

JULY 12, 2020

## FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

All things come from God, belong to him, and should be used to give him glory, honor, and praise.

No matter how many advances modern technology affords to farmers, they face the same challenges and obstacles experienced by their ancient counterparts, not the least of which is the weather, something no one can accurately predict or control.

Isaiah compares the farmer's efforts to yield a bountiful harvest with that of the preacher and prophet attempting to sow the seeds of faith in the hearts of believers. God promises rain to moisten the ground, making it fertile and fruitful. As he gives us bread to satisfy our physical hunger, we are also given the living Word to answer our spiritual hungers.

The Apostle Paul described the process of cultivating growth in the faith to the groaning experienced by women in labor. We long to be set free from slavery to sin. In Christ, humanity has received salvation for the soul and the promise of the resurrection of the body. Paul, like the long-suffering farmer, willingly endured all kinds of suffering in order to plant the seeds of faith in the early Christian communities, giving them the promise of freedom and new life.

In his parables, Jesus often spoke in agricultural terms, making himself easily understood, as most people in his time had to live off the land. Like the farmer's seed, our faith must be nurtured and fed, protected and cared for.

And, just as the farmer separates the wheat from the chaff, and prunes his larger plants for a more bountiful harvest, we, too, must learn to separate the good from the bad in our own lives. We submit ourselves to the pruning, purging, and purifying of our sins so that we also may experience the glory of God in this life and in the next.

The seeds of our faith must be so deeply rooted in Christ and his Church that nothing can cause them to waste or wither – not the temptation to do wrong, not wealth or power, not pride or prejudice.

The farmer understands better than most that all things come from God, belong to him, and should be used to give him glory, honor, and praise. That is why the farmer always offered up the first fruits of the harvest as a sacrifice in thanks to God. When the Word takes root in our lives and our faith grows, we can offer ourselves back to the One who first gave all to us. We do so in acts of love for him and for each other. Just as Christ did for us.



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**STPAULSFOSTER.ORG**

OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM      10:00 AM

### ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

#### Saturday July 11

10:00—11:30AM	Food Closet Open
11:00 AM	Baptism: Madison Rose Romani
5:00 PM	Mass: Mary Lou Guthrie (RIP)

#### Sunday July 12

8:00 AM	Mass: William O'Connell (RIP)
9:30 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Richard & Evelyn Burnham on the Occasion of their 30th Wedding Anniversary

#### Monday July 13

8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Claire Sabourin (RIP)
7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting

#### Wednesday July 15

8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Healing of Claire DeDominicis

#### Friday July 17

8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

### NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: For the Intentions of Robert John Guthrie and Family
8:00 AM	Mass: Gerry Tufts (RIP)
10:00 AM	Open for your Intentions

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING  
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

## Sacrament of Baptism

Please welcome into the family of God's People, **Madison Rose Romani**, who was baptized Saturday morning. She is the newest member of Christ's Body--the Church.



Please pray that she and her family be strengthened by the Holy Spirit's gifts of faith, hope and love.

## The Christmas Bazaar

Given the uncertainty of the virus moving forward the Christmas Bazaar Committee has decided to cancel for this year. With that said we still plan to have the Main Raffle. Prizes include:

- \$1000 Gift Card Tree
- Stihl Farm Boss Chain Saw with Case, Gear Bag, and Gallon MotoMix
- Stihl Back Pack Blower
- Emeril LaGasse Pressure AirFryer

Thank you to the parishioners who have already donated \$25. **We have 22 so far, we only need 18 more!**

## Help with Fresh Cut Flowers

If anyone from the parish has flowers in their yard that could be cut to use on the altar, please leave your name & address at church and someone will contact you for backup or additional flowers as needed. Thank you!

## Commitment to Sunday Offertory

To help the parish meet its financial obligations through the summer months, we ask that you remain committed to the weekly offertory through the summer. Please consider using the parish envelopes and mailing your weekly/monthly offertory contribution. Or consider the convenient option of setting up an automatic contribution online. Details below:

### Support St. Paul's

Set up a reoccurring donation (or make a gift at anytime) using our secure, online giving tool by ParishSOFT.

Visit our website at [stpaulsfoster.org](http://stpaulsfoster.org), and click the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you!

## God Listens to Everybody

*A Message from Pope Francis*

Everyone lives a life that is often inconsistent or a "contradiction" because people can be both a sinner and a saint, a victim and a tormentor. No matter what one's situation is, people can put themselves back in God's hands through prayer. "Prayer gives us nobility; it is able to protect one's relationship with God, who is the true companion along humanity's journey, amidst thousands of hardships in life, good or bad, but always with prayer."

In his main talk, the pope continued his series on prayer and reflected on the role prayer played in the life of David -- a young shepherd whom God called to become king of Israel.

David learned early in life that a shepherd takes care of his flock, protects them from danger and provides for them.

Jesus, too, is called "the good shepherd" because he offers his life for his flock, guiding them, knowing each one by name.

When David was later confronted for his terrible sins, he realized he had become a "bad shepherd".

He no longer acted like a humble servant but had robbed another man of the only thing he loved when he took the man's wife as his own.

"Saint and sinner, persecuted and persecutor, victim, even executioner," David was full of contradictions -- being all of these things in his life.

But the one thing that stayed constant was his prayerful dialogue with God. "David the saint, prays, David the sinner, prays," always lifting his voice to God either in joy or deep despair.

This is what David can teach the faithful today: to always speak with God, no matter the circumstances or one's state of being, because everyone's life is often marked by contradiction and inconsistencies.

People should tell God about their joy, sins, sorrows and love -- everything, because God is always there, and he listens.

Prayer returns people to God "because the nobility of prayer leaves us in God's hands."

— Pope Francis

## Reopening Guidelines

We have reopened the church for public worship based on guidelines from the Diocese, developed in collaboration with public health officials. For details, visit [stpaulsfoster.org](http://stpaulsfoster.org).

## Stay home if need be

The elderly and those with weakened health conditions are encouraged to stay home. If you are ill or are just not feeling well, you must stay home.

## Livestreamed Mass

The 10:00 AM Sunday Mass will be livestreamed on Facebook at [facebook.com/foster.catholic](https://facebook.com/foster.catholic)

## Limited inside seating

Seating at each Mass will be limited to 66% of our fire code capacity.

## Listen from your car

We will broadcast the Mass on 107.90 FM on car radios. Those who participate from the outside will be brought Communion if they choose to receive.

## Wear a face mask

A face mask helps limit the potential spread of infection and provides fellow parishioners with a sign of assurance, we care for each other.

## Maintain social distance

Keep a distance at least 6-feet from one another unless with household.

## Holy Communion

Father and Deacon will sanitize hands before distributing Holy Communion.

Com forward with your face mask on, when presented with the Body of Christ, respond "Amen."

Remove mask; receive and consume the Host; and replace your face mask.

You may choose to not receive Holy Communion and make an act of spiritual communion instead.

## Act of Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my life. Since I cannot receive you sacramentally, come then spiritually into my heart. So that I may embrace you and unite myself completely to you. And never let me be separated from you. Amen.*

### GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - July 4/5

**\$2,851.25**

Monthly 2nd Collection - July 4/5

**\$1,664.00**

**Thank you for your support!**