

# SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY, JULY 23, 2023

## STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR 902-366-2927  
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 902-358-2346

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS** Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer, Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe, Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne, Sr. Alma, Marie Parker, Fr. Jonathan

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at  
[www.cansoparishes.org](http://www.cansoparishes.org)*

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### **WEEKEND MASS TIMES**

**Saturday, July 29** - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*  
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Velda & †Francis Cashin*

**Sunday, July 30** - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Brian Munroe*  
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Vadie Thornhill*

### **WEEKDAY MASS TIMES**

**Thursday, July 27** - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

**COMMUNION CALLS** - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

### **REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS** - *The Justice and Mercy of God*

*As long as we are what we are, human beings with human nature tainted by sin, there cannot be perfect humanity having only good people. Good and bad like the wheat and the weeds of today's Gospel passage, will always coexist till the end of the world. Good and evil will always be found together among persons and in institutions. God respects people and is patient with them. In God's court of justice, his mercy sends the Advocate pleading for the culprit beyond measure. His patience grants parole to the sinner, giving room for repentance. In love, he sent his only begotten Son to atone for the sinner by his passion and death. However, he would not tolerate the abuse of his goodness by the obdurate sinner, who would be excluded from the marriage feast of the Lamb for not wearing the wedding garment. So also, we need to respect others, no matter what they are, and be patient with them. What happens quite often is that, like the overenthusiastic servants of the Gospel, we want the bad elements in the society and the world to be plucked out and eliminated. But God is not like that. He wants both to grow together till harvest time. For he knows that as the wheat will survive despite the presence of weeds, so good people can grow in God's*

ways although they will be inconvenienced and may have to suffer on account of the evil ones. Besides, it is not very easy to distinguish the good from the evil just as it is not easy to distinguish the wheat from the weeds. So, we need to be patient and at the same time watchful not to be led astray by the evil ones. It is God and God alone who can separate the good from the evil at the time fixed by him. What we need to do is to make sure that we are among the good.

### **SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

<b>Star of the Sea</b> , July 9 (26)	795.00
July 16 (28)	495.00
Loose	140.00
Winter Fuel (1)	20.00
<b>St. Agnes</b> , July 9 (29)	320.00
July 16 (16)	235.00
Loose	20.00
<b>St. Vincent de Paul</b> , July 9 (7)	125.00
July 16 (4)	45.00
Cemetery Letter Campaign	100.00
<b>St. Joseph</b> , July 9 (11)	164.00
July 16 (20)	325.00
Loose	10.00

### **STAR OF THE SEA NEWS**

Property/Finance Committee - We desperately need new members!!  
Next meeting is Tuesday, September 12 at 6:15 p.m.

#### Ministries Schedule, July 30

Lector - Juanita Dort

Cleaners - July 24- 30 - Baker Girls

**We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information. Summer Fun Ticket**

Draw - Congratulations to the winners

- Pizza Oven - Trevor Delorey;

Barbecue - Laura Oliver and Patio

Set - Anna Feltmate! We wish to

thank those who donated the prizes,

East Coast Hydraulics, Canso Coop

and Anonymous Donors. A very

special thank you to all for your

support and to ticket sellers, without

you it would not happen. Profit was

an amazing \$3,605.00!! WOW!!

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday, August 13 - Regatta Prize

Bingo, Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall.

Donations are requested and can be dropped off at the church

**Saturday, August 19 - Chowder**

**Luncheon at the Shamrock Club.**

**Food items will be needed for this event.**

### **ST. AGNES NEWS**

Bingo - will resume in September.

Club 100 Draw - August 6 is the draw date, tickets are available now.

### **ST JOSEPH NEWS**

Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

### **NOTES**

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer

Shrine - The gift shop is open for the season, 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays. The Shrine is always open.

[Mass For Shut-Ins](#) - Masses from our 60th season may be viewed on our Diocese of Antigonish YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPYevnyrNU6ziWHDh8KJ71w> and on our website: <https://www.antigonishdiocese.com/mass-for-shut-ins/>

July 23, 2023 • 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

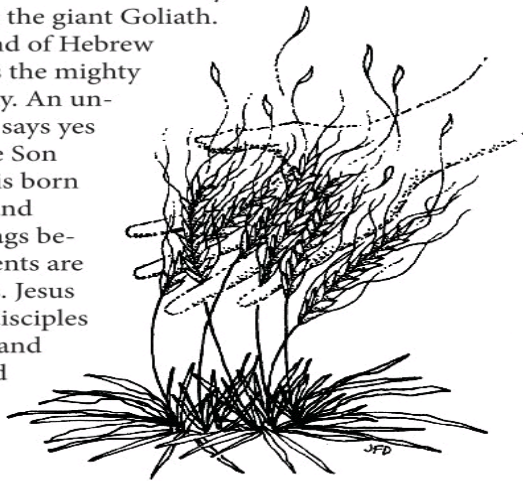
## God Works with Small Things

*This Week's Readings at Mass*

- ▶ Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 - On God's mercy
- ▶ Romans 8:26-27 - The intercession of the Spirit
- ▶ Matthew 13:24-30 - The parable of the weeds

We are in the midst of a period of hearing Gospel readings about the Kingdom of God and how God is active in the world, sometimes in subtle ways. At the same time, the First and Second readings point out other characteristics of God. The First Reading, from the book of Wisdom, was written in the decades around Jesus' birth. The author stresses how mighty and powerful God is, yet how God is also tolerant, forgiving, and kind. Paul's words to the Romans teach that the Spirit of our God speaks in and through us, especially when we don't know how to pray. Taken together, all three readings today provide hope that God is alive and active in our lives, whether we always recognize it or now.

The parables of the mustard seed and the yeast which leavens the bread are well-known parables that point to God's ability to bring about great things starting with something small and seemingly insignificant. In fact, that is a theme found throughout the Bible. The entire Jewish race begins because of Abraham and Sarah's faithfulness. The boy David defeats the giant Goliath. The small band of Hebrew slaves escapes the mighty Egyptian army. An unwed teenager says yes to bearing the Son of God. God is born into a stable and wrapped in rags because his parents are poor refugees. Jesus reminds his disciples to have hope and trust that God



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"You taught your people by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind."

**Sheepish Question:**  
Which is more difficult for me: being good and just, or being kind? What must I fix?

can and does, work through small things to do great things.

On the other hand, the parable about the wheat and the weeds seems to make a different point: we must have patience when we experience good and evil existing side-by-side in our world. Just as the farmer had no control over the fact that weeds were growing amidst his wheat crop, we have no control over bad things that happen to us. We can do all that is possible to cultivate the good (by sowing good seeds), but we have to live with unexpected and disappointing outcomes. As the farmer teaches his crew, it is not their job to sift out the bad from the good. Ultimately that is God's job. In the meantime, God invites us to live, and still grow together with the bad in the world.

### Questions of the Week

- ① What do you make of the above interpretation—that Jesus is affirming the equal role of women and men in discipleship?
- ② Are there roles in the church that you would be uncomfortable seeing women in and might find yourself protesting like Martha to Jesus. Why?

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