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Mass Schedule Diocesan Bishop Most Rev. Gerard P. Bergie D.D. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8:30 a.m. **Pastor** Fr. Greg Schmidt frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com Saturday 5:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m. (Children's Liturgy of the Word) Sunday Deacon Deacon George Newman 11:00 a.m. Confessions **Director of Music** Dr. David Holler 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. or by appointment Saturday Maintenance Jim Salmon Office Hours Administration Christine Buckley Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cheryl Wood



July 16, 2023 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel from Matthew, our Lord shares the Parable of the Sower who scatters seed on many different kinds of land. This is a wonderful analogy for the stewardship way of life, demonstrating the slow and steady, yet powerful effect this lifestyle will have on those who fully embrace it. In this parable, some of the seeds land on a path where birds carry them off before they can begin to take root. Other seeds land on rocky ground with little soil. As soon as things begin to heat up, they get scorched and die. Then there are seeds that land on soil cluttered with thorns which choke the seeds just as they are beginning to grow strong. Finally, there are seeds that land on deep and healthy soil. These seeds produce abundant fruit.

This is where the stewardship way of life comes in. When we give the best of our time, talent and treasure to serve God and others, we create lives filled with that rare "good soil" needed for the Kingdom of God to thrive.



How does this happen? Stewardship living removes the "rocks" of mistrust from our lives as we develop an unshakeable faith that God will always provide for our needs. It clears away the "thorns" of worldly ambition that make us self-centered, fill us with needless anxiety and stifle our focus on God. Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the sacraments which continuously nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives.

Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life, allowing the Sower to do His work in us, slowly and steadily. The Master Gardner will surely produce miraculous fruits through us.

Stewardship Reflections by Catholic Stewardship Consultants

Parish Calendar

Monday, July 17

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Souls in Purgatory †

Tuesday, July 18

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Anita Bertie †
Special Intention

Wednesday, July 19

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Special Intention

Thursday, July 20 - No Mass

Friday, July 21

8:30 a.m. (Livestream) - Basil Markle†

Saturday, July 22

5:00 p.m. (Livestream) - Carolyn Jedlinski † Harith Younan † | Dr. Joyce DeSouza †

Sunday, July 23

9:00 a.m. (Livestream) - Tom Roselli †
Pierette & Georges Cote †
Mae Cassidy † | Stephen Cassidy †
11:00 a.m. - Mass for the People

Are You Being Called?

"Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Is the Lord inviting you to know, love and serve Him more closely in the priesthood or consecrated life?

Contact Fr. Greg at the church office, 905 684 5603 or email frgregoryschmidt@gmail.com.

Niagara Catholic Physicians' Guild

The Niagara Catholic Physicians' Guild is a newly formed group that provides a forum for the study of medical ethics in light of Roman Catholic Teaching and examines the intersection of faith and medicine. The group will meet about 4 times annually. We plan to provide fellowship, mentorship, and study on topics of interest to Catholic physicians in addition to an annual mass for health care workers. Physicians, medical students and pre-medical students are asked to contact

<u>niagaracatholicphysicians@gmail.com</u> for more information and to be added to our mailing list.

May your summer be blessed....



July 23, 2023 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel passage from Matthew is filled with lessons both cautionary and consoling for the Christian steward as Jesus uses several parables to describe the kingdom of heaven and our role in it. First, He compares it to a field where both wheat and weeds have been sown. Both weeds and wheat are permitted to grow and only at the harvest time are they separated, or "judged" — the wheat gathered into the sower's barn and the weeds finally destroyed. So it will be for each of us at the end of our time on earth. It is a sobering reminder of the justice of God. Next, He says the kingdom of heaven is like the small portion of yeast that is mixed in with flour for the making of bread. The yeast makes up an insignificant fraction of the ingredients, yet it is vital to the outcome — without that tiny bit of yeast, the bread simply will not rise. Similarly, He compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed, "the smallest of all the seeds." But when it is full-grown it becomes the largest of all the plants, a sturdy and hardy bush where "birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."



So often, the prayers that we pray, the service we offer, the gifts we give — in comparison to the immense needs around us — can seem laughably small. But, as Jesus makes clear through the images of yeast and mustard seed, that is not the truth! God sees and treasures and "grows" our offerings of time, talent, and treasure in ways we cannot begin to imagine.

In justice, in gratitude, in love, let us remain faithful to the mission entrusted to our care for the building of the kingdom of heaven.

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Parish Calendar

Monday, July 24

8:30 a.m. - Helen & Edmond Michaud †

Tuesday, July 25

8:30 a.m. - Harith Younan † | Andy Schertzer † Special Intention

Wednesday, July 26

8:30 a.m. - Robert Duhamel †

Thursday, July 27 - No Mass

Friday, July 28

8:30 a.m. - Rita Markle \dagger Pierette & Georges Cote \dagger | Souls in Pergatory \dagger

Saturday, July 29

5:00 p.m. (Livestream) - Harith Younan † Jim Vandervoort † | Special Intention

Sunday, July 30

9:00 a.m. (Livestream) - Michael Morra † Andrew Keltos & deceased members of the Keltos Family † 11:00 a.m. - Mass for the People

CATHOLIC and LIVING IT!





....beyond measure

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- The easiest way to give, automatically debited from your bank account monthly
- Set it up once and never forget your offering
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- The debit will take place on the 5th day of each month (or on the next business day)
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St. Julia Church 16 Adelene Crescent St. Catharines, ON L2T 3Y7

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 - 2. Click Interac e-Transfer
 - 3. Add contact name i.e. St. Julia
 - 4. Notify by email
 - 5. Contacts email address
 - Enter in our new **stjuliaparishstcgiving@gmail.com** email address
 - (you will only have to enter this in for the first time St. Julia will then be a saved contact)
 - 6. Make your donation via your newly set up Interac E-Transfer

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St. Julia Church 16 Adelene Crescent St. Catharines, ON L2T 3Y7

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Thank you for your configued generally.

God bless you and those that you love.