

PARISH CALENDAR

Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2026

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Saturday, July 25	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, July 26	 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	 9:00 a.m.	Mass (Live Stream)
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, July 27	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Tuesday, July 28	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Wednesday, July 29	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
	... 9:30am -11:30 am	Food Pantry Closed
Thursday, July 30	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Friday, July 31	 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	 8:00 a.m.	Communion Service
Saturday, August 1	 3:15-4:00 p.m.	Confession - Church
	 5:00 p.m.	Mass



NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

Is:55:1-3: The Lord invites all who are thirsty to “Come to the Water!” God asks the people to take heed, that they may drink wine and milk, eat well and delight in the rich face of the everlasting covenant.

Rm:8:35, 37-39: Nothing, not even death, can separate the faithful from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Mt:14:13-21: huge crowds followed Jesus. He felt compassion for them and healed the sick. He saw that they were hungry and, rather than send them away empty, he gave them bread and fish in abundance.

GOSPEL REELECTION: A PRICELESS DISCOVERY AWAITS!

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.” Matthew 13:44-46

In the first parable above, a person unexpectedly discovers a treasure buried in a field. Imagine that you take a metal detector with you while on a hike, simply curious about what might lie beneath the soil. Suddenly, the detector gives a strong signal. Expecting perhaps a rusted can or an old nail, you begin to dig. But as your shovel strikes something solid, you uncover an old chest. With growing anticipation, you lift it from the earth and open it—only to find it brimming with ancient and priceless jewels, gold and silver coins, and other precious items of immense worth.

In the second parable, the merchant is actively searching for a valuable pearl. He knows what he seeks and finally discovers one of exceptional worth—one that eclipses all others. In both cases, however, the response is the same: the man and the merchant each go and sell all they possess to obtain the treasure they have found.

These parables pose two fundamental questions for each of us:

Have I discovered the priceless treasure of the Kingdom of Heaven?

If I have, am I willing to let go of everything else to attain it?

Like the man who stumbles upon the buried treasure, many people encounter God’s grace in surprising ways—through a moment of prayer, a profound experience at Mass, an act of charity, or even during suffering. Maybe those people were not actively seeking divine treasure, yet in a moment of providence, the veil is lifted, and the beauty of God’s Kingdom is revealed. Once they discover the treasure, their souls realize that nothing else compares. From that point on, they are moved to reorient their entire lives to possess that treasure fully. Many of us are like someone who learns of a buried treasure in a field and, out of curiosity, drives out to look—but spends little or no time searching. Or we are like a merchant who is informed of a rare and valuable pearl for sale far from home. Though interested, we note the length of the journey and abandon the thought.

Reflect today on this invaluable treasure, waiting to be discovered. Consider where you are on that journey of discovery. Have you heard about the priceless treasure of coming to know, love, and serve God? Have you read about the radical response made by many saints? Have you discovered God for yourself, through prayer and moments of profound enlightenment? If you have not, keep searching—the Kingdom is near. If you have made this discovery, then consider all your attachments, and willingly surrender them to God, acknowledging that nothing is too much to offer to our loving God in exchange for the untold riches of the life of grace to which we are called.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS:(former known as R. C. I. A)

"Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (or OCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's OCIA program will begin **Sept 13, 2026.**
- 2) OCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) OCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.

- 4) OCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:

a. Rite of Acceptance (**beginning of Advent**)

b. Rite of Election (**beginning of Lent**)

c. OCIA Scrutinies (**during Lent**)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call the parish office at 808-6687833 or our OCIA Director (Don Gerry, 860-908-5954)"

WORD OF LIFE: "Assisted suicide proponents are pursuing an aggressive nationwide campaign to advance their agenda through legislation, ballot measures, litigation, and public advertising, targeting states they see as most susceptible to their message. Some polls indicate that the public is receptive to the general concept of assisted suicide. But the same polls show that when the public learns about the dangers of assisted suicide, especially for those who are poor, elderly, disabled, or without access to good medical care, their views shift against the practice." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Top Reasons to Oppose Assisted Suicide"*

WEEKLY READINGS

Jul 26 Sun: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs:3:5, 7-12; Ps:119; Rms:8:28-30; Mt:13:44-52

Jul 27 : Mon: Ordinary Weekday

Jer:13:1-11; Dt:32:18-19, 20, 21; Mt:13:31-35

Jul 28 : Tue: Ordinary Weekday

Jer:14:17-22; Ps:79: 8, 9, 11 & 13; Mt:13:36-43

Jul 29: Wed: Saint Martha, Mary & Lazarus

Jer:15:10, 16-21; Ps:59; 2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18; Jn:11:19-27

Jul 30 Thur: Ordinary Weekday

Jer:18:1-6; Ps:146: 1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab; Mt:13:47-53

Jul 31 Fri: Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

Jer:26:1-9; Ps:69:5, 8-10, 14; Mt:13:54-58

Aug 1 Sat: Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Jer:26:11-16, 24; Ps:69: 15-16, 30-31, 33-34; Mt:14:1-12



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

*A profound stewardship prayer is offered by the young King Solomon in today's first reading. He asks the Lord to give him an understanding heart, compassion towards God's people and the insight to distinguish right from wrong. An understanding heart, or wisdom, is a gift from God. It is a gift that enables us to make good decisions and prudent choices. Cultivating and sharing this gift is essential, especially when poor decisions and lack of compassion have consequences that affect the lives of others. During these disquieting times, are we asking God for an understanding heart? Are we exercising good stewardship over the gift of wisdom? Are we sharing our compassionate hearts with others?. **International Catholic Stewardship Council***

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

Sunday Collection	\$ 3,705.00
Candles	115.00
Outreach	45.00

Total **\$ 3,865.00**

RESTRICTED COLLECTIONS

Building Fund	\$ 549.00
Diocesan Priest Retirement	5.00
Seminarian Education Fund	170.00

Total **\$ 734.00**

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