

16th Weekend in Ordinary Time

July 22 & 23, 2017

Mass Intentions

Saturday

5:00 PM For Eugene & Helen Albanese by
Donna & Peter Perry

Sunday

9:00 AM For Eleanor Placella & Catherine
Gardella by Michael Placella

Next Saturday

5:00 PM For Judy Dimitri – Birthday
Remembrance – by Fran, John &
Maureen

Next Sunday

9:00 AM For Anne Marie Votta by her Family

Scheduling Masses

The *2018 Mass Scheduler* is in. Anyone wishing to schedule memorial masses on particular date is asked to call the rectory to assure that you are able to schedule on the dates that you prefer. There are also many open dates to schedule masses for the rest of 2017 on weekends and weekdays. Please call the rectory if you wish to schedule a mass in someone's memory.

Parish Stewardship

Weekend of July 15 & 16, 2017

Budget Collection	\$1,998.00
July Monthly to Date	\$1,058.00
Youth Ministry Collection	\$267.00
# of Budget Envelopes Used	99

Thank you to those of you who make up your weekly offertory donations when you are not able to attend Mass on a previous weekend.

Prayer Line Ministry

Just a reminder that our Parish Prayer Line Ministry is a group of parishioners who each day pray for the intentions of our parishioners. If you wish to join the ministry or if you have intentions to be prayed for, please call Sandy Cerrito at 944-0437.

Awareness and Caution

Please be aware that many of our parishioners find it difficult to climb and descend the church steps. Upon leaving mass on weekends, please do not crowd around the side handrails so that those who need them may reach them with as little difficulty as possible.

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment is sponsoring the 11th annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration honoring couples of the Providence Diocese who will be observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and over 50 years anniversaries. It will be held on Sunday, **October 15, 2017 @ 1:00 pm** at the Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul, Providence, including mass, renewal of vows, personalized certificate & family reception; Bishop Tobin will be the main celebrant. Please see Father Bob for a registration form, fill it out, and return to Father Bob. They must be mailed from Father Bob to the Diocese by **September 8, 2017**.

Saint Philip School

Are you looking for a faith-filled educational experience for your child where his/her individual talents are fostered? At *Saint Philip School*, we educate the whole child - spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically! Open enrollment continues for our Little Cardinals (3-year-old) through 8th grade classes. Visit our website at www.stphilipschool.com to learn more about our special family. Call to schedule a tour and begin the admissions process today ~ (401)949-1130.

Blood Pressure Screening

The Parish Nurses will conduct blood pressure screenings after all masses this weekend in the Sacristy.

Traveling During the Summer

For nationwide Mass times and locations, phone 1-800-Mass Times (1-800-627-7846) or www.masstimes.org.

Father Bob's Ramblings

Well, I guess summer has finally arrived with the heat and humidity of the past couple of weeks. We've been waiting for it for a while and now we are getting it non-stop. Just think, in six months we'll be complaining about the cold!

As we gather to worship during these summer weekends, our gospel readings are parables from Jesus. In some ways, we could call Jesus a "Master Storyteller." In Jesus' culture, parables would have been told at home in the evening after dinner or in the fields or at the synagogue. Although they were familiar, they were not meant to be entertaining children's stories or moralistic fables. Instead, Jesus' listeners would have known that parables and the tellers of parables were there to prompt them to see the world in a different way; to challenge, and at times to indict.

In the gospels, Jesus begins each parable by saying "The kingdom of heaven is like..." It's important that we remember that this mystery that Jesus speaks of, the mystery of the kingdom of heaven, can't be reduced to just one image. It's such a great mystery that it needs multiple ways for us to grapple with what it truly might mean. Unlike definitions, the teaching from parables requires that we actively participate in trying to figure them out.

Most of Jesus' parables deal with every day occurrences; such as a sower sowing seeds, a merchant buying pearls, a woman searching for a coin or a traveler needing some help. He always calls out attention to realities. To enter into a parable, we must be willing to let go of the security offered by answers and definitions.

As we hear these parables during these summer weekends, what might we discover if we dare to open ourselves to the incomprehensible mystery of the kingdom of heaven? Maybe, like the seeds of mustard and wheat, we will also experience transformation. The only way to find out is to trust the "Master Storyteller" as he calls us to become "parable people."



Missing the BIG PICTURE

I was tending to my little flower garden. The weeds were all over the place, mixed in with the "real" plants that needed room to grow. **I was so focused on those weeds!!!** I pulled them out, put them in a pile, and walked away. A few minutes later, when I went back to the garden again, I was astonished to see what I had completely overlooked.

In the middle of the garden, in plain view, was a **GLORIOUS YELLOW FLOWER** that was totally opened to the sun.

It was virtually impossible to miss it -- but I did! I had been working all around this beautiful creation, but had been so determined to pull those **weeds** that I had not even noticed.

What an insight! Sometimes we get so focused on the "weeds" -- the problems, challenging circumstances, and pains -- that we completely fail to take in the **blessings and enjoyments** that surrounds us.

Dear Lord,

*Thank you for demonstrating your love through the beauty that surrounds us. Often You seem far away and beyond our touch. When problems are overwhelming, inspire us to look around and SEE the evidence of Your love. Empower us to place our challenges and difficulties into perspective as you teach us to appreciate the **big picture**. Amen.*

"Come, let us praise the Lord! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and sing joyful sounds of praise . . . He is our God; we are the people He cares for, the flock for which He provides." (Psalm 95:1-2, 7)

Joanne Grant