



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

July 12, 2026 ▪ Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Seeds of faith: Gardening with children for spiritual growth



Daniel Esparza - published on 05/01/24

Through the shared experience of tending a garden, we beautify our surroundings and cultivate a deeper connection with our children and with God's creation.

Have you ever thought about how gardening can help children grow spiritually? Being a practice that's been around since at least the very early Neolithic, it is only natural that gardening offers a wealth of metaphors for spiritual growth. Just as in the parable of the sower, where seeds fall on different types of soil, **our lives provide fertile ground for cultivating virtues.**

In the Catholic tradition, figures like St. Thomas Aquinas, following Aristotle, explored the concept of potency and act, often using the metaphor of the potential held within a seed to become a flourishing plant. Gardening with children becomes not just a fun activity, but a **powerful way to nurture young hearts.**

Cultivating a respect for creation

Just as a seed holds the potential for a magnificent bloom, children possess an inherent capacity for virtue. Patience, care, and a respect for creation are all seeds we can help our children cultivate. As we till the soil and plant our seeds with them, we show them the importance of perseverance.

The slow and steady process of growth mirrors the development of good character. We explain the cycle of life: the dependence on sunlight and rain, of tender care, and maybe even the delicate dance between predator and prey – if any bugs decide to eat our plants. This fosters a sense of wonder for God's creation and a responsibility to care for it --

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in line with Laudato Si's message of environmental stewardship.

A tiny sprout pushing through the earth is a tangible lesson in hope and the power of nurturing. As kids water the plants and watch them flourish, **they learn the importance of responsibility and the joy of tending to something precious.** The harvest (be it plump tomatoes, sunflowers, or just your regular indoor plant that managed to grow new leaves) becomes a celebration of their efforts -- and a reward for their patience. Thus, gardening provides opportunities to discuss Catholic values.

The Parable of the Sower

The cycle of planting and harvest seamlessly connects with the Parable of the Sower, where Jesus emphasizes the importance of **receiving God's word with an open heart.** You can even tell your children the parable over and over, as they often love listening to the same story time and again. Furthermore, the delicate nature of seedlings can lead to some great discussions about gentleness and compassion. Even the act of weeding can be a metaphor for removing negativity from our lives.

Through the shared experience of tending a garden, we not only beautify our surroundings but also cultivate **a deeper connection with our children and with God's creation.** As Pope Francis reminds us in Laudato Si', "tilling the soil, sowing seeds, and reaping the harvest are activities imbued with a special grace" (Laudato Si', 9).

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 11, Vigil for the Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. The Comeau and LaRosa Families (dec)

Sunday, July 12, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Raefel Tito (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (dec)

Monday, July 13, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Jordan Carruth (dec)

Tuesday, July 14, Memorial of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin

8:00 a.m. Robert Wilson (dec)

Wednesday, July 15, Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, July 16, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Fr. Tom Hopkins (dec)

Friday, July 17, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Vince Heffern (dec)

Saturday, July 18, Vigil for the Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Mary Beth Haining (dec)

Sunday, July 19, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Grace Genevieve Rideout (liv)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Robert Wilson (dec)

July 12, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 55:10-11 | Rom 8:18-23 | Mt 13:1-23

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

If you're anything like me, you probably hear today's Gospel and immediately try to identify yourself with one type of seed Jesus talks about: the seed that fell on the path, the seed that fell on rocky ground, the seed among thorns, or the seed in good soil. But have you ever stopped to wonder why the sower is throwing seeds so haphazardly? This is worth meditating on, too. I believe it says to us that God is generously offering his grace and his mercy to everyone equally, in all places, at all times. But we aren't all in a place where we are open to receive that gift. In those moments when we feel as though we're not bearing the fruit that we hope to, perhaps it's time to examine our spiritual surroundings and see if there is something we can change that might help us to be more receptive to God's grace. Perhaps it's as simple as checking out a faith-sharing group that can help us tend our spiritual soil so it is ready to receive what God is doing out.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading from Isaiah speaks of the power and efficacy of God's word, comparing it to the rain and snow that come down and water the earth, making the soil fertile, helping the seed to grow into a bountiful harvest that can be made into bread that nourishes. What we grasp from all of this is that God's word bears fruit *over time*. As evangelizers, it's important to consider that we often won't see fruit right away when sharing God's word with others. That word must take root, grow, and be cultivated. This process will take time, but the long-term fruit is worth our sustained and patient effort as we nurture relationships of accompaniment with others.

PRAY

There's a certain patience we must exercise when sharing God's word with others. When I find myself struggling with impatience – with myself or with others' slow progress – I often find solace in the prayer “Trust in the Slow Work of God” from Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ, particularly these lines: *Above all, trust in the slow work of God / We are quite naturally impatient in everything to reach the end without delay / We should like to skip the intermediate stages / And yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some stages of instability – and that it may take a very long time.*



In everything,
whether it is a thing
sensed or a thing
known, God Himself
is hidden within.

—St. Bonaventure



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.

Amen.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

**THERE ARE 5 PATRON SAINTS
OF NURSES! ST. AGATHA, ST.
CAMILLUS, ST. CATHERINE OF
SIENA, ST. JOHN OF GOD, AND
RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL.**

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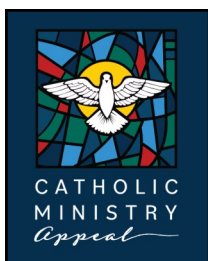
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Weekly Giving 07/05/26

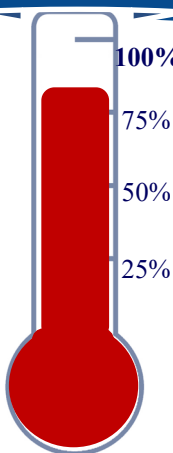
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National Collections	\$ 47

Thank you for your generosity!

Catholic Ministry Appeal



2026 GOAL



100% - \$79,863

75%

50%

25%

Collected to date: \$62,447
which is 78%

Amounts pledged or expected:
100.4%

Thank you for your generosity!
Keep up the good work!

The Social Group will be hosting a:

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Bring your favorite batch to share! Take home some new favorites!

Sunday, July 12
12:30-2:00 pm
Courtyard Hall

Bring your recipe and pre-bagged cookies!

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, then 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

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Upcoming Events

***Church closed due to renovations,
Masses will be held in Parish Hall.**

Saturday, July 11

2:30 pm-3:30 pm Confessions MC

Sunday, July 12

Coffee and Donuts **after the 8:00 am Mass only** CYH

12:30 pm Cookie Exchange CYH

Monday, July 13

6:30 pm "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Meeting CYH

Wednesday, July 15

5:30 pm Adoration PH

Thursday, July 16

10:00 am BT Book Club FF

Saturday, July 18

2:30 pm-3:30 pm Confessions MC

Sunday, July 19

Coffee and Donuts **after the 8:00 am Mass only** CYH

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall,
MC=Ministries Center, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1,
CH=Church, FF= Faith Formation Room, PL= Parking Lot

Back by Popular Demand!

**The Social Group will be enjoying our July Coffee at
Salty Pup.**

Join us on Friday, July 31st after the 8:00 am mass.



**5400 Tangerine Ave. S.
Gulfport**

**There will be no August Coffee but will be back in
September!**



Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Fr. Eric Peters

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org

Confessions

Saturdays 2:30-3:30 pm

Parish Office

Monday—Friday

9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone, (727) 867-3663

FAX, (727) 864-2679

Website, <http://btsp.org>

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Text BTSP to 84576 or online at
btsp.flocknote.com



Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church

Hello My People - a letter to the Choir, Staff, and Parishioners of Blessed Trinity:

I have decided to return to school to pursue my Doctor of Musical Arts degree. Even though it means leaving Blessed Trinity, I want you to be happy for my opportunity to complete the process and realize a dream.

I gave Father Wayne notice that my last Sunday will be July 26, 2026. I will complete cantor schedules through August and send you the music list for the rest of the year before I depart.

You have accomplished much during this past year and I am a better person for having led you. I will take fond memories of my time here and hope the best going forward for the Music Ministry at Blessed Trinity.

Lisa S. Screeton

Arnold, Barbara
Baker Family
Barhorst, Brady
Barhorst, Rosemary
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Calamita, John
Christ, Kathryn
Connor, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Clark, Christine and
Henry
Clark, Brittany Noel
Clark, Matthew Pierce
Comeau, Teresa
Cortez, Patrick
Coughlin, Bernadette
Curcio, Louis
Daniels, Joshua
D'Azzo, Lina
DeLong, Judy
DeLong, Todd
Distefano, Michael
Ellis, John

Feltes, Lauren
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank and Sofia
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Gutske, Karl
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Hoskins, Kevin
Hurley, Scott
Joyal, Christina
Kartsaklis, Michael
Kehoe, Jonna and Michael
Klima, Sue
Kraynak, Gary
Lague, Norbert
Lashley, Diana
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Mays, Hank
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Narinelly, Sarah

Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Parillo, Ceil
Parillo, Dave
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Riordan, Donald
Romani, Angelo
Sacks, Laura
Schulz, Ingrid
Shelby, Montez
Smith, Elizabeth
Stankiewicz, Cy
Tilbury, Betty
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Wagoner, Diane
Walsh, Thomas
Watson, Linda
Weselowski, Chris
Youngman, Ruth

Anointing of the Sick



To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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