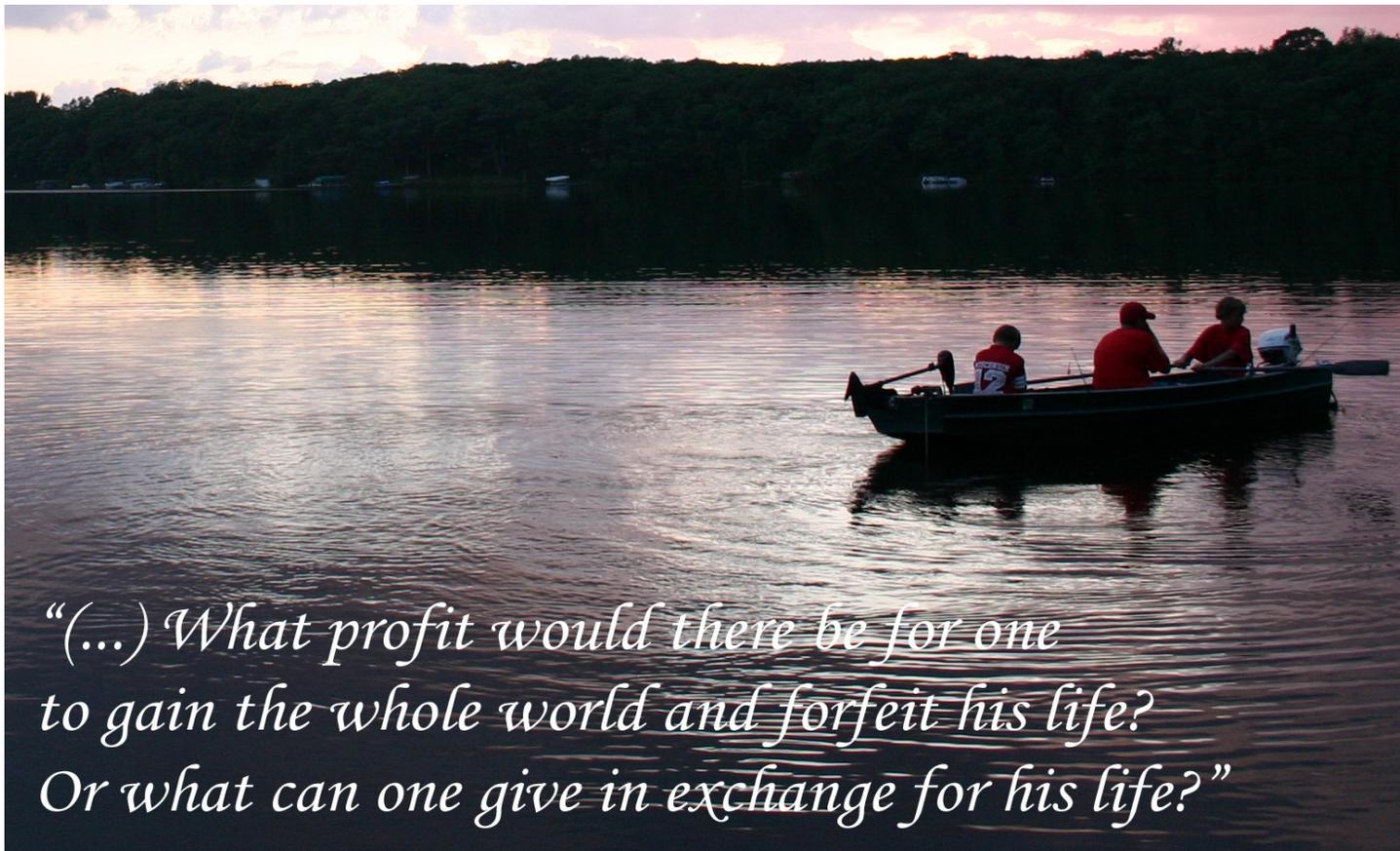


Saint Lawrence Catholic Church

July 19th, 2020

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time



“(...) What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? Or what can one give in exchange for his life?”

Parish Office Hours

Dave Ecke (DRE):

Monday-Friday 8:00-Noon

Kim Siegler

(Secretary/Bookkeeper):

Wednesday and Thursday
9:30-4:00

Dave will be available to answer phone calls everyday (M-F) 8-Noon. If you need to reach Kim outside of her office hour times you can call 715-741-0153. Please feel free to leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

THANKS!!!

Mass Schedule and Intention

Tuesday 6:00 pm at St. Lawrence - Ruth, Bob, Christien, Maura and Joel Baker

Wednesday 8:45 am at St. Philips - Richard Budzinski

Thursday 7:00 am at St. Lawrence - Dick Rucinski

Friday 7:00 am at St. Lawrence - John and Joyce Slusser

Friday 8:45 am at St. Philips - Lucille Skrzeckoski

Saturday 4:00 pm at St. Philips - Mary Jane Polum

Saturday 6:00 pm at St. Lawrence - Jerome and Paul Artz

Sunday 8:30 at St. Philips - Joyce Mancl

Sunday 10:30 at St. Lawrence - For The Parish

For health and healing for Theresa Zanetti, Marie Kaszuba, Eileen Folger, Dawn Weaver and all whose names appear on the prayer list, we pray to the Lord. We pray to the Lord. And for all the souls of the faithful departed, that through the mercy of God, they may rest in peace, we pray to the Lord.

St. Lawrence Directory

Rectory Hours - - - Mon-Fri, 8:00am - noon

Rectory Phone - - - - - 715-421-5777

Email - - - - - slparishwr@gmail.com

Website - - - - - saintlawrencewr.org

Facebook - - - - - "St. Lawrence Church"

Director of Religious Education email

- - - -stlawrenceevangelization@gmail.com

Fr. Janusz's contact information:

Emergency cell - - - - - 715-456-1450

Email - - - - januszek2002@yahoo.com

Parish Staff

Pastor - - - - - Rev. Janusz Kowalski

Deacon - - - - - Kevin Ray

Senior Deacon - - - - - Jim Landry

Parish Facilities Manager - - - - Corey Siegler

Evangelization/Formation - - - - Dave Ecke

Secretary/Bookkeeper - - - - - Kim Siegler

Sacraments

Baptism: Baptismal classes are required for parents having their infants baptized. Contact Father Janusz at the Parish Office.

Confession: Saturday 5:30 p.m. before Mass (weekday & Sunday) or by appointment.

Marriage: Please notify the Pastor/Parish Office as soon as you are engaged, but not less than nine months prior to the wedding date. A marriage preparation retreat is necessary, call St. Vincent de Paul for upcoming dates (715) 423-2111.

Anointing of the Sick: Those seriously ill or undergoing surgery should call the rectory to request an appointment with Pastor Janusz.

530 Tenth Ave N, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin, 54495
715-421-5777

<u>Liturgical Roles – July 25th and 26th</u>	
<u>Eucharist</u>	N/A
<u>Hospitality</u>	6:00 PM — TBD 10:30 AM — Greg and Bobette P.
<u>Lector</u>	6:00PM – Patrick Ruesch 10:30AM – John Lucin
<u>Altar</u>	6:00PM — Evan Ruesch 10:30AM — Caroline Bovee & Dmitri P.

We still have a need to meet our
Diocesan Appeal.

Goal: \$42,155

Donations Received: \$37,716

We are UNDER our goal by: \$4,439

Ord. 16 – A

The servant was only trying to be helpful. “Do you want us to go out a pull the weeds up...exterminate them...cleanse the field”? But the boss says “no,” and this seems odd. It’s odd for the gospel...for as you are going to hear this year...Matthew never met a judgement story he didn’t like. He will go on and on about the end of the world...fiery furnaces...sheep and goats...and dark places where people gnash their teeth.. But it’s also odd to me...for growing up it seemed natural to paint the world as us against them...winners and losers...weeds and wheat...and the common sense solution is removing the weak link...showing the disruptive student to the door...cutting out the infected tissue. But today...the Boss...that is... our Boss sys “no”, and it stings.....Not the least of all because it seems to advocate surrender in the face of evil. But as I have said before.... the key to understanding a gospel passage is to look for place where you are offended....so we need look no further.

As far As I can tell, there are three reasons the Master gives for why he won’t let his servants tidy up the field. First...he doubts they are skillful enough to separate the good and the bad. We can’t always tell the difference....we yank on what looks to all the world like a weed...but bending over to pick up the limp stalk...we flinch as grains of wheat fall out. Oops. The roots of good and bad...like wheat and weeds...often intertwine...and there’s no plant surgeon alive who can extract the poisonous seed without doing in some innocent bystanders. In truth....only in the world of comic books are things black and white. As the novelist Alexander Solzhenitsyn once penned, “the line that separates good from evil...runs through every human heart...and who is ready to give up a piece of their heart”? According to the Boss...it’s just not worth it...better to let things grow together until harvest.

Another reason to let the weeds grow...is that they may turn out to be useful in the end. Firewood and coal were hard to come by in 1st century Palestine. The main options for cooking fuel weeds or dried manure. By letting weeds and wheat grow together.... the farmer would have about everything needed for making bread...flour and fuel. All that is demanded is a little patience....a little tolerance of the temporary mess....and all would be put to good use. Sometimes the weeds wake the wheat up and remind them who they are. Sometime....when the field gets messy...the search for the Sower changes...form being a Christmas and Easter luxury...to a daily pursuit. The wheat will flourish only by investing less time in attacking the weeds...than in looking to its own growth.

The third reason the Boss has for saying “no” to yanking the weeds is that....along the way...the wheat runs the risk of turning into weeds themselves. Its one of the sneakiest things the evil one does...getting the wheat so riled up and defensive...that they start acing like weeds.... all prickles and poison. Good Guys trying to put Bad Guys out of business...themselves Bad Guys in the process. Think about the inquisition...or Wisconsin’s own Joe McCarthy.

My friends, god allows a mixed field...whether we like it or not...and asks us to tolerate it too....in the Church and in the World. This is not the surrender to wimpiness it may seem at first...but is instead a call to strenuous activity. It’s not easy being good grain...especially with so many weeds competing for soil and sun...but what the Boss seems to know is that the best and only solution to evil...is to out produce it. In a mixed field...our job is to mind our own business...that being...the reconciliation of the world to God through unshielded love. We’re told...if we give ourselves to that...God will take care of the rest...the harvest....the reapers...the fire. Our job is to be wheat...to go on bearing witness to the One who planted us among those who seem to have been planted by someone else.

The story is that Angelo Roncolli (Pope John 23rd) had his sleep disrupted by worries for the Church as he was preparing for the renewal. As he lay awake....he asked himself: “But who’s Church is this....mine or the Holy Spirit? Very well, then, go to sleep Angelo.” Perhaps following his example is the only way any of us can sleep...by being true to our roots and to the one who planted us....believing when he tells us that the harvest isn’t...in the end...ours....but His.

This story is about two people. The first is a warrior, a samurai who is powerful, strong, rough and a little bit less intelligent, well-trained, and famous. The other is a small inconspicuous man, a monk, well-read and very wise. One day a samurai came to the monk. He came to ask one very important question. What is heaven and what is hell? What is the difference? The monk looked at the huge samurai, whose eyes showed contempt and said, I will tell you! You look sloppy, you are unshaven, I am convinced that you are the worst in the whole samurai family and you lack wisdom. The Samurai, when he heard this, fell into anger and was full of hatred and evil. He drew his powerful sword, swung it because he wanted to cut the old man's head. Then he heard the following words, this is hell. The samurai stopped the sword and thought, this man is able to sacrifice his life only to show me what hell is. This is someone who has a lot of respect and is unusual to come by. Now he heard the next sentence from the monk's mouth, what you feel now is paradise. We ask ourselves questions about heaven and hell, how will it be? How to get there, however, the most important question is what do you have hatred or love in your heart?

Today's gospel invites us to look at ourselves. To explore my spiritual life and some confrontation with the direction Christ shows me today.

In today's world, we notice a lot of grief; it is bad everywhere, in the streets of our cities, in our lives, our sins and imperfections, but there is also a second picture of today's reality a lot of good in the world and in us. Wheat symbolizes good, while weed is a symbol of evil. In the parable we hear that servants come to the host and ask him the question, why did you do evil, why is bad things happening in man, the violence, sins? You have created good and a good man! The host (God) responds, it's true, but I'm not alone. He who received the gift of eternal life from me answered me with a lack of love and is against me (Satan). Servants, keep asking, what are we going to do? Pull out the weeds? The host replied no, it is not your task now, later. It doesn't mean to ignore the weeds (sin, evil) and let them go. Fight. The first thing is to cultivate good (wheat), and not to get weeds first. Do you have the opportunity to ask yourself what is most important for me to cultivate? Is it to cultivate good and fight evil, or just fight evil? If you do the last one then you don't follow the way Jesus showed! The next step is to look at the evil, Satan. He comes when people are sleeping. When they are unaware, he acts so as not to be seen, works in secret. If you want you can see what is behind your addictions? The idea here is not just focusing on what you see in the day, but what you discover and look for that is hidden.

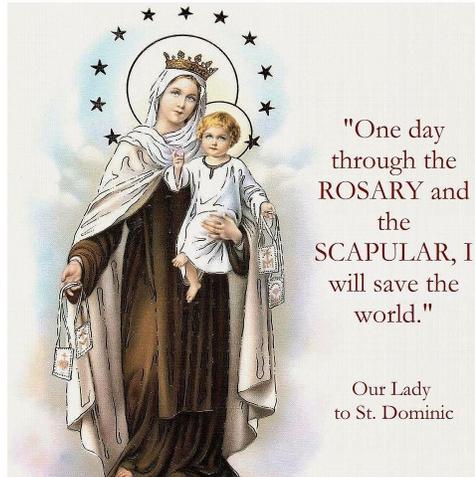
How difficult it is to accept that with the appearance of grain or good there is also more evil. We have to remember that, the more good in me, the more evil appears next to me. Why? Because Satan cannot accept it and attacks us more insistently.

The best news from today's gospel is the ending. The whole reality of the world of good and evil, wheat harvest and smoking weeds is supervised by the host (God). He is calm, though concerned, but calm. Sure of everything, He knows what each of us is doing in turn and knows how good will prevail.

- Fr. Janusz -

Virtual Conference Featuring Fr. Timothy Gallagher

Saturday, August 29th Do you ever tell yourself: "I feel like I'll never measure up," or "My prayer life is not what it should be." Do you ask: "Why am I not truly happy more often?" or "God, why are you not with me in this struggle?" Everyone has faced such things and all of us need help in this area. Fr. Timothy Gallagher will speak on Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement, the title of his book, for Virtual Conference on August 29, sponsored by the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization and Family Life. Learn to find freedom from one of the greatest obstacles in life – the "cage" of everyday discouragement. The presentations will be live-streamed by ZOOM webinar. Father Gallagher's warmth and style of speaking is for people of all states in life and all levels of formation. For further details, to download a brochure or to register online, go to diolc.org/witness. Cost is \$15 which includes Father Gallagher's book shipped to your home.



Oh Mary, Beauty of Carmel, make me worthy of your protection, clothe me with your scapular, and be the teacher of my interior life.

**Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Pray for Us**

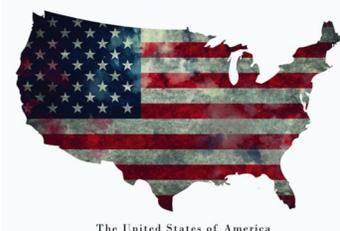


St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Feast Day - July 14

The feast day of this Native American saint reminds us of our brothers and sisters in that community, both in terms of the richness they bring and the particular challenges they face. For more information, visit the website of the U.S. Bishops' Subcommittee on Native American Affairs.

US Bishops Urge the Faithful to Make their Voices Heard The US Bishops encourage the faithful to contact Congress on a number of important matters, including help for Catholic Schools in this time of economic hardship, development of a COVID19 vaccine that does not use cell lines from aborted babies, opposition to the so-called Equal Rights Amendment, which would do harm to women and unborn children, and other issues. Visit votervoice.net/USCCB/home to see how you can make your voice heard.



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What is Spiritual Direction?

Spiritual Direction is a ministry of listening and supporting persons in their experiences of God's action and presence in their lives. A person engages a spiritual director to listen and give them support as they look honestly at their unique relationship with God in everyday life. The director listens with unconditional love as the person comes to know and name the sacred more clearly in their life.

Spiritual Direction may involve relationships, hopes and dreams, sorrows and failures, changes in ministry or in the family, discernment during times of transition, fears we face and so forth. All of these areas are looked at in light of God's presence.

Why Spiritual Direction?

Generally, people need someone to talk to about how they live their spirituality in everyday life. Often, when one speaks out loud to someone trusted, greater clarity about life and person happens. In a session, there is usually a freedom to discover the sacred in one's life.

What Expectations are there in Spiritual Direction?

A desire to attend to one's spiritual journey and to their relationship with the Divine

A one to one relationship with a trained person who listens without judging and keeps sharing confidential

Most often, regular hour meetings with a spiritual director occur once a month. The frequency of the visits can vary with the person and according to circumstances in one's life.

What is the difference between Spiritual Direction and Counseling?

Spiritual Direction specifically focuses on a person's relationship with God. Unlike counseling, it is not oriented toward therapeutic management of life's problems, even though God is very much present in all of life's circumstances. Generally, Spiritual Direction and counseling are pursued separately.

When is Spiritual Direction Helpful?

When one wants a deeper relationship with God

When one questions one's faith

When one wants to connect more deeply with inner wisdom

When one's restlessness leads to a search for something more

When life seems scattered and overwhelming

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