 11-18

In today's second reading, Saint Paul gives us reason to hope for a wondrous future beyond our imagination. He preaches this hope amidst the suffering of the early Christian communities. "Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us" (Romans 8:18). Good stewards realize that by remaining faithful to the Gospel with persistence, fervor and endurance, our hope in the promises of Christ Jesus will be rewarded. Reflect this week on concrete ways you can remain faithful to the Gospel during these challenging times. (International Catholic Stewardship Council)

SUFFERING NOTHING

The older we get, the more we groan. Muscles ache. Memory fades. Taste buds fail. Hearing diminishes. Eyesight darkens. Stature bends. Our physical health decays, and suffering intensifies. Growing old, as they say, is not for wimps. For many people, aging might be cause for despair. But for Christians, it is just another aspect of the imperfections of life. We have grown accustomed to the disappointments of this life. They are nothing compared with the promise of salvation. We put up with the inconveniences we experience because we believe in the joy that lies ahead.

St. Paul writes to the Romans, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us."

Paul believed in God's promise, that there was more ahead for him after he died. He believed that promise extended to all the faithful, and indeed to all creation. Creation itself has been groaning, awaiting a more perfect life. Perfection comes to all the world through Christ.

We may be growing older, but we are always children—God's children. We may be heading toward death, but we are really heading toward birth—birth to a new kind of life. The sufferings of today are as nothing. We are groaning in expectation of a joy that is to come.

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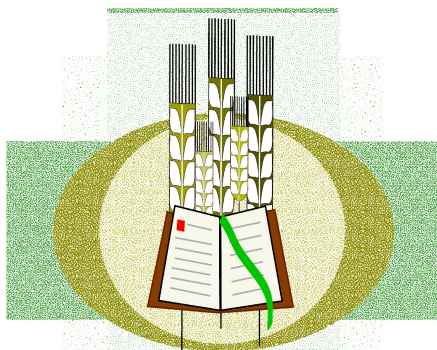


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The seed is the Word of God
and Christ is the sower.

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