



# 15th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—JULY 16, 2017



## SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES

FATHER GARY BENZ-PASTOR

VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON

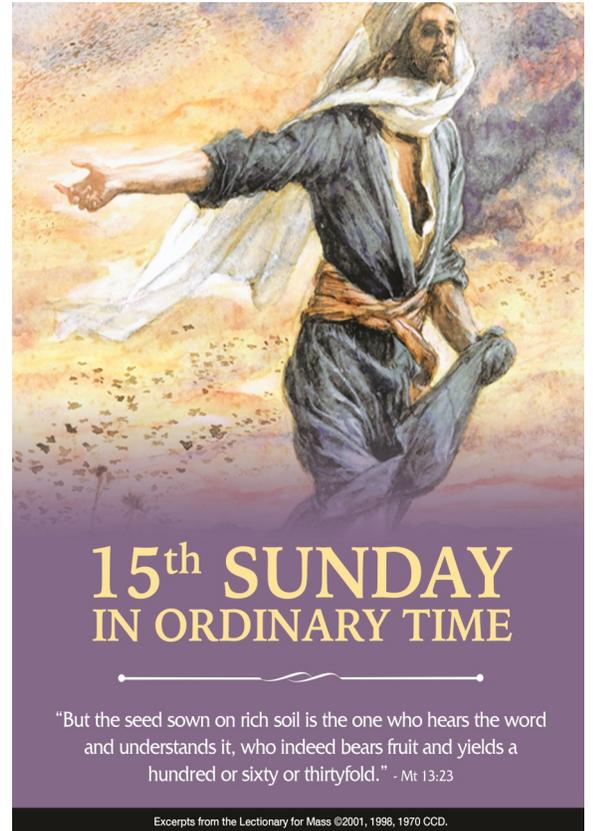
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*“The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But, he has no roots and lasts only for a time.”*

With all due deference and humility, I am afraid that I have to disagree with Jesus on one small point in today’s Gospel. He suggests that rocky soil cannot produce fruit. Well, growing up near the Rainy Buttes, I can attest that this is not necessarily so! On this rugged terrain, one sees trees growing out of rocks, tall grasses growing on rock formations, and beautiful wild flowers in their glory on large boulders. It is amazing how plant life can come forth from lifeless rocks. How can this be? I am not trained in the botanical sciences, but it must be the perfect conditions from *above* that allow plants to grow in rocky conditions: sufficient rain; plentiful sunshine; adequate dew; etc. With these in place, something beautiful can grow, even from rocks and stones.

Perhaps we should keep this in mind when we pray for our daily conversion to the heart and mind of Christ. In some regard, we all experience stony hearts, closed at times to love, mercy, kindness, and forgiveness. Stony hearts can be like stony land; God can still bring forth amazing realities from such difficult conditions. Admit to the Lord that you desire a new heart and with His love and grace from above, watch for beautiful things to come forth in your lives, especially a genuine love for Him and everyone you encounter. We trust that God is faithful to His promise to give us a new heart . . . the heart of Christ, allowing us to love as Christ loved.



### Mission Statements

#### St. Mary’s Parish

Brothers & sisters in Christ, accept as our mission:

Christ Reigns-Our Salvation

Christ Conquers– Our Hope

Christ Commands—Our guide to build the Kingdom of God.

We are all one in Christ Jesus & through Him, strengthen & inspire the faith of our community.

#### St. Elizabeth’s Parish

Walking in Faith, with Integrity.

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saint Mary’s: Before Mass

Saint Elizabeth’s: Before Mass

### SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact the Parish Office 9 months prior to wedding date.

### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Meeting with the Priest is required.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Call the Parish office.

## MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

**Monday, July 17**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, July 18**

**7:00 AM SM— Rosary & Perpetual Help Devotions**

**7:30 AM SM— +Deceased Family of George & Patty Ehllis by George & Patty Ehllis**

**Wednesday, July 19**

**7:30 AM SM- +Fran & +Polly Jearmchuk by Jane Fitterer**

**7:00 PM SE -+Rose Lefor by Darcy Kovash**

**Thursday, July 20**

**7:30 SM— Josie Heidt by Family**

**Friday, July**

**7:30 AM SM- +Maggie Schoch by Maynard & Monica Wanner**

**12PM-3PM— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Saturday, July 22**

**8:30 AM SM— +Victor Roller by Gordon & Susan Schmitt**

**4:00 PM SM— +Dorlyn Held**

**Sunday, July 23**

**8:30 AM SE- +Paul Schiwal by Howard & Faye Schiwal**

**10:30 AM SM— ProPopulo**

***Please Keep in Your Prayers:***

Jeff Hewson, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Keith Herold, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Jackie Deplanche, Duane Grundhauser, Cely Stagl, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Carla Rohan, Shari Obritsch, Charlotte Krebs, Eugenia Stagl, Bart Rohan, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom).

**Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents:** Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Mike Urlacher, Leona Gordon, Ardelle Kovar, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnell Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schoeder,

**Our Deceased Loved Ones** :+Florain Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek + June Stockert +Adeline Bogner +Vern Honeyman, +Kasper Heidt, +Caroline Pechtl, +Jacob Frank, +Frances Fichter, +Marie Krebs, +Maggie Kuhn, +Irene Benz

## Saint Mary's Announcements

◆ **Children's Collection**—children are invited to bring their weekly offering directly to the Father Gary while the regular collection is being taken.

◆ **KC 9675** Meeting July 17 at 7PM

### St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments July 22 & 23

MINISTRY	Saturday-5:00PM	Sunday-10:30AM
Lector	Connie Jalbert	John Ehllis
Mass Servers	Leonard G./Katie S.	Brock E./Paige E.
Eucharistic Ministers	Jim K./Martina S.	Dianne B./Mary F.
Gifts	Connie Jalbert Family	Kent & Angie- Maerschbecker
Rosary Leader	Maureen Gardner	Mary Fitterer
Greeters	Nicholas D & Eileen L	Victor & Lynn Dvorak
Eucharistic Ministers to the Homebound	Toni Jung	Toni Jung

### Collection Report St. Mary's July 9 & 10

Adult	Youth	
\$ 1514.00	Envelopes	\$ 0.00
\$ 234.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1748.00	Total	\$
\$ 2966.00	Month	\$ 1.00
\$ 733.00	Peter's Pence	

## Saint Elizabeth's Announcements

◆ July Church Cleaners— Dorita Kuhn, Amanda Kuhn & Trish Kaufman

### St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments July 22

Lector	Keith H.
Mass Servers	Nathan
Eucharistic Ministers	Dortia & Cindy
Gifts	Tina & Deran
Greeters	Darrell & Dorita
Ushers	Keith H. & Deran

### Collection Report St. Elizabeth's July 9

Adult	Youth	
\$ 1240.00	Envelopes	\$ 3000
\$ 83.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 1323.00	Total	\$
\$ 1771.00	Month	\$ 3.00

## **Fundamentals of our Catholic Faith, *Why do Catholics refuse to concede that their Church became doctrinally corrupt in the Middle Ages, necessitating the Protestant Reformation?***

Catholics rightfully refuse to concede such a thing because of their faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus solemnly pledged that the gates of hell would never prevail against His Church (cf. Matthew 16:18) and He solemnly promised that after His Ascension into heaven, He would send His Church “another Paraclete, the Spirit of truth” to abide in His Church forever (John 14:16-17). He also inspired the Apostle Paul to describe His Church as the “pillar and bulwark of truth” (I Timothy 3:15). If the Catholic Church (which most Protestants will admit was the only Church before Luther’s revolt) became doctrinally corrupt as alleged, it would mean that the gates of hell had prevailed against it. This would in turn mean that Jesus had deceived His followers! Believing Jesus Christ to be the very essence of truth and integrity, Catholics cannot in conscience believe that He would be guilty of such deception.

Furthermore, Catholics cannot see how the division of Christians into thousands of “rival camps” (i.e. denominations) and doctrinal variations can be called a “reformation” of the Christian Church. In the Catholic mind, hundreds of conflicting interpretations of Christ’s teaching do not add up to a true interpretation of His teaching. In fact, one of Jesus’ last prayers on earth was offered for the sake of Christian unity: “May all be one, as you Father are in me and I in you, that all may be one in us, that the world may believe that you sent me” (John 17:20-21). That is why Catholics always pray for Christian unity, for the divisions among Christians grieve the heart of our Savior, who desired His children to be united in true faith and worship.

Lastly, the whole idea of a “corrupted” Catholic Church before the Protestant Reformation is more and more considered to be a great historical fallacy. In fact, the opposite is true, that the Church during the Middle Ages was actually experiencing a great spiritual, liturgical, and aesthetical revival, especially in England. A great scholarly source on this matter is *The Stripping of the Altars*, by Eamon Duffy (Yale University Press, 1992). As for the Reformation on the continent, more and more scholars wonder if it was driven by the need for reform or Martin Luther’s struggles (obsession really) with his salvation and the German princes who used him for their own political benefit and leverage. To read further on this topic, see *Martin Luther, a Man Between Heaven and Earth* by Richard Marius (Harvard University Press, 1999). Contrary to everything we were taught in secular history classes, the Reformation was *not* a renewal, but instead a radical departure from the Catholic renaissance that was occurring during the Middle Ages. Today, we continue to reap the sad divisions from this tragic change of course, the work of men, not of God.

So, don’t believe that the Church was at one time corrupt, thus demanding a reformation. The Church indeed has had its share of sinful members who have done great harm in the name of religion, but countless other saintly members did and continue to do the work of Jesus Christ, with great love and zeal. The so called “great reformers” wanted to purify the Church of its ills. They brought forth centuries of division and mistrust among the followers of Jesus. Hmm? Maybe they should have been more concerned about purifying their hearts of pride and visions of grandeur.

### **To Keep the Reverence in Order**

We will be restoring the Catholic tradition of reserving the chalice (Precious Blood) for the people at Sunday Mass. If you read the Vatican II documents on the Sacred Liturgy, this was the intent of the council fathers, likely for the reason to show the greater dignity and solemnity of Sunday Mass, the celebration of the Lord’s Resurrection. Thus, there will be no Precious Blood offered at daily Mass, but only the Body of Christ. Thank you for your understanding.

On the topic of reverence at Mass, I kindly ask that all liturgical ministers please refrain from wearing flip-flops and please dress modestly, with no cleavage showing and no bare skin on the back exposed. In addition, for female altar servers, I ask that you pull your hair back when serving for the Holy Mass. In all things, let us strive always to bring modesty and decorum to each and every Holy Mass.

### **On the Lighter Side: *Letters to God***

Adam may have had his troubles, but at least he didn’t have to listen to Eve talk about the man she could have married.

### **Please Feel Free to Contact Me**

I am often away from the rectory, so please feel free to contact me by cell phone and I will make sure I am around to meet your needs. My cell number is 701-509-9504. If you wish to e-mail me, please do so at: [fgarybenz@yahoo.com](mailto:fgarybenz@yahoo.com). Either form of communication can be used for dinner invitations, especially if a large piece of dessert is involved

### **SUNDAY MASS SCHEDULE—STARTING AUGUST 6**

<b>Saint Mary’s</b>	<b>Saint Elizabeth’s</b>
<b>1st Sunday 10:30AM-Coming Together</b>	<b>1st Sunday 8:30AM</b>
<b>2nd Sunday of 8:30AM</b>	<b>2nd Sunday 10:30AM</b>
<b>3rd Sunday 8:30AM</b>	<b>3rd Sunday 10:30AM</b>
<b>4th Sunday 8:30AM</b>	<b>4th Sunday 10:30AM</b>
<b>5th Sunday of 8:30AM</b>	<b>5th Sunday 10:30AM</b>