

Dear Padre,

I look at what's going on in our world today, and I start to lose faith. How can I keep my faith strong in a time that seems faithless?

Evil isn't a new phenomenon. The Book of Judges, for example, presents a faithless time that may rival what's happening in our world today. Judges' twenty-one chapters are so full of vandalism and war, murder and assassination, fratricide and suicide, that it makes a grim statement on the worst of humanity. Judges reminds us of humanity's need for salvation. In *A Catholic Guide to the Bible*, author Oscar Lukefahr writes, "Left to itself, humanity degenerates into a frightful caricature of what we ought to be. We see such lessons repeated in recent history.... In the Book of Judges, we see our need for God." It's easy to lose faith when our focus is on how bad the world is rather than on how we can do our part to make it holy. Pope St. John Paul II wrote in *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, "Awareness of our own sinfulness, including that which is inherited, is the first condition for salvation; the next is the confession of this sin before God, who desires only to receive this confession so that he can save man. To save means to embrace and lift up with redemptive love, with love that is always greater than any sin." Don't lose Christian hope! While Christ already triumphed over sin and death, the reality of evil remains until God's kingdom is fully realized on earth as it is in heaven. (See 1 John 5:18-20.) ●



Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday July 13 Weekday Is 1:10-17 Mt 10:34-11:1	Wednesday July 15 St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Is 10:5-7, 13b-16 Mt 11:25-27	Saturday July 18 Weekday Mi 2:1-5 Mt 12:14-21
Tuesday July 14 St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin Is 7:1-9 Mt 11:20-24	Thursday July 16 Weekday Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19 Mt 11:28-30	Sunday July 19 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Wis 12:13, 16-19 Rom 8:26-27 Mt 13:24-3 or 13:24-30
	Friday July 17 Weekday Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8 Mt 12:1-8	

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Mission is not so much about "departing," but instead "remaining" in order to proclaim Christ through hospitality and welcome, compassion and solidarity. We are to remain...so as to look upon those who arrive from lands that are distant and violent; to remain and open our arms and hearts to them, welcoming them as brothers and sisters, and being for them a presence of consolation and hope.



HOMILY, ROME, OCTOBER 5, 2025

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St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Leaving Room for the Unexpected

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

The Father is the reckless Sower. He sows not only in the good soil, where a harvest might be anticipated, but also in the difficult soil, where nothing seems to take root. He sows with abandon, seemingly wasting good seed, for no other reason than to experience the joy of creation and the endless possibilities of expecting to be surprised.

There is nothing wrong with well-laid-out plans and careful, methodical use of the resources available. However, planning should not exclude the possibility of the creative manifestation of the power of God in an unanticipated manner. Our planning should not restrict and constrict but rather enable and encourage. We have all experienced the unexpected flower that somehow lives surrounded by pavement. Or the hardy tree that clings to the side of the mountain. They should not be there. It should not be possible. Nothing can grow there. Yet, there they are, doing the impossible and proclaiming the improbable.

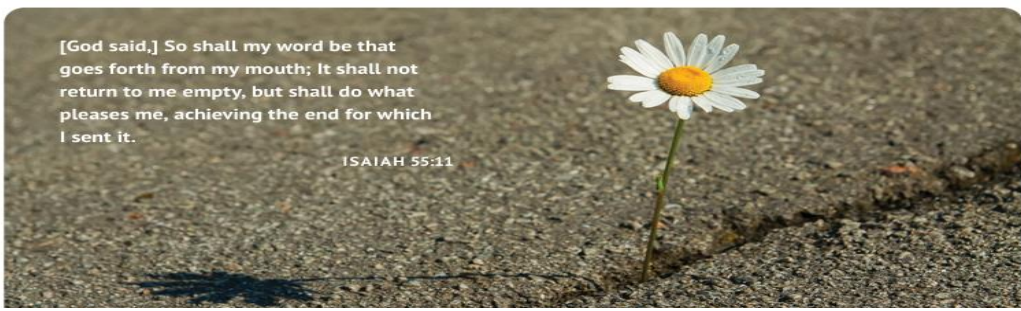
Thankfully, we serve a God who sees more than we are ever able to see. Who imagines for us more than we have ever dreamed possible. Who not only sows but also tends and waters, enabling stupendous growth, until it is time for the abundant harvest. ●

Reflect

Have you ever been surprised by grace? Could you have missed it?



LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF OUR PARISH COMMUNITY



Today’s Gospel marks the beginning of the third long discourse given by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Over the next few weeks, the Gospel readings will consist of the entire 13th Chapter of Matthew’s Gospel, a lengthy teaching discourse.

Throughout this discourse, Jesus will offer several parables to illustrate for his listeners what he means by the kingdom of heaven. He begins with the parable of the Sower, which appears straightforward, of course seeds grow best in good soil. Seeds that miss the soil, are sown on rocky ground, or are sown among other plants will not grow. The surprise in the parable is the enormous yield of the seed that is sown on good soil.

Jesus then explains his use of parables. Jesus seems to suggest that he uses parables to teach because the meanings of parables are not self-evident. The hearer must engage in some degree of reflection to comprehend the message of a parable. In this way, the medium—the parable—models the point of the parable of the Sower. Those who are willing to engage themselves in the effort to understand will be rewarded by the discovery of the message and will bear fruit.

To bring home the point, Jesus interprets the parable of the Sower to his disciples. The several types of soil in which the seeds are sown are metaphors for the disposition with which everyone hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of July 13, 2026					
Mon.	July	13	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	July	14	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	July	15	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	July	16	5:30 PM	SB	No Mass
Fri.	July	17	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	July	19	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	July	19	9:30 AM	SA	Mary Leech †
Sun.	July	19	11:00 AM	SB	Tom Kennedy †
		Coy Johnston July 16 th Ned Pelster July 18 th			



Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Andre
July 16th

Mr. & Mrs. Toby Kinderknecht
July 16th

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Wagner
July 16th

Ministry Schedule

Date: July 19	St John’s	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Ivan & Carrie S.	Julie B.	Rod & Janel B.
Lector	Kristy O.	Evan B.	Carla K.
Server	Leo W. & Rokker S.		Ellie P. & Emma S.
EMHC	Rex & Kristie W.	Evan B. & Gary M.	Lana P. & Diane P.
	Music: Jenny J.		Communion to shut ins Verla B.

St. John’s <i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> July 5, 2026 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$1423.75 ----- <i>Women Who Worship</i> <i>All women are invited to the next meeting Monday August 3rd at 6:30 PM. Please bring a food or beverage to share.</i>	St. Agnes <i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> July 5, 2026, <u>Total Collection:</u> \$2421.00 ----- Thrift Store Open July 24th 9AM to 4PM ----- Coffee and Rolls after mass July 19th	St. Boniface <i>Our Gifts to God & Church</i> July 5, 2026 <u>Total Collection:</u> \$1760.00 ----- Garden Produce If you have extra, please bring it the church. There will be a box for them. ----- CCW Meeting: July 27 at 6:30 PM Please plan to attend.
Saint Camillus de Lellis (1550-1614) Feast Day July 14 “Think well. Speak well. Do well. These three things, through the mercy of God, will make a man go to Heaven.”	Saint Jacob of Sarug (449-521) Feast Day July 15 “Satan is distressed by these voices of holiness.... In that hour when the bride cries out, ‘Forgive me my debts’ he knows that the Bridegroom, the King, is full of mercy, and that He hears her, and He forgives her.”	