

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Simone Volavola, M.S.C.

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.

Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca

Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok

Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese

PARISH SPIRITUALITY

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / **Friday** 9:00am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm

Masses for the Week of July 17 - 23, 2017

Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel, Mon. – Fri. at 8:15am

Monday, July 16

8:35am (chapel) John Przyuski (Miller Family)

Tuesday, July 17

8:35am (chapel) Florence Capella (Mike & Cathy Moreni)

Wednesday, July 19

8:35am (chapel) Marie Barker (Jack Lynch)

Thursday, July 20

8:35am (chapel) Ernest Fink (Tom Fink)

Friday, July 21

8:35am (chapel) Donald Olimpo (Dolly Kovacs)

Saturday, July 22

5:00pm (church) Tillie Fellin (Phil, Marylou & Family)

Sunday, July 23

8:00am (church) Fred Gould (Mike & Phyllis Schmerbeck)

10:30am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or call the parish office to schedule an appointment with a priest.

REGISTER: Please contact the parish office to register when you move into the parish. Only registered parishioners, in good standing, can receive a Certificate of Eligibility to act as a Godparent or sponsor.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month. Parents are encouraged to invite family members to the 10:30 Mass as the Sacrament of Baptism takes place immediately following the Mass. Parents and Godparents must attend an enrichment class approx. 1 month prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. A Godparent must be a committed, practicing Catholic, and if from another parish, must provide a certificate of eligibility from their pastor. This certificate should be brought to the enrichment class. A Christian of other denominations may serve as a Godparent along with a practicing Catholic.



MARRIAGE: A Saturday Mass for the Sacrament of Matrimony may be celebrated no later than 1pm. Couples planning marriage are to contact the parish office & schedule a meeting with our wedding coordinator no later than 6 months in advance of the wedding. Shorter preparation periods must be approved by our Pastor. Couples will meet several times with the Pastor throughout the preparation process. Couples are to attend a Pre-Cana program approved by our Pastor.



ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please call the rectory at any time for the Sacrament of the Sick. Also the Holy Eucharist will be brought to the sick and shut-ins upon request to the Parish Office. We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the ***Feast of St. John the Baptist.***



Meetings for the week of July 17 - 23, 2017

Tues. July 18: Choir Practice, 7pm - Church

Thurs. July 20: Garden Club, 7pm – Marian Room

Sat. July 8: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

Weekly Mass Collection

Envelopes \$5,785.00

Parish Giving \$584.00



Thank you for your generosity!

SJB Cleaning Team for the week of July 17th is Team # 2:

*Joyce Melchior, Peg Trouts,
Jean Wurster, Terri DeVenuto*

Your parish Thanks You!



Our Mass READINGS for this weekend may be found in

SECTION 970

of the JourneySongs Hymnal.





Gospel Reflections

by
Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio,

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed needs to be viewed from two different perspectives in order to unlock its meaning – from that of the sower and that of the seed. Whether sowing or growing – the point is a plentiful harvest and much fruit.

I've always loved gardening. Seeds I've planted include carrot, cucumber, and of course, zucchini. In each case, I've planted seeds in neat rows, expecting nearly all of them to sprout and yield fruit.

But the farmer in Jesus' parable (Mat 13:1-23) uses the broadcast method. Lots of seed cast everywhere. And predictably, many of these seeds do not produce. Some get eaten by birds. Some sprout but then wither. Some seedlings get choked out by weeds. Finally a few yield varying amounts of grain.

At the end of the story, Jesus says *"they who have ears, let them hear."* In other words, he wants us to learn something and take some action steps.

WE ARE THE SEED

To respond to this parable adequately, we must view it from two different angles. The first is to look at the story as if we are the seed.

Many who hear the gospel never seem to "get it." The message is stolen before it ever takes root. Then there are the 50% of Catholic kids who receive the sacraments but disappear somewhere between age 18 and 25. Shallow roots fail to equip them to take the heat of our pagan culture. Then there are the 89% of lifelong, regular churchgoers who, according to George Gallup, have values and lifestyles identical to those of their pagan neighbors. Their faith has been neutralized by bad theology and worldliness. They may look like wheat plants, but their religion is fruitless.

HARVEST – MEDIOCRE OR ABUNDANT?

Then there are those who stay out of serious sin, manage to do some good for some people, but all in all produce a mediocre harvest.

Finally come the few who are not satisfied with just getting by. They sink their roots deep into Scripture, Tradition, prayer and the sacraments, and produce a bumper crop. We call these people saints.

Addressing us as seed, Jesus is saying: "be careful. If you don't make the effort to get thoroughly rooted in your faith, you just might not make it. If you do manage to survive, you might produce absolutely nothing. But you are called to grow and bear much fruit (John 15), to yield 100 fold, to be a saint, to leave a mark on the lives of many that will last forever. Don't settle for anything less!"

SOWERS MUST SOW

On the other hand, we can look at the parable as if we were the farmer.

Vatican II and all the Popes since have stated unequivocally that each of us is called to be an evangelizer, to tell others that Jesus Christ changes lives eternally and that the place to encounter him most fully and grow most rapidly is within the Catholic Church. "But," you may protest, "I tried it a few times and got nowhere. I just don't have the personality, don't have the gift"

Jesus, the Son of God, indisputably had both the personality and the gift. Yet when he sowed seed, much of it still ended up as bird food. Consider the thousands he fed with loaves and fishes, the multitude that heard his sermon on the mount, the throngs that welcomed him on Palm Sunday. Yet on the day of Pentecost, there were only 120 left in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit.

Notice, though, that the fruit borne by these 120 plants eventually filled the whole world!

GROWING & SOWING

To get the few that bear fruit, lots of seed must be sown by lots of people. So regardless of whether or not we think we have green thumbs, we farmers are being commanded through this parable to get the seed out there, sowing it everywhere we go, undeterred by the birds, the weeds, and the scorching sun.

So the parable of the sower has a twofold message: as seed, our job is to get busy growing. As farmers, our job is to get busy sowing.



2017 CCA Partner in Hope

In our collective efforts to share our blessings with those most in need, the Catholic Charities Appeal asks donors to prayerfully consider donating a dollar-a-day to become a Partner in Hope, making an impact all year round. For a dollar-a-day, a Partner in Hope will help provide support needed to tens of thousands of people through countless organizations, programs and ministries throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Attached is an example of how just a dollar-a-day can truly make a difference to our beneficiaries.

For more information on how to become a Partner in Hope, please visit the Catholic Charities Appeal website <https://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org/ways-give/> and click on the "Ways to Give" tab.



2017-2018 PREP YEAR

PREP is for children attending public and charter schools or who are homeschooled in grades 1st to 7th.

REGISTER TODAY!

Avoid A Late Fee

\$10.00/per child Late Fee after July 21st.

Registration forms may be obtained by downloading from our parish website or at the parish office.

Drop off or mail in your registration form along with your check to the Parish Office, Attn: Donna Sciacca, DRE

2017-2018 PREP Calendar is available for download from our parish website.



**Faith will be the foundation of your life.
Make that foundation solid!**

The RCIA program teaches our faith in several distinct stages.

Inquiry: the initial period before you decide to enter the Catholic Church. You're asking questions and checking it out, but aren't yet ready to commit.

Catechumenate: those who decide to enter the Church and are being trained for a life in Christ are called catechumens, an ancient name from the early Church. In this stage, you're developing your faith and are being "catechized" – learning catechism, or the basic points about Catholic faith and life.

Purification and preparation: The Church will help you focus and intensify your faith as you prepare you to commit your life to Christ and be received into the Church at Easter. If you're following the RCIA process, you'll go through a beautiful series of Gospel-based meditations during Lent, which is the time frame of this period.

Initiation itself, the culmination of the whole process! You're received into the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass, where you'll receive the sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. (If you've already been baptized, you won't be baptized again).

If you are 17 years or older and interested in learning more, please contact Donna Sciacca, DRE at our our parish office.



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

Catholic Education—You Can Help Educate a Child or Children

Do you know what local businesses "Froman Excavating, DiPalantino Paving, and Milham Ford" have in common?

All are participating in the **Pennsylvania Educational Income Tax Credit Program**. Their PA corporate state taxes are directed to Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist to fund financial aid scholarships for students for the 2017-18 School Year. Participating has little or no cost and it is as easy as filling out a one-page form. If you own your own business, your action could make a real difference in the life of a child.

**For more information, contact Geoff Meyer
at (610)960-7062.**

School Headmaster: Mr. John Mundy
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer
Ph: 610-847-5523
www.sjbottsville.org

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

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Daily Programs for up to 50 People
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Available for Individuals &
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Programs Open to Everyone

Monday 7:00PM – Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday 9:30AM – Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday 12PM – Adoration & Prayer for Vocations.

1st Saturdays 10am Mass, Confession, Rosary & Lunch

For more information please call Joan Black 215-536-3508

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Annual

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, September 15, 2017
Whitetail Golf Club
2679 Klein Road, Bath PA 18014

\$100.00 per person
incl. Golf, Lunch on the course,
Cocktails and a delicious Steak Dinner

RESERVE your slot Now!

Send your reservation along with your check to:
Sacred Heart Villa
Attn: MSC Golf Benefit
3300 Station Avenue, Center Valley, PA 18034

Hole Sponsors /Dinner Servers and Baked Goods are Requested.

For more information, please call Peg Glancey
at 610-847-5217.



Bucks, Montgomery and Philadelphia Bulletins (1570 AM):

Local Catholic Radio! Tune to 1570 AM to enjoy the best of EWTN and great local programming. The live call-in, educational and devotional programs will inform and enrich your Catholic faith. To obtain a programming guide, contact Holy Spirit Radio at 215-345-1570 or online at www.HolySpiritRadio.org. (Also, listen on 1420 AM in Chester County!)

Keeping the Faith during Summer Break

There's never an easy time to raise Catholic kids. During the school year, you're competing with after-school activities and homework and playdates and snow days. In the summer, you're wrestling with a different kind of busy the kind where camps and vacations and fun days at the pool with friends can make it hard to keep a routine. If anything, summer is where not being in a routine is actually the routine. It's true that our lives are busy and full of the unexpected — I often get tired just looking at my to-do list. But it's precisely in this chaos that we must find Christ. He is in the middle of our tornado of life, the one spinning with barbecues and camping trips and late summer nights. We have to see him in every one of these experiences.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that our prayer matters not just to us, but to God as well: "Whether we realize it or not, prayer is the encounter of God's thirst with ours. God thirsts that we may thirst for him" (No. 2560). That connection, like a garden, requires tending and cultivating.

One quick way to check in on your family's faith is to take its spiritual pulse. This can be any time, but for families it often works best around bedtime — kids tend to be more contemplative then, anyway. Ask them about what went right that day and also what went wrong. Did they attempt an act of kindness? Did they see someone hurting? How did they help? These kinds of questions help open children's eyes. It allows them to see their friends, family and even that mean lifeguard through the lens of Jesus. If we want them to think, "What would Jesus do?" then we need to help them see him in the world around them. Plus, kids are usually looking to draw out bedtime as long as possible, so why not add God into those extra minutes? It's here that we can water the mustard seeds of faith we've planted as parents.

While the calendar may say summer, it's ordinary time in the church. But for most of us, there's nothing ordinary about family life. There's always something happening. The same should be true of our faith. As a parent, I've learned that you can make anything a teachable moment, whether it's a beautiful sunset, a ripe blueberry or the first firefly of the season. How we perceive God in our world can influence how our children see him as well. When we make prayer a priority, we increase the chances they will, too. That's part of why saying grace before dinner or praying before bed matters. More than once, I've had my children stop me on the way out their bedroom to remind me I forgot to pray with them. It's a habit that means something, and for that I'm grateful.

Summer is about freedom and fun. We don't always see God in there, especially when we have to figure out when to go to Mass while on vacation in a new place. But God's love gives us the freedom of salvation. Our lives may have more twists and turns than a waterslide, but it leads us to the same place — into his loving arms.

JULY 16, 2017 – FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



PRAYER REQUEST

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, in the hospital, under hospice or residential care.

Susan Ackerman, Lillian Appleman, Larry Baker, Patricia Baker, Nancy Beans, John & Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Patti Bucci, Libby Chapman, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Charles Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Ernest D'Angelo, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Claire Fratrick, Violet Freeh, Janet Galen, Patricia Gall, Kathi Gallegher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Charles Houston, Martha Juchnowicz, Dotsy Keenan, Georgine Kocher, Valerie Korbar, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Sally Lindenmuth, Charles Lutcavage, Julia Maher, Loretta Malloy, Ray Malachowski, Jill Martindell, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Emma Michael, Joseph Moore, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, James O'Hanlon, Jonathan Ott, Gary Palmer, Joseph and Mary Victoria Pepkowski, Nicholas Powell, Gladys Proca, Don Raman, Mike Ramos,

Harry Reckner, Rachael Rice, Betty Rick, Gregory Rickert, Joy & Teddy Rodman, Sandy Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Andrew Schad, Lana Schell, Florence Schroker, Ginny Schulberger, Ronald Schultz, Sr., Frank & Joyce, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Gail Silveira, Baby Ella Stack, Carolyn Stahley, Shane Stroup, Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas Toner, Betty Ventresca, Diane Wesoski, Maryjane Whealton, Tamara Widmer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder.



Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey de Lauretis, Steehly de Lauretis, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given,

Matthew Gumprecht, Bob Hankinson, Victor Hormilla, Stephen Lindmeier, Jason Litschauer, Cory Litzenberger, Dan O'Connor, Jonathan Pucci, Dusty Rhodes,

Craig Russell, Don Valdez.

Thank you for serving & protecting our freedoms

July 22nd & 23rd – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	Cathy Leidtke Marion Wolf NEED 2 VOLUNTEERS!	Sean Lynch	NOT FILLED NEED 2-3 VOLUNTEERS! Please call the parish office	Amleto Pucci ?
Sunday 8am	Jackie Litzenberger Renee Moyer Bea Romaszewski Weez Roney	Jeanne Keller	Danny Froman Samantha Froman Brigid Froman	Choir
Sunday 10:30am Guest Celebrant Fr. Freeh	Jim Black Joan Black Wendy DeGroot Phil Donahue	Jane Ferry	Joey DeVenuto Courtney Reguera Alexea Brennan	Julia Costello Karen Parash