



JULY 16, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	7/16	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Myron Grusczyński by Joe & Jane Grzelak <i>Mass at St John's Alice & Harry Bluma and Deceased Family Members</i>
Tues	7/18	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's For Religious Freedom</i>
Wed	7/19	8:15 AM 9:00 AM	<i>Mass at St John's For the Sick & Disabled</i> * NO Communion Service / NO Faith Formation *
Thurs	7/20	8:15 AM	<i>Mass at St John's For Struggling Marriages</i>
Fri	7/21	8:15 AM	June Linsmeyer by Jane Grimm
Sat	7/22	4:00 PM	<i>Mass at St John's Jerry Linsmeyer</i>
Sun	7/23	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of Marlene Matuszak *Anniversary in Heaven 7/25/14* by Norb Matuszak <i>Mass at St John's Carol Dorn</i>

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

July 16, 2023 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's not uncommon to hear people complain that we Catholics often fail in communicating our faith. Fair enough. We can and should improve there. But it's interesting to notice that Jesus himself was implicitly accused by his disciples of a similar failure. This week in Matthew's gospel they are perplexed that he speaks to the crowds in ambiguous parables. The Lord's riddles leave many people more confused than before. He responds by pointing out that his parables have an intentional dual purpose: to hide (for some) and to reveal (for others) his Gospel: "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted" (Matthew 13:11). Is Jesus being unnecessarily difficult, obscurantist, or, worse, elitist?

No. We have to remember that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge lie hidden in him (c.f., Col. 2:3). He is the word of God from heaven to be planted in the earth of our humanity to bear great fruit. However, like a lover delicately pursuing his beloved, we're dealing with a *relationship*, not new data. When we aren't willing to personally accept Jesus into our lives, the "info" of the Gospel will simply not make sense to us. It'll seem bizarre, esoteric, or like incoherent religious-speak. But when we are willing to accept Jesus into our lives, everything else starts to make sense. When others don't understand the Church or the Lord, let's be patient. Love is patient. Sometimes it has to hide before it is revealed.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Soil Conditions

I am a hopeless gardener. I never met a plant I couldn't swiftly kill with good intentions and poor understanding of soil conditions.

Because really, it's all about the soil conditions — at least, that's what Google tells me when I helplessly search phrases like "Why aren't any of my seeds sprouting? Please, I tried so hard." I can never seem to match the right type of soil offering the right type of drainage and texture with the right plant. I can't understand why it's not enough to bury the seed in whatever ground is available, sprinkle some water and ask it, very nicely, to grow.

This is also a quality that makes me a poor evangelist to people who do not share my beliefs. How many times have I encountered a friend or loved one who left the faith, and I tried to coax them back by hurling Catechism passages in their direction, offering advice they never asked for and are ill-equipped to understand? I sow these seeds of witness and bang my fists in frustration that they rot where I plant them, never realizing that *it's all about the soil*.

It is Christ, and Christ alone, who works within the heart. It is Christ who is the sower of the seed, not me. When I leave him out of the equation, when I fail to offer the Person and instead only offer the teaching, I can anticipate that any witness I have to offer will rot where it is planted just as sure as a tulip bulb in a bed of clay.

"...my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it." - Isaiah 55:11

**With open arms,
let us welcome
Eleanor Kathryn Robaidek
to our faith family.
She was baptized on July 9, 2023!**



**Thank you to
Sherry De Ruyter & family,
for sponsoring the July bulletin
in loving memory of
Rick De Ruyter**



DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Jodi Soltvedt	Jessica Melchert		Jackson Banker	Ron Matuszak Sr
8:00AM / JULY 23				Knox Leisgang Krew Leisgang	Dick Stedl

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 4,428.00
Loose Collection	\$ 161.00
Mass Intentions	\$ 40.00
Votive Candles	\$ 15.50
Bulletin Sponsorship	\$ 30.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 237.00
One by One	\$ 7,365.00
Priest Refund	\$ 48.34

DISBURSEMENTS:

St John's Cost Share	\$ 6,015.00
The Catholic Foundation	\$ 237.00
Cathedral Corp. Envelopes	\$ 116.92
Lawn Care	\$ 82.67
WeShare CC Fees	\$ 2.82

WE DID IT!

Bishop's Appeal 2023
GOAL of \$14,962 Met
Thank You!!



Everyday Stewardship

Over the years I have wasted a lot: a lot of money, a lot of time, and a lot of talent. Sometimes I didn't realize I was wasting these things but, after reflection, I realized I could have done more and accomplished much greater things. Of course, I think that is part of our imperfect humanity. It truly is easier for us to waste our gifts than grow them into something more.

The parable of the sower speaks about the word of God that gets planted in our hearts. If the soil of our heart is rich, than the word will grow and change us. If that soil is rocky or full of weeds, the word will lie there without any impact, bearing no fruit.

This parable can be applied to living a stewardship way of life as well. As sowers, we have been given the seeds of our time, talent, and treasure. We have a choice of where to plant these gifts. As good everyday stewards, we are called to plant them wisely and prudently. Oftentimes it is not enough to simply give away what we have. We need to discern the best places to sow these gifts so the maximum harvest can grow. This takes prayer, reflection, and study. Without a solid discernment process, we can find ourselves sowing seeds endlessly without much to show for it. But joyful is the person who has used one's gifts wisely, for the bounty of the harvest is great.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Live the Liturgy - Inspiration for the Week

We are all sowers in the field.
Our time, our money, our attention: these finite resources are the seeds, and the choice is ours where we scatter them.

* Do we focus our efforts on soil that will bear fruit for the kingdom?



Sow Your Gifts!

Fall schedules will be worked on soon...
Please consider sharing your gifts & talents with us.

To do so, complete & return the included volunteer form or contact the Parish Office!



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.

Music in the Park 2023

Music starts at 6:15 - Wednesday evenings
Depot St - Downtown Seymour



July 19 TNT Polka Young talent kicking off Polka Days
July 26 The Drovers Playing a variety of hits
Aug 2 The New Generation Polkas and more

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