

**Wednesday July 19 for the 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Loving and caring God, thank you for gathering us together to share your Word. Send your Holy Spirit into our midst so that we may hear the message you want us to hear in these readings. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

**24 Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:**

**“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field.**

**25 While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.**

**26 When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.**

**27 The slaves of the householder came to him and said,**

**‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?’**

**28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’**

**His slaves said to him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’**

**29 He replied, ‘No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.**

**30 Let them grow together until harvest;**

**then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters,**

**‘First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;**

**but gather the wheat into my barn.”**

## **Matthew 13:24-30**

\* [13:24–30] This parable is peculiar to Matthew. The comparison in Mt 13:24 does not mean that the kingdom of heaven may be likened simply to the person in question but to the situation narrated in the whole story. The refusal of the householder to allow his slaves to separate the wheat from the weeds while they are still growing is a warning to the disciples not to attempt to anticipate the final judgment of God by a definitive exclusion of sinners from the kingdom. In its present stage it is composed of the good and the bad. The judgment of God alone will eliminate the sinful. Until then there must be patience and the preaching of repentance.

\* [13:25] Weeds: darnel, a poisonous weed that in its first stage of growth resembles wheat.

### **SILENT REFLECTION**

**GOSPEL BACKGROUND:** Taken from Ascension Catholic Lectionary Commentary

Matthew presents us with three more “kingdom parables” intended to teach that the coming of the Kingdom is a growth process that occurs over a very long period. Thus, patience and tolerance are needed for the followers of Jesus. The Parable of the Wheat and Weeds would be a familiar story to Jesus’ listeners. They have all seen weeds sprouting up among good seed. The servants want to rush out into the fields to pull up all the weeds. In Jesus’ time, the religious leaders have no patience or compassion for sinners. They want all of them weeded out. And so it will be in Matthew’s community several decades later when some members under religious persecution will deny their faith and will be shown very little compassion by some leaders in Matthew’s community. In the parable, the Master (representing God) calls for patience, “Let both weeds and wheat continue to grow.” Ezekiel tells us that God desires not the death of the sinner, but that he repents and lives. The parable illustrates God’s patience with sinners until the Day of Judgment (harvest time). Jesus condemns elitism and underscores the fact that the Christian community and we, individually, will always be a “mixed bag” of good and not so good people: saints and sinners. The role of Church leaders is to preach and practice repentance, mercy, patience and compassion, and to leave judgment to God. love, repent, show mercy, and stay out of deciding who will be saved. But a final Day of Judgment will come when those who are evil and unrepentant will pay the ultimate price for their sin, but those who have remained faithful or have repented from their sins will be welcomed into heaven. Until that Day, God will be patient and merciful and so should the Church. The Church’s job is to preach repentance, show leniency, and leave the judging to God

## **QUESTIONS FOR SHARING**

What verse or image in the readings caught your attention or drew you in? Any idea why? Was there a verse or aspect of the readings that challenged you?

### **Additional Questions if time permits:**

Do we think that the Church would be better off without some types of people?

How hard or easy is it for you to live alongside or converse with people whose beliefs are very different from yours politically and spiritually, and to refrain from judging them?

Fr. Tom Green, S.J., says that God can use our sins (weeds) as well as our virtues to draw us closer to him. What do you think about that?

Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on

## **IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?**

## **IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?**

## **CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer**

## **Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom**

Starting July 19 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday  
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: July 19, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGbIZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586

One tap mobile

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**event**

Organizer: Blessed Sacrament Parish