St. Clare Parish
July 19, 2020
A Catholic Community guided by the Holy Spirit
to proclaim Christ’s love in worship, service and life-long learning

Church
8535 SW 19th Ave Portland, OR 97219  503.244.1037
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 9am - 12:30pm & 2 - 4pm
office@saintclarechurch.org  www.saintclarechurch.org
Pastor  Fr. Don Gutmann  101
Business Manager  Shelley Worrell  102
Pastoral Associate  Pia de Leon  103
Faith Formation Coordinator  Dcn. Bill McNamara  104
Youth Minister  Andie Bodary  105
Administrative Assistant  Laurie Zupsic  100

School
1807 SW Freeman St Portland, OR 97219  503.244.7600
info@stclarepdx.org  www.stclarepdx.org
School Principal  Chris Harris
Administrative Assistant  Donna Parker MacNeur

Preschool
1812 SW Spring Garden St Portland, OR 97219  503.244.5458
nancy@stclarepreschool.org
Director  Nancy Melzer
Administrative Assistant  Jeanne Raffety

Sacraments - Please visit www.saintclarechurch.org for more information on sacramental preparation.

Weekend & Daily Mass:
Saturday - 5:00 pm
Sunday - 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45am
Weekdays except Tuesdays - 8:30am
All Masses limited to 25 people each.
Mandatory sign-up at 503.244.1037.

Pre-recorded Sunday Mass:

Reconciliation  Saturdays with Fr. Don Gutmann from 4pm-4:30pm in the church. Social distancing will be practiced.

Matrimony  Six month preparation required. Contact Fr. Don Gutmann.

Adult Confirmation & How Can I Become a Catholic?  Contact Pia de Leon.

Baptism, 1st Eucharist, 1st Reconciliation & Confirmation?  
(Children & Teens) Contact Deacon Bill McNamara.

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US
Whether you are a long-time parishioner and need to update your information or newly arrived in the parish and not yet registered, please complete the information below and place in the offertory basket or mail to the parish office.

Name: ____________________________________  Phone: ( ) ________________________
Address: ___________________________________  City: __________________________ Zip: __________

□ New Parishioner  □ Returning Catholic  □ Moving (please remove from parish directory)
□ New Phone Number  □ New Address  □ Please send Sunday Offertory envelopes
Weekly Reflection
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 19, 2020

Grace and sin are found together. As much as our hearts long for union with God, there is always that part of us that resists. As much as I wholeheartedly believe in God, there is a dimension of disbelief with which I also wrestle. Even though we may seek purity and integrity in all of our thoughts, words, and deeds, there is also the path toward weakness and sin that we find ourselves traversing. Just as weeds can easily overtake the best of gardens, so too can weakness and sin overtake and overwhelm a person. The call is to realize the power the weeds of sin have to choke us off from God’s presence. While God allows the wheat and the weeds to exist together, we must keep our eyes fixed on God’s mercy and forgiveness and resist the death that comes from giving way to sin and evil. In God’s time, the eternal harvest will come, and we will no longer have to worry about the weeds. For now, we must be vigilant and regularly seek the assistance of the Master Gardener. ©LPi

Fr. Don’s Musings . . .

Our annual parish Campout is this weekend out at Nehalem Bay State Park by Manzanita. It’s always a fun time. I decided not to go this year to stay safe since I tend to be around a fair amount of older folks when I’m back at the parish. I’m kind of bummed to not be at the campout, playing around with 30 parish families. Hopefully, next summer things will be more normal and I can attend the campout.

We’ll begin celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation this week at St. Clare. We have 28 high schoolers who were expecting to receive the sacrament back in April, but the church was closed then due to the virus, so we are starting now. Since we can only have 25 people gathered at a time, we will have five Confirmation Masses, each with 4-5 students, their sponsors and parents only. These Masses will take place at the 10:45am Sunday Mass for several weeks, so general parishioners wishing to attend Mass in person will have to select one of the other three weekend Masses.

Our St. Clare Preschool is open and doing well. They are following a huge amount of protocols to keep everyone safe. I appreciate all of the parents and teachers’ efforts to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are finalizing the plans for St. Clare School to reopen in the fall, but it all depends on how the virus progresses. At this point, we are expecting to open up 5 days/week for all students, but we have contingency plans if necessary. All future planning requires a lot of flexibility right now.

Let’s keep praying for one another. Enjoy your summer. ~ Fr. Don

Week-at-a-Glance

Each Mass is limited to 25 people. Sign-up is mandatory by calling the parish office at 503-244-1037, x104 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays, 9am-12pm only.

Saturday, July 18
4:00pm Confession Church
5:00pm Mass Jeananne & Bill Bloudek
Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary! Church
5:40pm Confession Church

Sunday, July 19
8:00am Mass For the People Church
9:15am Mass Church
10:45am Confirmation Mass Church

Monday, July 20
8:30am Daily Mass +Holy Souls in Purgatory Church

Wednesday, July 22
8:30am NO Mass Church

Thursday, July 23
8:30am Daily Mass Church

Friday, July 24
8:30am Daily Mass Church

Saturday, July 25
4:00pm Confession Church
5:00pm Mass Church

Sunday, July 26
8:00am Mass For the People Church
9:15am Mass Church
10:45am Confirmation Mass Church

Scripture Readings
17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26 2020

Reading 1 - 1 KGS 3:5, 7-12
Psalms - PS 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-130
Reading 2 - ROM 8:28-30
Gospel - MT 13:44-52

For daily readings, please visit www.usccb.org
Today, we are presented more insights about God, the kingdom of heaven, and what is expected of us. The overwhelming message is that God is all about power, justice, lenience, kindness and most of all, love. We are offered endless opportunities to hear and respond to God, but nothing matches God’s efforts to claim us. God chooses us, sends help on our behalf, and invites us into a reign of love and peace beyond all measure.

**United in Prayer ~ Lord Hear Our Prayer**

For the Church, that it may be even more clear in its mission of forming its people in the ways of the Lord and enduring all the trials that go with being a disciple of Christ . . . we pray to the Lord.

For those in every level of government who are responsible for policies especially during this pandemic, that they prioritize rules and laws that are compassionate and just for all . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all people, that they may embrace their gifts that God has bestowed on them and nurture them to produce good for their neighbors’ sake . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all those fighting to protect against the pandemic and those fighting to protect the dignity of every human person, especially of those who are victims of poverty, discrimination and racism and the people who have lost their means to claim such dignity . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all teachers, church ministers, volunteers, law enforcers and decision makers, that they may work to ensure that the mission of their chosen profession be driven by a sense of vocation to serve . . . we pray to the Lord.

For all our families who are at the Parish Campout this weekend, that they may be grateful to the wonderful Creator who made all the beauty around them possible . . . we pray to the Lord.

For those in our community, whose needs we may not know; for healing for Jennifer, daughter of Sarah Morris, for those who have died, especially Winifred Weimer, and those grieving among us . . . we pray to the Lord.
16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While he was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. Let them grow together until the harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.” Matthew 13:24-25, 30.

Today, Jesus is talking to the crowds in parables (stories that have a message) about something they could understand - farming. A lot of people who were listening to Jesus were farmers. I doubt if any of you are farmers; I am surely not a farmer being born in Brooklyn, NY. So, what is this message for us today?

Well, to start off with, Jesus is explaining what the kingdom of heaven is about and how and who will get there. We all know that when God along with our parents created us, God made everyone in His image and likeness. We all start off being good seeds and God wants us all to remain good people (seeds in the parable). But sadly along the way of life, there are people who start to become misguided. They do not focus on all the great things that God has given them and as a result do not become the person God created them to be. They are lured by the bad things of the world—things like greed, racism, prejudice, abuse of drugs and alcohol, misuse of power. The weeds are the people who are mean and selfish and who try to keep the good seeds from growing. Thankfully, we have a merciful God who continuously reaches out to these people to change their evil ways. That is why Jesus tells us that God allows the good seeds and the weeds grow together. The ones who refuse to change are like the weeds in this parable who at the time of the harvest will not be invited into the barn, but all the people who listen to God’s Word and follow it will live with God in heaven one day.

Some things to think about in this story... God is so patient and slow to anger. This is good news especially if you find yourself getting in trouble a lot at school or home. God is God and is very merciful. What happens to the evildoers is God’s business. We are not called to judge anyone. God is the supreme judge and will reward and punish accordingly. All we can do is lead our lives in such a way that we do not add to the evil that happens in this world and stay away from people who try to trick us into believing that evil is good.

Things to do... Do the right thing! For example, if a school mate or playmate falls and scrapes his knee and everybody starts making fun and laughing, do not join them. Instead, go and see if she or he is alright and needs any help.

Let us pray: Loving Father, help us always to be the great person you created us to be and in the Our Father, the prayer you have given us, “deliver us from evil.” We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.
For the last 28 years that I have lived in the United States, I have come to understand my role as a Filipino, non-American, permanent resident, immigrant in this country. When I became a permanent resident, only these expectations stood out – obey the laws, pay my dues, be productive and be not a burden to society. This was the norm for our life here in America. Be silent. Be invisible and be protective of the privilege, especially when faced with injustice. However, this changed as I deepened my faith; and as I encountered Jesus among the Hispanic farmworkers, the Black parishioners in NE Portland, the recovering addicts of RAP and the ex-convicts of Phoenix Rising Transitions, the SEIU labor union members and the disabled. I worked with these people in over 20 years of peace and justice engagement as social ministry director and as community organizer. With their stories, I could no longer be silent. I needed to stand with the people who God loves very much.

Today, as we fight against racism, we must relearn history and confront our own complicity to the problem. As we find out about children and parents separated at the borders or the squalid conditions of the detention centers, we must exert effort to understand beyond press conferences. As we deal with unjust labor practices or inability of people to access good health care or afford homes, we cannot simply say, “That’s their problem, not mine.” Truth seeking is an act of justice. Solidarity, not patronage.

The late Fr. Bert Griffin was a larger than life figure, especially in the realm of social justice. As my very first pastor in the US, he taught me through his homilies how justice is at the core of a disciple’s life. His stories of justice, workers’ rights, and community organizing as intrinsic to the Faith, brought not only a fresh and broader view of justice but also gave me a profound grounding for the work that I have been familiar with but simply thought as political. Fr. Bert made it clear that though there is a separation of state and religion, the dignity and well-being of a human being becomes an issue that needs addressing by people of the Faith. The greatest commandment of Christ took on a different perspective – to love God indeed becomes challenging because it is inseparable from loving our neighbor as ourselves. This challenge is the very reason why people claim they do justice but in reality remain on the level of charitable giving. It is because Justice as the highest form of charity will require our personal reckoning and change. We dismantle systems of injustice only when personal biases and prejudices are controlled. As Christians, regardless of culture, race or class we must be able to honestly ask and answer these questions, every single day: “If I love God, how much will I love my neighbor? If I believe Christ died so he may save us, how much would I die unto myself to give life to others? If God has shared his only son so we may have new life, how much of myself and mine am I willing to share with others? These tough questions have no instant answers. We invoke the Holy Spirit for enlightenment. Justice becomes an act of love, especially for those who are most in need. This is why we can sincerely proclaim Black lives matter even when we value all lives, as a relevant example today. And, when we pray novenas for peace, we must be willing to work for justice as well, for peace is the fruit of justice.

Fear no longer can paralyze us from standing in solidarity with people who have experienced deep seated and culturally ingrained racism. Every family helped by St. Vincent de Paul must now move us to ask why they are suffering. What is causing their poverty? Every homeless person served by our Andre Bessette team must remind us to ask why there are systems that perpetuate homelessness or mental illness or addiction. Every election must propel us to discernment on how to vote. For whose value? Christ of the Gospel or our political affiliations? Peace and justice is not a program of the parish or a favorite volunteer opportunity or a means to assert ones activism. It is a way of life, truly at the heart of our Christian spirituality. Here at St. Clare, the newly re-formed Peace and Justice Committee will guide our movement towards a creative, effective and sustainable response to God’s call for change.

The only thing certain is this. Silence will not bring change only the act of justice as love will.
**Faith Formation**

*RCIA INVITATION*

*Has Jesus Christ been knocking on the door of your heart? Have you been discerning on becoming a part of the Catholic Church? Are you being called to return to the Catholic Faith?*

Even during these strange times of the pandemic, our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults process will proceed. Through this process, the parish can help you answer some of your pressing questions about Catholicism and help you develop your relationship with Jesus through His Body, the Church. If you wish to be baptized and be received fully into the Catholic Church or would like to renew your commitment as Catholic or to simply know more about the Faith, join us. Sessions start in September.

For more information or to register as a RCIA participant, please email Pia de Leon at pia@saintclarechurch.org.

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**Outreach**

**The St. Clare Conference Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

**Food Pantry Needs**

- Canned Ravioli & Spaghetti
- Breakfast Cereal
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Pasta-Roni
- Paper Towels
- Laundry & Dishwashing Soap
- Hygiene Products especially Deodorant & Liquid Hand Soap

Donations may be placed in the food basket on the front porch of the parish office. Thank you!

*Please check dates to ensure foods have not expired.*

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**Beyond St. Clare...**

**JVEEnCorps**

A PROGRAM OF JVC NORTHWEST

*Now is the Time to Serve Our Community!*

**Jesuit Volunteer EnCorps**, a program of JVC Northwest, facilitates rewarding opportunities for service, community and spiritual formation for adults 50 and better who are committed to social and ecological justice. We are offering new ways for our members (JVEs) to serve from home during this time of increased need for those who live on the margins. JVEs meet monthly online or in-person, creating spiritual community while staying safe. Our values arise from the Catholic Ignatian tradition and JVE EnCorps is an inclusive and welcoming community.

**Priority application deadline: Monday, Aug. 31**

Opening Retreat in September. For more information, visit: www.jvencorps.org

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**Many thanks to all who contribute!**

**Weekly Offertory Report**

The Offertory Report for Sunday, July 12 will be included in next week’s bulletin.

Reminder: Donations may be mailed to or dropped off at the parish office. Interested in Online Giving? Please visit www.saintclarechurch.org and click the Online Giving link. Thank you!

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**FORMED**

**PICK OF THE WEEK**

**Extraordinary Stories for Children**

The film features eleven different stories that introduce children to Blessed Solanus Casey’s spirituality and ministry. Each segment features a child who tells a fascinating and true story about Blessed Solanus.

Sign up FREE at Formed.org/signup. Use Parish Code J7N7CD.