

JULY 20, 2008 – 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Seeds, Weeds and the Yeast of Faith

Matthew 13:24-43

The people enjoyed the way Jesus talked to them. His parables made everything easy to remember. Wrapped in a story, his message was alive and continued to live in their minds.

Jesus reached down and picked up a tiny mustard seed. He carefully held it between his finger and his thumb. Closing one eye he focused on the miniature seed, holding it up at eye level and turned in a half circle so that all gathered around him could see.

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like this," Jesus announced, allowing them time to murmur among themselves. Some of the people were wondering how a little seed could be like the Kingdom of Heaven. How could you get a palace, a temple, all the people and everything else into a little seed? Jesus went on to explain that even though the mustard seed is the smallest of seeds it would one day grow into a tree. It would be a tree so large that birds would build their nests in its branches.

To further explain the Kingdom of God, he told them the parable about the woman adding yeast to the flour and then watching the dough grow. For yet another example of what the Kingdom of God is like he gave them the parable about the enemy who sowed weeds in among the wheat.

That night after Jesus returned to Peter's house, some of the disciples showed up. Jesus had been lying down and rose up on one elbow when they entered the house. He yawned as he watched them seat themselves on cushions along the front wall.

"Sorry if we woke you up," one of them said. "It's okay", Jesus smiled. Peter grinned at Jesus' unlikely statement and rolled his eyes in mock disbelief.

But Matthew was eager with a serious question. He leaned forward, addressing Jesus: "Tell us, what does the story about the weeds in the field mean?"

Jesus answered quickly: "The man who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world; the good seeds are the people who belong to the Kingdom; the weeds are the people who belong to the Evil One; and the enemy who sowed the seeds is the Devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvest workers are the angels."

Jesus saw in their faces that the parable had become astonishingly clear to them.

The disciples were "good seeds" but "weeds" would be sewn among them. At that Judas felt a cold shadow of uneasiness pass over him. When he looked up Judas saw that Jesus was looking directly at him. Their eyes met for a moment, then Judas looked down again and pretended to be in deep thought.

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Jesus continues to teach us with his wonderful parables. This Sunday's Gospel invites us to think about seeds, yeast and weeds. Underlying these stories are images of hope and great growth despite great difficulties. It sounds a lot like the stuff of Life! It also sounds a lot like a promise that God's people will one day "...shine like the sun in their Father's Kingdom."

-- Deacon Dick Folger



INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For July 21, 2008 to July 27, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Jackie Declercq (Dec.); Lucila Case (Dec.)
Wed.	8:15 a.m. --	Irma Miramontes Baca (Dec.)
Thur.	8:15 a.m. --	Edward J. Matty (Dec.)
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	Jose de Jesus Casillas (Dec.)
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Pat Morales (Dec.)
	5:00 p.m. --	Mario Van Der Henst (Dec.)

Sun.	6:45 a.m. –	Gianni Miraglia (Dec.); Ana (Dec.) & Armengol Aguilar (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. –	Alejandro Alvarez Loza (Dec.)
	9:45 a.m. –	Timoteo Tello (Dec.); Ramona Estrada (Dec.); Juan Lopez (Dec.)
	11:30 a.m.--	Margarito (Dec.) & Eusevia Valdes (Dec.)

WEEKDAY READINGS

For July 21, 2008 to July 26, 2008

Mon	Micah 6:1-4,6-8 / Matthew 12:38-42
Tues.	Micah 7:14-15,18-20 / John 20:1-2,11-18
Wed.	Jeremiah 1:1,4-10 / Matthew 13:1-9
Thu.	Jeremiah 2:1-3,7-8,12-13 / Matthew 13:10-17
Fri.	2 Corinthians 4:7-15 / Matthew 20:20-28
Sat.	Jeremiah 7:1-11 / Matthew 13:24-30

SUNDAY READINGS

July 27, 2008 - 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5,7-12 / 2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30 / Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

COLLECTIONS

For July 13, 2008

First Collection	\$6,507.50
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection (updated)	9,566.00
Second Collection: St. Vincent de Paul	1,619.00
Children's Envelopes	11.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

**REMEMBER TO . . .
KEEP HIM IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- That the silent retreat that Fr. José is currently taking part in will be spiritually rewarding.
- That Fr. José's time away from the parish will be physically relaxing and refreshing.
- That Fr. José will gain new insights from this experience.
- That his "Mini-Sabbatical" over the next couple of months will give him new strength so that he can continue to serve OLR with selfless dedication.

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES CONTINUES TODAY

After the 8:15 Mass in the Parish Hall

NEW ARTICLES

**SUMMER LECTURE SERIES
ON THE EUCHARIST
CONTINUES**

The second session of Armenak Hermez' summer lecture series is today at 9:30 in the Parish Hall. We were very pleased with the attendance at last Sunday's first session.

If you did not attend last Sunday's lecture, that shouldn't stop you from attending this week, or next week, or the next. The offering per person per session is \$7.00, which will be collected at the door.

These are the remaining topics to be covered:

Structure of the Mass.....	Today, July 20
Liturgy of the Word	July 27
Liturgy of the Eucharist	August 3

If you cannot attend all of the sessions, don't worry – the sessions you do attend will still be meaningful to you.

We hope that you will take advantage of this convenient opportunity to deepen your faith.

MONTHLY OLR COR LOC GENERAL MEETING THIS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, at 7:00 p.m. in the Office Conference Room, Room 107. We will be discussing the topics of youth violence prevention programs and our local schools, and how the election in November will affect these topics. All are welcome. If you have any question please feel free to call Andrea Marta at the COR office at 510.727.8833.

REQUEST FOR HELP. Our St. Vincent de Paul conference has received a few special parishioner requests that we need help with. A single parent is in need of school expenses and a disabled senior citizen from our parish needs help with a special need. If you would be willing to share in these loving and giving experiences please contact Sue Bonin, the President of our parish's St. Vincent de Paul by calling the Parish Office at 510.471.2609 and leaving a message at Extension 220. Thank you. "Proceed quietly, pray a great deal and act together." -- St. Vincent de Paul

FUNDRAISING GIFT CARDS AND CERTIFICATES, RELIGIOUS ARTICLES AND OLR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS WILL BE SOLD AFTER MASS NEXT WEEKEND.

WE HAVEN'T MENTIONED IT FOR A WHILE, SO WE'RE DOING IT AGAIN.

YES, YOU MAY STILL SIGN UP FOR FR. JOSE'S TRIP TO ISRAEL!

Even though Fr. José is not here at the present time, and even though we haven't mentioned it for a while, you may still sign up for his trip to Israel in November. The pilgrimage is entitled "Israel: A Journey to the Holy Land." It will be a 10 day trip from November 4 through 13. The rates for the trip are \$3,349.00 double-occupancy; \$3,899.00 single, and \$3,319.00 triple. Round trip airfare from San Francisco, air taxes and fees, and surcharges of \$400.00 per person (subject to increase until paid in full) is included in the price. Cancellation waiver and insurance of \$200.00 per person is not included. For more information please contact the Parish Office at 510.471.2609 or stop by the office for a registration form.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR FAITH? DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE SACRAMENTS LATER IN LIFE like Baptism, First Eucharist, or Confirmation? If so, consider taking part in our RCIA Program. This program is for people 18 years and older. We meet in the First Floor Conference Room of the Parish Office on Sundays after the 8:15 a.m. Mass. If you are interested in participating in this program, or know someone who is, stop by when we meet or call Camila Magdaleno at (510) 471-7419.

FAITH. IT IS ONE OF MANY REASONS TO SEND YOUR CHILD TO OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY SCHOOL. Our Lady of the Rosary School gives our students a firm foundation in the "Three R's." It is a fourth "R," religion, which binds it all together and makes our students whole. We integrate our faith into the curriculum so that it becomes a way of life. At OLR School, religious education is not a weekly occurrence, but something that our students experience daily. There are openings in the school for most grades at the present time. If you would like to see what Our Lady of the Rosary School could do for your child, give us a call at (510) 471-3765 or stop by. We would like to share our story with you.

CCD REGISTRATION NOW BEING TAKEN FOR 2008-2009. We are registering children in grades 1 through 6 for our parish religious education program (C.C.D) during the months of **June, July and August**. For children in grades 7 and above, please contact Sheryl Bartlett, Youth Program through e-mail at sbartlett@olrchurch.org.

TO REGISTER FOR CCD, you may come to the C.C.D. office on the 2nd floor between 8:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. on any Saturday or Sunday during the months of June, July and August. If you have children who are new to the program or who are returning to the program, they must be registered before classes begin in September.

TO SPEED UP YOUR REGISTRATION, you can pick up registration forms and tuition information at the Parish Office Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, 12:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m., complete the forms at home, return them along with your payment to the C.C.D. office on Saturday or Sunday mornings. Please call the Office of Religious Education at (510) 471-7419, if you have any questions.

FESTIVAL FLEA MARKET: There ain't no bugs on me! That's why we need your fleas. As you probably noticed, the cargo container is now in place next to the Parish Office. This means that **WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING FLEA MARKET ITEMS.**

Remember our guidelines of the donations we can accept:

We can use:

Household items, such as kitchen pots and utensils; furniture; knick knacks; tools; appliances

Please do not bring:

Clothing and shoes; paints and cleaning products; furniture or appliances in need of repair

The Festival can use the following items:

Books for the book booth; new hand-crafted boutique items; glassware for the dime toss booth

If the container is open, place your items at the front end of the container, in front of the container. If the container is locked, place your donations near the door of the container between the Office and the container.

Thank you in advance for your support.

PRA YERS

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS those in our parish and families who are ill or homebound: Susana Alcaraz, Tony Baligaya, Gladis Borges, Lindy C., Paul Cabrera, Alan Cady, Rebecca Cady, Maria Camarillo, Grace Caminada, Dionesio Campos, Daniel Canales, Rose Canales, Grace Carr, Grace Continelli, Cindy Davis, Chealsy Davis, Courtney Davis, Jennie DeCosta, Marc DelBianco, Irene Drouin, Joseph Dunbar, Ed Fiala, Rita Fregoso, Frank Gallegos, Sobeida Gallegos, Gene Garcia, Deanna Graves, Emilio Gudino, Keith Gunter, Ethel Guerrero, Jesús Gutierrez, Anne Guzman, Herm Henderson, Carme Hernandez, Eduardo Hernandez, Henry Hernandez, Margaret K., Mark Kamakea, Ermelinda Lopez, Francisco Lozano, Miguel Luviano, Sara Maas, Antonio Maciel, Catalina Manasala, Craig Manning, Ismael Martinez, Jess Martinez, Richard M. Martinez, Florence Mederios, Philip Molina, Joe Morales, Josephine Nava, Richard Nelson, Ysidro Nieves, Mirta Orellana, Mario Perales, Luz Perez, Ehren Perkins, Marcella Roderigues, Lydia Rodríguez, Joe Romero, Conor Rosado, Macca Savage, Letty Serrano, Clarence Souza, Nelly Stewart, Myron Tejada, Vivianlee Tonry, Casandra Valadez, Concepción Valencia, Isabel Villarina.

***This Week
At O.L.R.***



Tuesday, July 22

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 23

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

OLR COR LOC General Meeting, Office Room 107, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 24

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, July 25

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, July 26

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, July 27

Second Collection for Diocesan Obligations

Lecture Series on The Eucharist, English, Parish Hall, 9:30 a.m.