

July 20, 2008

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday



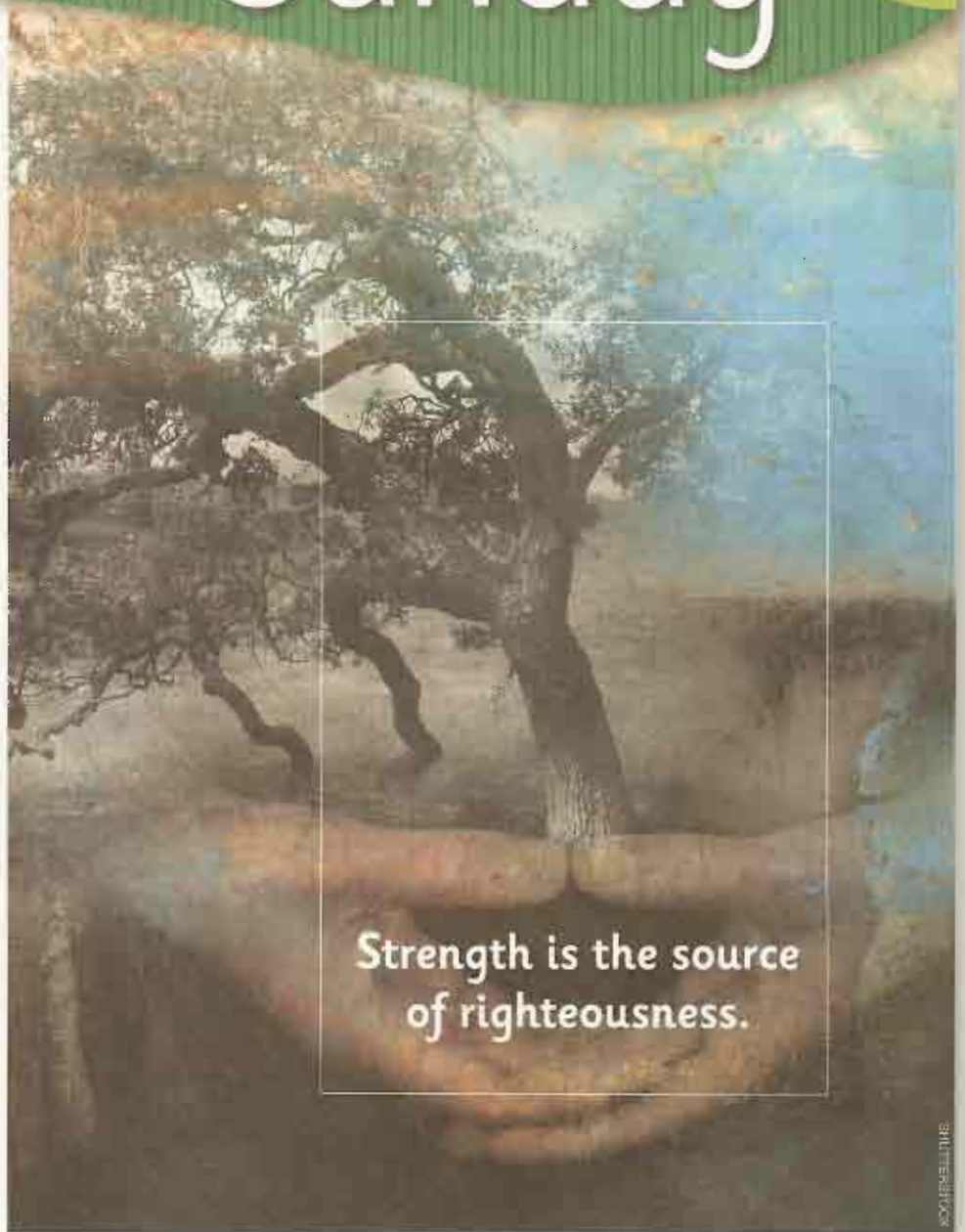
Life is messy. We aren't always able to tell exactly who is working for us and who is working against us. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus acknowledges this mess, but he doesn't try to sort out which work is from the enemy and which is from God. He suggests taking the good with the bad. Give it time. It does matter which is which, but we can't tell right now. Work for the good harvest, and let God do the sorting. For result-minded disciples, this is frustrating.

Saint Paul talks about what our efforts can result in *right now*. This is too close to home. We see our own weaknesses. We don't even know what to pray for. We groan. We can't put what we need into words. We don't know where to start. How much of the world is struggling as we are? Paul says that *all of creation* is groaning.

Do we dare look this deeply? Do we want to be reminded of wars, hungers, crimes, natural disasters? If we watch the news, on most nights it's so paralyzing it's tempting to ignore it all or to give up.

Today's readings offer power in a deep, realistic way. In the middle of all this struggle, *that* is where God is. God knows the good seed *and* the weeds. The Spirit prays for us as we groan. We are *not* alone in all this. The world is difficult, but struggling here matters.

What is the wisdom of God? *For your strength is the*



**Strength is the source
of righteousness.**

source of righteousness, and your sovereignty over all causes you to spare all. For you show your strength when people doubt the completeness of your power, and you rebuke any insolence among those who know it. Although you are sovereign in strength, you judge with mildness (Wisdom 12:16–18a).

DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



Today's Readings

Wis 12:13, 16–19

Rom 8:26–27

Mt 13:24–43 or 13:24–30

Liguori

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

Pastor: Rev. Fr. John Casey, SAC

Deacon: Carlos Frias (817-307-8332)

Office – 1802 Bethel Road
Weatherford TX 76086
817-596-9585
Fax 817-613-0808

Office Hours – Monday through Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road
817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

E-mail –
ststephencathchrch@sbcglobal.net

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM
Noon to 12:30 PM

Pastoral Assistant—
Sister Mildred Gordon, SHSp.
817-596-9587

Director of Religious Education –
doschicas@att.net
Jeanette Houle-817-613-8008

Secretary – Dorothy Mendolia

Accountant – Ron Westendorf

Parish Interfaith Ecumenical Representative—
LaVerne Cardwell 817-594-3805

Choir Director – Dave Mees
817-596-5097

Parish Pastoral Council President—
Chuck Schabow 817-599-6644

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	July 19	6:00 PM	Roan Family	<i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	July 20	8:00 AM	Our Community	<i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Nicholas Lusk	<i>16th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>16° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	July 21	8:45 AM	Richard Nadler, RIP	<i>St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest and doctor of the Church</i>
Tuesday	July 22	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>St. Mary Magdalene</i>
Wednesday	July 23	8:45 AM	Ann Allen	<i>St. Bridget of Sweden, religious</i>
Thursday	July 24	8:45 AM	Marlene Fronk	<i>St. Sharbel Makhluif, priest</i>
Friday	July 25	8:45 AM	Ignatius Dugosh, RIP	<i>Feast of St. James, apostle</i>
Saturday	July 26	6:00 PM	Maribelle Stewart	<i>Ss. Joachim and Ann, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	July 27	8:00 AM	Robert Fronk	<i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	<i>17th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>17° Domingo Ordinario</i>

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTION

July 12-13

\$11,433.00

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are a Gift from
The Guajardo Family
In Honor of Emily Guajardo's Birthday
And
The Altar Society
In Honor of Alva Jewell & Petie Bordner's
60th Anniversary*



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Good and evil exist together in the world. Pray that good may grow and take root in you like a mustard seed that, when full—grown, is the largest of plants. What are you doing to nurture good in our world?

(Matthew 13:24-43)

16° Domingo Ordinario

La levadura que una mujer amasa... hoy da gracias a Dios por la mujer que amasó la levadura del amor de Dios en tu vida. Pide las bendiciones de Dios sobre todas aquellas personas que trajeron levadura y luz a tu vida.

(Mateo 13:24-43)

Prayer to St. Francis of Assisi

Brother Francis, when the times were growing cold, God sent you into the world as a witness to God's warm love for all. Intercede for us that our hearts may catch fire and we may become instruments of Christ's peace and healing to the world.

Amen.

FOUR STEPS TO A SAFER ENVIRONMENT. The diocese mandates that all people who work with children and youth in our parishes and schools must undergo child abuse prevention training through the *Called to Protect* program developed by Praesidium, Inc. The training details four content areas to prevent child sexual abuse: 1. How child molesters operate; 2. High-risk activities and locations; 3. Warning signs; 4. Removing barriers to responding. St. Stephen Parish now has 9 trained couples ready to continue the Safe Environment Program through *“Called to Protect.”* **Special training session on Tuesday, July 22 at 6:30 PM for new volunteers, and those who need the 3-year renewal.** More sessions will be scheduled as needed. Parents are encouraged to participate in these sessions.

CALL FOR CATECHISTS! The following Catechist positions are available for the 2008-09 Religious Education School Year. Training is available.

- 2nd grade (First Communion) - 3 positions
- 4th grade - 2 positions
- 5th grade - 1 position
- 6th grade - 1 position
- 8th grade - 1 position

Catechists must be willing to prepare weekly for Religious Education classes, must be reliable and on time, must have completed all Sacraments through Confirmation, be a practicing Catholic, and have completed the Diocesan requirement *“Keeping Children Safe.”* Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES. St. Stephen will also be collecting school supplies that will be made available to our parishioners. The following is an official supply list. These items can be left in the church foyer in the pantry basket or brought to the church office. If you have questions, please call the office at 817-596-9585: #2 pencils; colored pencils; map pencils; black, blue and red pens; markers; crayons; watercolors; construction and manila paper; notebook paper; spirals notebooks; composition notebooks; solid colored plastic pocket folders with brads; erasers; glue and glue sticks; rulers; school boxes; and scissors.

BLOOD DRIVE. The next blood drive is **Monday, July 28, 4-8PM, in the Holy Spirit Center.** Photo ID is required. Red meat is good to keep iron levels high. Guidelines have changed regarding medication, tattoos, body piercing, and health related conditions. Phone 1-800-DONATE4 if you have questions. We have the lowest number of donations in July. We are trying for one new donor per Mass. Are you that ONE? Thank you for your generosity to those in need.

DONACION DE SANGRE La proxima donacion de sangre sera el **Lunes, 28 de Julio, desde las 4PM hasta las 8PM en el Sala Holy Spirit de la Iglesia.** Necesita presentar documento de identidad. La carne roja es buena para mantener Alto el nivel de hierro. Gracias por su generosidad con los necesitados.

**You, loving God, are our rock.
You are our stronghold and foundation.
Keep us from danger.
Open our hearts to your word.**

AROUND THE DIOCESE

VOCATION PRAYER & REFLECTIONS

Called by Name: A Vocation Prayer

Father, you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you. Bless your Church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers. Inspire us as we grow to know you and open our hearts to hear your call. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Llamado Por Nombre: Oración Para Vocaciones

Padre, tú llamas a cada uno de nosotros por nombre y nos pides que te sigamos. Bendice tu iglesia, y de entre nuestras familias y amigos, danos dedicados y generosos líderes quienes puedan servir a tu pueblo c religiosas, sacerdotes, diáconos y ministros laicos. Inspíranos mientras crecemos er y abre nuestros corazones para oír tu llamado. Te lo pedimos en nombre de Cristo.

Luke 10: 1-2—Harvest and laborer; John 15: 16—Go and bear fruit; John 1: 37-39—Come and see; John 21: 17-19—Feed my sheep.

Join Bishop Vann in a **Commemorative Mass marking the 40th Anniversary of Humanae Vitae on July 23 at 7 PM** at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1300 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth, TX

Dr. Scott Hahn & Fullness of Truth present “The Gospel According to St. Paul” Conference August 23 & 24 at the Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, TX 76011 Child care available. For information or to register see www.fullnessoftruth.org or call 1-877-21-TRUTH or contact the church office for a further information and a discount voucher code. **Registration forms available in the church foyer.**

YOUTH GROUP. There will be no Youth Music Ministry practice **Sunday, July 20.** Our next scheduled practice is **Monday, July 28, 5-7 PM in Room 1 & 2.** All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate. Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

There will be no Divine Mercy Chaplet on Wednesday, July 23. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will continue on **Wednesday, July 30 at 3 PM in the Church.** Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

Reminder: POOL PARTY; Sunday, July 27 at Cherry Park Pool; 7:45 to 9:45 PM. PERMISSION SLIPS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ADMITTANCE. Questions? Call Mrs. Ourada at 817-596-3872.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All activities held at Bethel Road)

- Monday, July 21**
 - 6:00 PM Parish Pantry
 - 7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
- Tuesday, July 22**
 - 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)
 - 6:30 PM *“Called to Protect”* training
 - 7:00 PM Knights of Columbus
- Wednesday, July 23**
 - 6:30 PM Choir Practice
- Thursday, July 24**
 - 10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 - 10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)
 - 7:00 PM Hora española Santa
- Saturday, July 26**
 - 7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya (Spanish)

Dear Padre

Why do children make their first confession at such a young age?



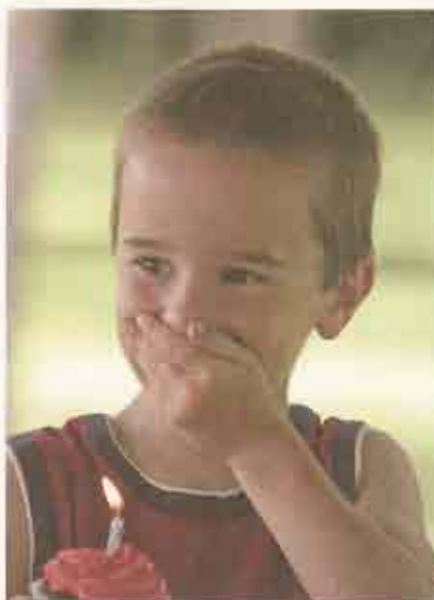
My son is in first grade and about to make his first confession. I think this is harmful; he's too young to commit a serious sin, and now he's very anxious about whether he's sinning. Why does the Church think this is good for children?

Concerned Mother

Dear Concerned Mother,

A child's understanding of sin is much different from that of a rational adult but, in general, children reach the age of reason at seven. This means they are able to understand the difference between right and wrong and thus know when they've sinned. It isn't harmful for children to make their first confession even if they haven't committed serious sin because they still receive the grace of the sacrament.

If you feel your child won't understand what he's doing or



SHUTTERSTOCK

that he isn't at the point in his development where he is able to understand sin, talk to your catechist or director of religious education about having your child wait before he makes his first confession and first Communion.

But it's important to begin good habits while we're young. By helping your son see how he has sinned and teaching him to ask forgiveness from the God who loves him, you'll teach him important skills he'll use for the rest of his life.

Patrick Keyes, C. Ss. R.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ □ </div> <p>July 21</p> <p>Weekday</p> <p>Mi 6:1-4, 6-8 Mt 12:38-42</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> □ </div> <p>July 22</p> <p>Saint Mary Magdalene</p> <p>Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Jn 20:1-2, 11-18</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ □ </div> <p>July 23</p> <p>Weekday</p> <p>Jer 1:1, 4-10 Mt 13:1-9</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ □ </div> <p>July 24</p> <p>Weekday</p> <p>Jer 2:1-3, 7-8, 12-13 Mt 13:10-17</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ </div> <p>July 25</p> <p>Saint James, apostle</p> <p>2 Cor 4:7-15 Mt 20:20-28</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> □ </div> <p>July 26</p> <p>Saint Joachim and Saint Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary</p> <p>Jer 7:1-11 Mt 13:24-30</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> ■ </div> <p>July 27</p> <p>Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p> <p>1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12 Rom 8:28-30 Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46</p>