

CHOOSE TO BE THE WHEAT IN BUILDING UP THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH. NOT THE WEEDS.

A number of you are gardeners. Why, you are probably wondering, does the man in this story tell his workers not to pull up the weeds in his field? There will be a time for that later, he says: at harvest time. Until then, he orders, let them grow together.

That is how I am acting, Jesus is saying. That is how God acts – like this farmer. This is in contrast to the widely held belief on the part of many faithful Jews of Jesus’ time who believed that when the promised Messiah came, he would render judgement on people. Yet, as we know, when Jesus came, he did not judge. He ate with sinners. He proclaimed God’s love for all, Jesus healed people, without investigating whether they had repented of their sins or not.

Most often when Jesus did speak of judgement, he made it clear that this would come later. And it would be based largely on how people responded to God’s freely given love.

Jesus’ message – proclaiming God’s love first, and reserving judgement for a later time – is important for all of us.

It reminds us to leave the judgement to God, for only God can see people’s hearts. If God chooses to delay his work of final judgement, it is for the reason given in our first reading: God’s mastery over all things makes him lenient to all. God can afford to be merciful because he is all powerful.

Today’s Gospel parable of the weeds and the seeds tells us of God’s patience. It warns us not to be less patient than God. Jesus says to let the weeds and wheat grow side by side until the harvest day. Yes, that means that good and evil will continue to exist side by side in our world. The kingdom of God that Jesus proclaims today reflects God’s patient desire that we repent and turn to him so we may be saved.

In other words, God never gives up on us. He is ever-willing to forgive and is always seeking to draw us back to himself. It reminds us also that just as God freely and generously loves and forgives us, so we must be patient, gentle and loving to those we encounter throughout our daily lives.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

First Friday Adoration will resume on August 4, 2017 from 8:30 a.m. until 9:30 a.m., in our Chapel, with Deacon Ben.

FATHER DENNIS VACATION!

Father Dennis will be on vacation from Friday, July 21st through Thursday, July 27th. We wish you a relaxing and enjoyable vacation, Father. Father Colten Symmes will be available to our Nativity Parish while Father Dennis is away.

BISHOP KIHNEMAN’S HOMILIES

Bishop Kihneman's homilies will be available each week in audio form on Nativity BVM Cathedral's website. To access these homilies, visit nativitybvm.podbean.com

READINGS FOR THE WEEK FAMILY		
Mon Jul 24	Ex 14:5-18, Ex 15:1b-6, Mt 12:38-42	
Tues Jul 25	2 Cor 4:7-15, Mt 20:20-28	
Wed Jul 26	Ex 16:1-5, 9-15, Mt 13:1-9, Sir 44:1, 10-15, Mt 13:16-17	
Thur Jul 27	Ex 19:1-2, 9-11, 16-20b, Dn 3:52-56, Mt 13:10-17	
Fri Jul 28	Ex 20:1-17, Mt 13:18-23	
Sat Jul 29	Ex 24:3-8, Jn 11:19-27, 1 Jn 4:7-16	
Sun Jul 30	1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12, Rom 8:28-30, Mt 13:44-52	



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Regular Collections	\$	10,488.92
Nativity Maintenance	\$	933.00
Nativity Elem.	\$	225.00
Capital Improve.	\$	812.65
Miscellaneous	\$	1,040.08
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	13,499.65
CASH NEEDED	\$	14,400.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT

RCIA.

The Rite of Christian Initiation is an invitation for adults to explore their interests, or to enhance their knowledge, in the Roman Catholic Church. The R.C.I.A. lays out a process in which men and women are guided and cared for as they awaken in faith and are gradually introduced to the Catholic way of life. The Nativity Parish will begin R.C.I.A. classes again in the Fall. Participants will meet weekly for nine months in the Sacred Heart Center. If you are interested, please contact Greg or Penny Payne at 228-365-6348.

THANKSGIVING HOME GIVEAWAY!!!

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY. Tickets are now available in the Church rectory. Tickets are \$100.00. This new home is here in Biloxi! Please contact the rectory for more information or to purchase tickets. Let’s make this a great fundraiser for our St. Vincent de Paul.

NEW WINE GRADUATION, 2017 MASS

The New Wine Graduation Mass for 2017, will be at 1:00 p.m. in the Cathedral with Bishop Kihneman celebrating. Immediately following will be a reception in our Sacred Heart Center.

NEW WINE DEADLINES EXTENDED FOR 2018:

Deadline for submitting completed applications: Monday, July 31, 2017. If you have any questions about the program, or if you need an application, please all Leo Trahan at the Office of Religious Education at 228-702-2131.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Jul 29 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Gerrie Weldon 4. Helen Languirand 5. Kalin Lloyd	Jul 29 4:00 pm Rose Anne Kimbell	Jul 29 4:00 pm Sofia Carreon Sam Burke
Jul 30 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Coleen Kavanagh 3. Danny Kavanagh	Jul 30 7:00 am Jim Compton	Jul 30 7:00 am Alec Ryan Wyeth Stewart
9:00 am 1. Nanette Burke 2. Barbara Ziz 3. Barry Gilmore 4. Judy Trahan 5. Bobby Weaver	9:00 am Liz Wilkenson	9:00 am Justin Useforge Jamey Useforge McKinzy Mathis Sabree Sander
11:00 am 1. Deacon Ben 2. Sondra Williams 3. Johnny Williams 4. Rhonda Clark 5. Mary Wimberly	11:00 am Linda Bourgeois	11:00 am Aidan Tarrant Annabelle Tarrant Brennan Tarrant
5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Tricia Creel 3. Roland Creel	5:30 pm Jim Shugart	5:30 pm Jacob Arguelles Nicholas Arguelles Dylan Mitchell
	CANTORS	
	Jul 29 1:00 pm Phil Frisby (New Wine Mass)	
	4:00 pm Nicholas Rodolfich	
	Jul 30 9:00 am Dennis Burke	
	11:00 am Rocky Greathouse	

MASS INTENTIONS

		6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon	Jul 24	Richard Wells	Jerry O'Keefe
Tue	Jul 25	Anthony Walter Davidson, Jr.	Stanley Dellenger
Wed	Jul 26	Norine/Jacinto Baltar	Jacinto Baltar.
Thur	Jul 27	Collins-Sims Fly.	Patsy Smolcich
Fri	Jul 28	Glenn/Joyce Pisarich	J. T. Collins
Sat	Jul 29	8 Betty Lou Callegari	4 Jean Kridle
Sun	Jul 30	7-Ginny Kirkland (S.I.)	9- F. T. P.
		11-William Smith	5:30 Chester Balius Family

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Candy Widener, John Pat Skrmetti, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Jeanie Harbison, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Walter Blessey, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Richard "Red" White, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Don Viator, Mabel Viator, George Krebs, Marian Semski and Michael Zorich.

SANCTUARY LAMP

The Sanctuary Lamp is lit this week in memory of Larry Semski, by his loving family.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*Final Registration for families who will have children attending Nativity School and have not completed their registration will be held on Friday, July 28th from 10:00-2:00.

*Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is now underway. Although several classes are filled, openings remain in other classes. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact the school at 432-2269 or visit the school's website at www.nativitybvm.org.

*Each year the faculty/staff of Nativity School chooses a theme for the year. This year's theme is: CALLED... Each month, we will reflect on our calling as Christians and how we will best carry that out. During the month of August, we will reflect on our "Call...to serve."

PARISHIONER REGISTRATION

When planning a baptism, marriage, or for subsidized tuition rates for our Catholic Schools, you must demonstrate that you are a practicing Catholic and that you attend Mass. Using envelopes helps maintain a record of Mass attendance. The parish registration form can be found online at www.nativitybvmcathedral.org, or at the entrance of the Cathedral in the vestibule.

COMMUNION VISITATION

Jesus says of you and me, "You are the salt of the earth". No one should be deprived of the Most Holy Eucharist because they are homebound, elderly, have no means of getting to Mass and/or sick in their home. Sister Jackie Tarrant, RSM will gladly bring the Eucharist to you in your home. Together we can be "salt of the earth". Sister can be reached at 228-223-8129 or the rectory at 228-374-1717.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 25 -Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC
Bingo Mania 5:30 p.m.

July 26 -**Cleaning Team "A"**

- Mass at Seashore Retirement Home, 3:00 p.m.

July 27 Mass at Greenbriar Nursing Home, 10:00 a.m.

July 29 – New Wine Graduation Mass, 1:00 p.m., Cathedral
New Wine Reception at the SHC

BINGO MANIA

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. The following families are scheduled for July 25th. Collins (Shaniel & Shelly Ann), McLoughlin (Michael & Lisa), Nguyen (Addis & Tai), Pritchard (Casey Reed), Stoddard (Clay & Jody) and Terry (George & Cheryl). **REMEMBER! If you are unable to attend, it is your responsibility to secure a replacement.**

NATIVITY MEN'S CLUB

Nativity Men's Club will have their first meeting after a summer break, on Monday, August 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., in the Sacred Heart Center. **All men of the parish are welcome to attend.** Please email Dennis Burke at djburke@cableone.net if you plan to attend. We would love for you to join us!

PRAYER FOR PROTECTION FROM HURRICANES

Father, may all the elements of nature obey Your command. Calm the storms that threaten us and turn our fear of Your power into praise of Your goodness. Grant this, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen.