



July 19, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday	7/19	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Donald Vande Hei for His Birthday & Jane Angrabright ~ The Helen Vande Hei Family Mass at St John's Gerald Saindon
Tuesday	7/21	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's OPEN
Wednesday	7/22	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	Mass at St John's OPEN Holy Communion Outside of Mass
Thursday	7/23	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's OPEN
Friday	7/24	8:15 AM	Joan Johnson on Her 93rd Birthday
Saturday	7/25	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's George Kaczowski
Sunday	7/26	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Gerald Linsmeyer From Jill & Dan Carey Mass at St John's Ann Theroux

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 13:24-43 — Father John Muir

A man recently told me he was losing patience with the Church. **“It’s supposed to be God’s Kingdom on earth,”** he said, **“but it’s full of contradictions and hypocrisy. Why can’t the Church just be better?”** That last word landed with a judgmental thud. It hurt. Because at times the Church can look painfully ordinary, even disappointing.

But Jesus’ parables in today’s Gospel meet that frustration head-on. He says, **“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field,”** yet the weeds grow up with the wheat, and the master allows both to grow together until harvest. To his listeners, this sounded strange, even offensive. They expected God’s reign to be pure, powerful, and glorious, anything but mixed up, hidden, or small.

Jesus is showing us something essential. The Kingdom always begins small and grows amid imperfection. Grace and weakness exist side by side until the harvest. That is why the Church often looks messy. Yet within that mess, God’s quiet work continues. The weeds do not stop the wheat from growing.

When we see the Church’s flaws or our own, it helps to remember that this is exactly the field in which Christ chose to plant. The miracle is not that everything looks perfect, but that his Word keeps taking root anyway.

Lord, give me patience with Your field, the Church. Help me see Your hidden life growing even among the weeds. Amen.

The Weeds We Need By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Driving up my street in late spring, you can see which yard is mine from a whole block away: it’s the one covered in dandelions. And I like it that way.

I fear neither my husband’s shame nor the snarky comments of neighbors: I will never apologize for my dandelion-filled yard. “It’s for the pollinators,” I say, but it’s a total lie. I just think it looks lovely. Who doesn’t like a splash of yellow after a long, dreary winter?

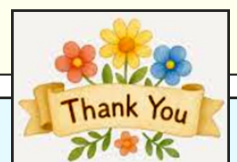
People call dandelions “weeds,” but it’s just not true. Weeds are, by definition, any plant growing where it isn’t wanted. A rosebush is a weed, if it’s in the middle of a cornfield. I want my dandelions. Plants that are commonly considered weeds can even have beneficial properties. They attract pollinators, for instance, and they promote nutrient cycling, whereby soil health is improved.

We all have metaphorical “weeds” in the garden of our lives. I certainly do: facets of my personality I loathe, realities of my life I resent, limitations in my abilities I dread— these are my weeds, and their roots run deep, coiling closely around those of the plants I try to cultivate. But if I could rid my garden of any one of these weeds, would it really benefit me? And if I examined them all closely, could I tell them apart — the blessing from the curse, the struggle from the triumph?

One day, it will all become clear: what is the wheat, and what is the weed. We will be put to our ultimate purpose, and we will see ourselves for what we are meant to be.

Until then, we need the weeds. It’s not harvest time yet.

**Thank you to Jill & Dan Carey for Sponsoring the July Bulletin
in Loving Memory of Gerald Linsmeyer**



DAY/TIME	LECTORS	DISTRIBTORS	SERVERS	USHERS
Sunday 8:00 AM July 26	Janet Matuszak	Don Eisenreich	Ella Ambrosius Saddie Ambrosius	Ron Matuszak Jr Perry Matuszak

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 2655.00
Loose Collection	\$ 239.00
Votives	\$ 11.00

DISBURSEMENTS FOR WEEK:

WeShare CC Fees	\$ 3.01
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CORRECTION FROM JULY 12TH BULLETIN:
BURIAL FEES WERE FOR DIANE LAWE, NOT
FOR LILLIAN VAN DE YACHT AS LISTED.
SORRY FOR ANY CONFUSION.



The St. Sebastian Men's Group
will be meeting on July 30th from
8:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Parish
Hall in church. August 27th will be
the next scheduled meeting.

A BIG Thank You to Jerry Mueller
for all his years of service to our parish cemetery.
Jerry is now retired and we appreciate all he has done !



Do What Needs to Be Done

A friend recently confided in me that although he prayed frequently each day and was involved heavily in his parish, he did not sense much fruit coming from it all and was left feeling unsatisfied. I assured him he was not alone. I told him of a deceased pastor of mine who had spoken frequently about being in this type of situation. Even as a priest, he knew all too well of how we can feel like we are simply going through the motions. It is precisely at those times that continuing to pray and practicing good stewardship is most important, because it would be easier to simply take a break and risk never coming back. He liked to say, "Do the drill," meaning just do what needs to be done.

We are all called to be mature disciples who answer the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost. We cannot choose when and where the call will come. We cannot schedule our stewardship in a way that is always most convenient for us. Even when the fruits of our faithful efforts seem hidden from us, we hold to the promise that we are never called to give of ourselves for nothing. God is working through us and in us. No matter how dry the land may seem, seeds are being planted to yield a harvest greater than we can ever realize. Stay strong and do the drill!
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

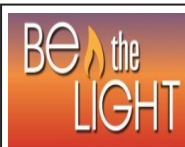
The USCCB's National NFP Awareness Week runs from July 19-25. The theme for this year is "Designed by God, Guided by Love, Open to Life". Natural Family Planning is revolutionary because these natural methods reflect the dignity of the persons within the marriage & maintain openness to life. In today's world, respecting nature & working with the human body in the way God created it is revolutionary! This is why NFP is so effective & beneficial—because it engages human art & freedom to responsibly follow the natural laws of fertile & infertile times to achieve or postpone pregnancy. You can learn more about these methods at:
www.ournaturalfamily.com/methods-1
www.usccb.org/topics/natural-family-planning

Blessing for Summer

O God, Pour your blessing upon these summer months of sun and clouds, flowers and growth. In this season of cultivation, cultivate us as we worship, work, play, and rest in You. May this season, and all the others, serve to draw us closer to You. Amen.

Virtues, Explained! Generosity

Generosity is a hallmark of Christian discipleship. Christ placed our needs above his own, so we likewise place the needs of others above our own. Our concern for our brothers and sisters must be evident not just in what we do but in how we do it—with cheerfulness and love.



Bishop's Appeal 2026
Parish Goal: \$16,357
Given to date: \$12,863
Still Needed: \$3,494

Perpetual Monthly Giving Calendar
Seymour Food Pantry
St Vincent de Paul to collect & deliver.
JULY: Mac & Cheese



Ministry of the Sick: Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office two months in advance.

Marriage: Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

Funeral Arrangements: Please call St. John's parish office.

Anointing of the Sick and Dying: Please call St. John's parish office.

Fr. Sengole Dass
St. John Parish Office - 833-6140

DC. Richard Matuszak
833-2294 or 609-5292

St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558
Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00
Wed: 8:30 - Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri