

Gospel Reflection

July 15-16, 2017

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt. 13:1-23

For those who may be keeping track, I am still on vacation at my sister's house in rural Kentucky. It's my last day here. So I will be home before you read this reflection.



As I pondered what to say about the Parable of the Sower, a neighbor called my sister to say, "Meet me at my mailbox; I have squash, tomatoes, and peppers for you from my garden." Out the door my sister went.

It seems that here, in this part of the world, neighbors share the produce from their gardens with one another. That's not so surprising; I'm sure some of you do the same. What was surprising is that friends and neighbors also share seed. My sister, who has a flower garden, has received seed from friends and neighbors that, planted in her garden at the right time, made for an array of splendid color around house and yard. Since my sister doesn't tend a vegetable garden, the closest gift of seed for produce that she's received from her neighbors was a bag of cornflower seed. That plant is doing well in her front yard. Nonetheless, neighbors here still exchange seed for things like heirloom tomatoes. Incidentally, I'm told that that type of tomato (and its seed) is not generally available commercially; rather, they are passed down from generation to generation, person to person, from their growers.

The sower in today's parable was prodigal, that is, extravagant in sowing his seed. It fell on rocky, well-trod, overgrown, and fertile soil. In Biblical times, seeds were not strategically sown in neat rows, but simply spread far and wide across the field.

As Jesus explains in the parable, the seed sown is the word—not just any old word, but the Word of God. And on some soil it produces a rich harvest.

Here in Kentucky, friends and neighbors share both seed and its fruit. You receive the Word daily from the hand of a generous sower. Its fruits may be obvious in your life. Why not take a lesson from down in the "holler" and share both seed and its harvest with friend and neighbor far and near?

If we all did so, we may just increase the harvest thirty or sixty or a hundredfold.

~ Fr. Victor Scooco, O.S.S.T.

MONDAYS AT THE HISTORIC CHURCH

Morning Prayer and Morning Mass on Mondays takes place at the Historic Church. Every other Monday, Joe Eble will play the organ for Mass. There are temporarily NO bathroom facilities available at the Historic Church.

PARKSIDE BOULEVARD

Please remember that the speed limit on Parkside Boulevard is 25 mph.

MUSICIANS NEEDED

Serious musicians needed for our Praise Band for the Sunday 5:30pm Mass. Bassist, guitarist, keyboardist, drummer, and singers, playing Praise and Worship music by artists such as Tomlin, Maher, Blakesley. The group rehearses Sundays at 4:30pm. Contact Dan Baker at 410-242-5741 or keytardan@aol.com for more info.

SAVE THE DATES

We will have our annual Parish Grillin' Picnic on Saturday, August 12th from 12-4:30pm, here at our new campus. Fun for all ages. Volunteers are needed to assist in the big event (especially those with hidden talents...balloon animal making, DJs, musicians, etc.). If you have a talent you would like to share, please let us know at the Parish Office.

Another date to save is Saturday, September 23rd, as we will close our 150th Anniversary celebrations with a Dinner Dance. More details to come.

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

Please join our **Bible Study for Young Adults**, which now meets the first, third, and fifth **Wednesday** of the month at 7:00pm. The next session will be July 19th.

Young Adult Social Ministry usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday or Saturday of the month. We have an exciting schedule planned, and hope you'll join us.

- July 29th – Trip to Hershey Park! We'll leave from our parking lot at 7:45am and rendezvous again at the park. **This event is open to the entire parish! If you'd like to join us, please email danellerfernandez@gmail.com**
- August 12th – Parish Picnic 12:00-4:30pm – This will also count as our service opportunity, since we'll help set up, break down, and run activities.
- August 26th – Trip to Sky Zone Trampoline Park- Dinner will be offsite at 6pm and then we'll meet at Sky Zone at 7pm.

For more info on Bible Study or our social activities, please email youngadult@saintlawrencemartyr.org or go to: www.saintlawrencemartyr.org/youngadult

IMPROVE YOUR MARRIAGE

"... My word shall not return to Me void, but shall do My will, achieving the end for which I sent it." Discover how God's loving words can help us show His love for us and the world by participating in a WorldWide Marriage Encounter Weekend on October 27-29, 2017 in Gaithersburg, MD.

For more information and to apply online visit welovematrimony.org, or call 301-541-7007, or email at applications@welovematrimony.org

Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 15th: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm Mass for the People

Sunday, July 16th: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am + **Robert Paul Harper**

req by Lisa Anne Harper Wright

10:00am + **Frank Fronczek** req by Patrick & Judi McBee

12:00pm **Mass for the Unborn** req by K of C Council #12180

5:30pm + **Dawn Bleess** req by Patty Dieterich

Monday, July 17th:

9:00am* **Thomas Seeley** req by Howard Seeley

Tuesday, July 18th:

9:00am** + **William & Mary Durr** req by Ed & Mary Allen

Wednesday, July 19th:

9:00am*** + **James Prisco III** req by Jim Prisco Jr.

Thursday, July 20th:

9:00am* **Special prayer intention**

req by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

Friday, July 21st:

9:00am* **Leigh Hall** req by Richard Lambiasi Jr.

Saturday, July 22nd: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00pm + **Patricia Ann Frances Dowd** req by the Naymick family

Sunday, July 23rd: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00am **Mass for the People**

10:00am + **Josefina Perez** req by Mr. & Mrs. Eleida Roman

12:00pm + **Ray Tansill** req by Dick & Judy Boivin

5:30pm + **Manuel Megias Marato**

req by Michael & Lola Rivera

*Rosary following Mass **Rosary and Novena to St. Agatha

***Rosary and Novena to St. Michael of the Saints

MASS INTENTION REQUESTS

Offering Mass for a Special Intention is a long-standing tradition in the Catholic Church. If you would like to have a Mass celebrated for someone, please contact the Parish Office via email at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970.

Please call ahead if you want your intention on a specific date so it can be put on the calendar.

July 22 nd – 23 rd Ministry Schedule					
Time	Servers	Lector	EM	Ushers	Greeters
Saturday 5:00pm	Katie B Lilly B	John M	Rick B Jeff F Phil H	Jeff F Steve S	John S
Sunday 8:00am	Andrew S	Alan A	Ed A Rocco D Donna S	Dwayne G <i>Help Needed</i>	Helen C
Sunday 10:00am	Cassie B	Carla D	Elizabeth V Donna F <i>Help Needed</i>	Darryl B Aida R	Angie N Mary C
Sunday 12:00pm	Jason S	Bob S	Maria D Maureen M Deacon Dave	Michael L Jerry S	<i>Help Needed</i>
Sunday 5:30pm	<i>Help Needed</i>	Mike R	Kathy F Daniel H Bill R	Steve F Drew F	<i>Help Needed</i>

CHURCH SUPPORT – JULY 8TH – 9TH

Category	This year	Last year
Envelopes: Regular Weekly	\$3,274.00	\$3,618.00
Loose: Regular Weekly	1,949.00	1,516.00
E-giving: Regular Weekly	1,605.50	1,510.00
Rest. & Maintenance	1,242.00	1,147.00
TOTAL OFFERTORY	\$8,070.50	\$7,791.00
Poor Box:	\$68.50	\$320.00

ONLINE GIVING

Saint Lawrence Martyr provides Online Giving—a convenient and safe way to make a one-time or recurring donation. Getting started is easy: visit our website at <http://www.saintlawrencemartyr.org> and click the Online Giving button.

When you participate, your gift will be securely transferred directly into the parish bank account. And you won't have to remember to write a check or stop by the ATM on the weekend!



- July 15th:** 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign
- July 16th:** 2nd Collection: Capital Campaign
11:15am Prayer Ministry (McKenna)
1:30pm Lector Training
- July 18th:** 10:30am TLC Bingo
6:00pm Divine Mercy Chaplet
7:00pm PPC Mtg
- July 19th:** 7:00pm Young Adult Bible Study
- July 20th:** 7:30pm K of C Social Mtg
- July 23rd:** 6:30pm Life Night – Bowling at Greenway

TLC—THE LASTING CONNECTION—FOR 55+

Join us this Tuesday at 10:30am for Bingo.

The TLC ministry provides for the social interaction of our senior citizens. In this ecumenical group, lectures, activities, trips, and a monthly meal are provided in a safe, caring, and enriching environment. Typically, we meet on Tuesday. Please see the TLC website page at <http://saintlawrencemartyr.org/tlc>

GABRIEL NETWORK – HELP PREGNANT WOMEN

St. Lawrence Parish Gabriel Network program, which supports practical, emotional, and spiritual care to pregnant women in crisis situations, is going strong.



If you'd like to help out with the program, contact Joe Toher by email at joetoher@gmail.com or call 443-850-6207.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have volunteered for our various ministries. Our Hospitality Ministries could use some help. Remember, these ministries help form a visitor's first and last impression of our St. Lawrence community.

Our Greeters, Coffee Ministry, Parking Lot Ministry, and an Information Desk Ministry can all use new volunteers!

Training for these ministries should be taking place soon.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. Please take this opportunity to serve the Church.

MAKING ORDINARY TIME EXTRAORDINARY WITH FORMED

To Study: *Catholicism: Session 2- Happy Are We*

The revelation of Jesus as God is accompanied by a stunning invitation to a



unique new way of life, explained in the teachings of Jesus. To every generation, the words of Jesus have proven fascinating, disorienting, sometimes confounding, deeply transformative, and always unforgettable. Bishop Barron highlights the Beatitudes, the path of non-violence and lessons of forgiveness, care for the poor, and our relationship with God as presented in the parables.

Go to Study the Catholic Faith

To Listen *Abba or Allah* by Dr. Scott Hahn.

In this informative talk, Dr. Hahn explores some of the most important beliefs that distinguish Christianity from Islam. He explains that while both religions trace themselves back to Abraham, the differences, including our understanding of God as Father, are not insignificant. With charity, balance, and candor, Dr. Hahn shows us how Islam presents the most formidable challenge to Christianity in the Third millennium.

Go to Discover the Catholic Faith

To Access: Go to www.formed.org and click "Register", located in the lower right hand corner. Then enter both the Parish Code, which is ed1783, and your email address. You'll need to fill out some basic information and then click "Submit".

Formed will send an email for verification to your email. Go to & open your email received from "Formed" and click on the word "Verify". It will take you to the Formed site.

NEW: the FORMED app is now available for Apple products and it's FREE!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our Women's Bible Study meets every Tuesday, from 6:30–8:30pm, except for the **third** Tuesday of the month.

Starting on July 25th, we will be starting a new session studying the Gospel of Mark. The Study Guide is \$12 and you can pick it up at the Parish Office beforehand.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Judy Kurtz and Sandy Garrick at womensbible@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call the Parish Office at 410-799-1970 ext. 50.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for adult volunteers to staff the reception desk in the office. Volunteers would answer phone calls, assist visitors, and do light office work.

We have three shifts available: morning, afternoon, and evening. Let us know your preference and availability of day and shift. Any help is greatly appreciated. Contact the Parish Office for more information.

SHARE FOOD NETWORK: HOST SITE #4305

Would you like to have healthy, seasonal and nutritious food delivered to your door each month? Host Site #4305 of the SHARE Food Network, located here in Jessup, MD, does just that at an affordable cost for the disabled, sick, shut in, and senior members of our community.

Every month, SHARE offers Value Packages for \$21 which include \$40-\$45 worth of basic and healthy groceries, and always 4 to 6 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables, sometimes with seasonal grocery or dessert items. Other great food specials are also offered at below market prices.

Payment options include: debit/credit cards, EBT, and Cash/Money Order.

For more information or to place an order for the month of July 2017, please call Myrtle Webb, Host Site Coordinator, at 443-621-0002.

DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

The taller candles on the back row of the new candle stand are available as Memorial Candles. The Memorial Candle remains lit 24 hours a day, every day, for one year and includes a small plaque with the name of your loved one in front of your candle. Plaques will remain on display for a year for an annual fee of \$200.

If you would like to reserve a Memorial Candle, please contact the Parish Office.

CATHOLIC MEN'S STUDY GROUP

The purpose of this group is to better understand the biblical and historical basis for Catholic doctrines. The group meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00pm.

The topic for the summer is various interpretations of the Book of Revelation. All are welcome.

SIT REFLECTION

~Matt Behum, SIT Director (mbehum@gmail.com)

You may have seen in the news this week that ISIS has admitted its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was recently killed by airstrike. While this probably causes many around the world to feel a sense of relief ... perhaps jubilation—what does this news mean to you?

For us here at St. Lawrence, in the literal sense, it does not have much effect on our day to day, does it? That isn't a criticism, it is a fact of how life for us here is so different compared to those who have suffered under the maniacal terrorism of this supposed leader of the caliphate.

I cannot lie to you and say that my initial reaction to this news was not simply, "It is about time." But admittedly, my mind was quickly filled with another thought—that of the bodies upon bodies of Christian children whose lives were snuffed out because of the direction of this one man. I thought about the fear that young children across the Middle East must have felt time and time again when they were asked a simple question: "Will you deny Jesus?" And yet the true victory of our faith would resonate in the eventual tears and painful cries of children as young as three who resoundingly answered: "No, I love Him."

I tried to think what I would say to my son for the last time if I knew we had to part from one another after facing a question like this. How would I calm him ... what would I do? Indeed every night we pray for those children who face evil, but praying for and experiencing are worlds of difference.

One can get overwhelmed thinking about the despair that people such as these must feel when dealing with such a cruel ultimatum, yet the answer is always the same, isn't it? It is as if these younger children could feel Jesus' presence directly by their side, giving them the strength of a thousand armies to look evil square in the pupils and remain true to Our Savior.

Our faith cannot be compromised, our faith will never disappear—Heaven knows attempts have been made to uproot Christianity on earth by the likes of pagan Rome, communist Russia, imperial China, and Islamo-fascism, just to name a few. What all these anti-Christian movements never grasp is that our faith is but a snippet in time here on earth, and its eternal glory motivates its followers to always look to living forever with their Lord. You cannot destroy eternity, you cannot impact the glory of our God's strength ... His eternal love.

So as we reflect on this "hot button news item," and perhaps take solace in knowing such a menace is no longer walking the earth, let us perhaps redirect our thoughts to those who willingly sacrificed themselves when facing Satan's glare—especially those blessed children of Our Lord, who, as I write, are all eagerly gathered around His Heavenly table.

God bless you all, and God bless the persecuted.

NEW EMHC TRAINING – JULY 29TH

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) training for new ministers will be held on Saturday, July 29th at 10am. Please contact Mrs. Lola Rivera at 443-223-1125 or lolarivera@ymail.com if you are interested in serving in this important ministry.

DO YOU LIKE TO WORK OUTDOORS?

The **Church Grounds Crew** needs volunteers to help cut grass, at both the Historic Church and cemetery and at the new Parish Complex. For further info, please contact Michael Levesque via email michaelrlevesque@yahoo.com or call 410-262-6751.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: Since Deacon Dave has only been assigned to St. Lawrence since July 1st, and since Deacon John was St. Lawrence's first Permanent Deacon, obviously Deacon John has had the longest tenure here as a Permanent Deacon at St. Lawrence! He's been here since his ordination on May 17, 2003. We will definitely miss him.

This week's question: Our 150th Anniversary Year will come to a close on Saturday, September 23rd, 2017. We chose that day since a) it is the exact anniversary of the dedication of the historic church and b) it was a Saturday, which works well for a Dinner Dance. But what day of the week was September 23, 1866?



This Week In Youth Ministry: This Sunday, we don't have youth group.

But mark your calendars for next Sunday, July 23rd. We were supposed to be ice skating, but the schedule changed and we will be bowling instead.

We will meet at Greenway Bowl at 8246 Telegraph Rd, Odenton, MD 21113 at 6:30 (or 6:45 if you're coming from Mass) and bowl until 8:30pm. The cost is \$4.00 a game + shoe rental. A permission form will be sent to all parents and we will also have extras at the bowling alley. Please contact AnnaMarie with any questions annamaried.link@gmail.com

Also, start looking for exciting changes coming to the youth ministry program starting in the Fall. We will be debuting a new program and we are looking forward to introducing it to you! Questions? Email AnnaMarie Link - annamaried.link@gmail.com

We are always looking for adult volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email or call me at 410-799-1970, ext 55 if you're interested in helping.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen

In Him through her,
AnnaMarie Link