

# 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 he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)

## PASTORAL STAFF

**Monsignor Michael Becker** - [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)

**Deacon Gene Neral** - [gene@lifeinfocus.net](mailto:gene@lifeinfocus.net)

**Kristin Hoyne** - Parish Council President [inaugh@aol.com](mailto:inaugh@aol.com)

**Ms. Jena Bowman** - Business Manager [stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net)

**Mrs. Deborah Johnson** - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate [dj219@msn.com](mailto:dj219@msn.com)

**Mr. Mark Krepich** - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults [mark.krepich@gmail.com](mailto:mark.krepich@gmail.com)

**Mr. Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

## NEXT WEEKEND'S APPOINTMENTS

### LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Maria Spayd , Betsy Slat

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM - Russell O'Reilly, James Krug

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM - Bob Olson , Paul Dennis

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Connie Baker

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM-Keaton Swope, Brody Partner-Gore

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Mai Linh Do

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM- Evie & Estella Koch

### SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Billy Sweet,  
Judy Sneath, NOT FILLED

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM - Jane Strasser, Larry VanSickel,  
Paula VanSickel, Carolyn English

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM – Walter Bloom, Peg Madden,  
Patrick Podoletz, Wendy Campbell

### SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 1- 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, NOT FILLED

Sun. Aug. 2 - 8:00 AM-Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Aug. 2 - 10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

### Prayer of St. Ignatius

Lord, teach me to be generous.  
Teach me to serve you as you deserve;  
to give and not to count the cost,  
to fight and not to heed the wounds,  
to toil and not to seek for rest,  
to labour and not to ask for reward,  
save that of knowing that I do your will. Amen.



July 26, 2020  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**COMMUNION IN THE FRONT CIRCLE:** For the sake of those who are not able to attend Mass in public, Bishop Mark has encouraged parishes to offer communion outside the church after Mass on Sunday mornings. Once you have watched Mass on TV or the internet, you are welcome to come to church and receive communion in your car in the front circle. Communion will be distributed twice: first at 11:30, and then again at 12:30. Your promptness is appreciated.

**CONFIRMATION DATES SET:** We intend to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on Monday evening, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, and again on Wednesday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. If your son or daughter is scheduled for Confirmation (having been postponed in the spring), expect to be hearing from us soon! Let's pray that a second wave of the virus does not delay us again!

**OUR SAINTS OF THE WEEK:** Saint Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556) was born the youngest of thirteen children at Loyola in Spain. His mother died soon after his birth and he was adopted by the local blacksmith's wife. With a "love of martial exercises and a vain glorious desire for fame," Ignatius joined the army at 17. He was happy to take up arms, engage in duels and, together with his leadership qualities, he became an accomplished fighter. That is until he sustained serious leg injuries when hit by a cannonball. St Ignatius, during his convalescence, read many religious texts and resolved to devote his future life to the conversion of non-Christians, emulating St Francis of Assisi. He studied theology, was ordained a Priest and founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), becoming its first Superior General. St Ignatius is remembered as a talented spiritual director and for his vigorous opposition to the Protestant Revolution. He is most noted for his "Spiritual Exercises," which have been used by retreatants for centuries.

**DAILY MEDITATIONS:** My daily reflections on our website will focus upon the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and renowned master of the spiritual life. Please join us!

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Attendance at our weekend Masses is certainly encouraging, given the limitations that are placed upon gatherings. We are comfortably and safely able to accommodate 50 to 60 people at a weekend Mass. Should we have an overflow, we always have the opportunity and option to place chairs in the gathering space. Masks and social distancing remain the norm.

**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:** Our invitation to parishioners to attend daily mass rather than a weekend mass has worked very well. We find that morning masses are more preferable than evening masses. We are therefore making a slight change in our weekday mass schedule. Evening masses will continue to be held on Monday and Wednesday at 6 o'clock. Morning masses will be offered on Tuesday Thursday and Friday.

**ONLINE GIVING:** In these uncertain times, the financial support of your parish remains important. Have you considered online giving? Whether you are able to get to Mass or not, a direct deposit from your checking account to our parish account allows you to sustain your giving without interruption.

**BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY EVENING:** All are most welcome to join our Tuesday evening zoom Bible study, which meets online at 7 PM. We typically review the readings of the coming Sunday, which allows all of us to be better prepared to hear God's word when we gather for the Eucharist. To join, please provide me with your email address.

**CHANGES IN FOOD AND OFFERTORY COLLECTION:** We are most grateful to those who so generously offer financially support to our parish and those who donate to our "weekly" Second Sunday Food Collection. Going forward, since we are back to Mass in the church, we will not be collecting groceries or envelopes in the carport, but in the Gathering Space, as we have done in the past. This is a more secure location. Again, our gratitude!

### SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

MONDAY • WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM

TUESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY - 8:30 AM

We will continue to record Sunday Mass for those unable to attend and post it on our Facebook page and website.

### July Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

*Our Families*

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.



**ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY:** Bishop Mark Barchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2020 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 13 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 20 in JOHNSTOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. *Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Wednesday, August 19.*

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** The disciples in today's gospel looked to Jesus to feed the thousands of people in the crowds and he told them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." When the disciples claimed they did not have enough with only the small amount of five loaves and two fish among themselves, Jesus challenged them to be personally responsible and not allow them to abandon the crowd in their time of need. The simple gifts accepted by Jesus were given in an act of love and trust. No matter how small or limited our gifts seem we must personally share them with generosity. God will make what we offer "enough." Simple gifts were "multiplied." During the past six months we have witnessed thousands of men, women, and children being the giver of simple gifts to the "crowds" throughout our country and beyond who are in very extreme circumstances and levels of need. Will we share our simple gifts of "loaves and fishes" as a habit and not wait for someone else to step forward first?

**Stewardship at St. John's**

**July 12, 2020**

Envelopes	\$	5,754.00
Loose	\$	1,108.00
Catholic Education	\$	35.00
Peter's Pence Collection	\$	25.00
Food Bank Donations	\$	82.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	\$	<i>7,004.00</i>
Online Giving	\$	2,123.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9,127.00</b>

***Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice***

Payments/Donations \$155,005  
 Pledge Payment Committed \$22,443  
 Total Pledges/Donations \$177,448

**Catholic Ministries Drive:** Goal - \$44,423

Last Update: June 30, 2020  
 Payments/Donations \$ 33,280  
 Pledge Payments Committed \$600  
 Total Gifts \$ 33,880

**ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

- Adam • Aiden • Cari Ann • James Aubrey  
 Julie Beiswenger • Robert Cole • Millie Grace Capon  
 Betty Dennis • Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy  
 Bernadine Farrell • Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine  
 Mary Ann Flinn • Helen Fornwalt • Leann Frazier  
 Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman • Denny Horton  
 Randy Horton • Brian Kopp • Amy Langenbacher  
 Lisa • Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias  
 Therese Merilli • Bryson Miller • Mildred Miller  
 Susie Miller • Barbara Moore • Donna Moyer  
 Ailani Myers • Nancy • Stan Neal • Patricia Olson  
 Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Karen Price  
 Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker  
 Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz  
 Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph • Fr. Robert Rustin  
 Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter  
 Laura Price Spenmark • Tim Temofonte • Patty Teufel  
 Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel • Carol White  
 William Wieland • Noah Wills • Milan & Family  
 Dorothy Yingling**

HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Dina Temofonte**

**Jude Wargo - son of Wally & Rose Wargo**

May they rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

*Please respect the person's right to privacy and secure permission before placing a name on the Prayer List.*

**PLEASE LOGIN AND CHECK YOUR INFORMATION:** Help us keep St. John the Evangelist records up to date. Just visit our parish website at [stjohnsaltoona.org](http://stjohnsaltoona.org) and click on the My Own Church link on the left side of the page. Here you can login and update your information. If anything has changed, go ahead and update your info, and our staff will be notified. If you haven't logged in to My Own Church, now is a great time to create an account. On the Parish Website ([stjohnsaltoona.org](http://stjohnsaltoona.org)) click on My Own Church on the left side of the homepage and create an account. Once our staff has received a request and verified your account, you can update your information. If you have questions, please call the church office at 814-942-5503. Thanks for helping us update our records!

**GOING ON VACATION?** Please use Online Giving to catch-up on offertory. Go to [www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org) and click on the Donate Online link under Parish Information on the left side of the page. Complete the online registration form. It's quick and easy. Your support during summer months helps sustain our parish.



**COLLEGE STUDENT MASS:** Mass for students entering or returning to college and their families will be held on Sunday, August 2nd at 7:00 PM outside at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto, next to the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. The Bishop will offer a special blessing to the students. *Recent graduates entering the workforce or the military are also welcome.* Please bring your own lawn chairs. If it rains, Mass will be celebrated inside the Basilica.

**SCRIP TIP:** Beat the heat with earnings up to 16% on summertime accessories. It's been a hot summer. Make the most of it with a new pool, sprinkler, umbrella, and everything else you need to stay cool. The best part? When you shop with scrip gift cards, your earnings benefit the organization and the people that matter most to you.

**ANNUAL FLEA MARKET:** The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold their annual flea market at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Conference Center on Friday August 7 and Saturday August 8 from 8:00 to 1:00 both days in Fr. Kelley Hall on the corner of 25th Avenue and 5th Street in Altoona.

**FOOD BANK NEEDS:** Please drop off all donations in the Gathering Space. The Church is open daily until 6:00 PM. In addition to food, we are also collecting toiletry items: shampoo, conditioner, soap, razors & blades, toothpaste/toothbrushes, etc. – anything related to grooming & bathroom needs. Monetary donations can also be placed in the collection baskets. We appreciate your help. There is still a great need for extra help during this time. Please keep those donations coming!

**FALL CLASS INFORMATION:** The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry has announced their 2020-2021 schedule of classes. For a description of classes, locations, times, registration forms and to learn more about our programs visit [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/) or contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. *All are welcome!*

**LENTEN RICE BOWLS:** If you still have a CRS Rice Bowl from Lent that you would like to turn in, you can drop it off in the Gathering Space or the parish office.

Catholic Relief Services is the outreach from the Catholic Church in the United States to those in need throughout the world by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. CRS Rice Bowl proceeds benefit the work of Catholic Relief Services as well as several local charities.



Seventeenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
July 26, 2020

All things work for good for those who  
love God.

— Romans 8:28a

## Schedule for the Week

### Sunday July 26 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM- Mass for *People of the Parish*  
10:00 AM- Mass for *Serena Stevens* requested by  
Tom & Patricia Forr  
11:30AM - Communion in the Front Circle  
12:30AM - Communion in the Front Circle

### Monday July 27 – Weekday

6:00 PM- Mass for *Joe Robeson*

### Tuesday July 28 – Weekday

8:30 AM- Mass for *Pam Jones* requested by Arise Group

### Wednesday July 29 – St. Martha

5:00 PM- Confessions  
6:00 PM- Mass for *Dr. Darla K. Wilshire* requested by  
Joy Frank

### Thursday July 30 – Weekday

8:30 AM- Mass for *Clarence & Eileen Becker* requested by  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Miller

### Friday July 31 – St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

8:30 AM - Mass for *Jude Wargo* requested by  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Irwin

### Saturday August 1 – Vigil of 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM- Confessions  
4:00 PM- Mass for *David Petrak* requested by  
Billy Sweet

### Sunday August 2 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM- Mass for *People of the Parish*  
10:00 AM- Mass for *Jean Riccitelli* requested by  
David Riccitelli

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 13:1-11; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 13:31-35

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

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21; Ps 34:2-11; Jn 11:19-27  
or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6; Ps 146:1b-6ab; Mt 13:47-53

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

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

Sunday: Is 55:1-3; Ps 145:8-9, 15-18; Rom 8:35, 37-39;  
Mt 14:13-21

*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 he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



## Sunday Readings

July 26, 2020

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Reading 1

1 Kgs 3:5, 7–12

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon answered: “O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: “Because you have asked for this—not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right—I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you.”

### Responsorial Psalm

Ps 119:57, 72, 76–77, 127–128, 129–130

**R. (97a) Lord, I love your commands.**

I have said, O LORD, that my part  
is to keep your words.

The law of your mouth is to me more precious  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

Let your kindness comfort me  
according to your promise to your servants.

Let your compassion come to me that I may live,  
for your law is my delight.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

For I love your command  
more than gold, however fine.

For in all your precepts I go forward;  
every false way I hate.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

Wonderful are your decrees;  
therefore I observe them.

The revelation of your words sheds light,  
giving understanding to the simple.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

## **Reading 2**

### **Rom 8:28–30**

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

## **Gospel**

### **Mt 13:44–52 [44–56]**

*In the shorter form of the reading, the passages in brackets are omitted.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “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. [ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

“Do you understand all these things?” They answered, “Yes.” And he replied, “Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old.” ]

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# 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 he has and buys that field.

Matthew 13:44



## SEEKING WISDOM

If God were to speak to us and tell us to ask for anything we want, what would we say? A financially secure life? Health for ourselves and our families? Safety from all the dangers of the world? To how many of us would it occur to ask for wisdom? We just don't think about it much. We think we know how to run our families, our work, our politics, but how many mistaken ideas do we really have, and how do those work out? Do we treat others, even those we dislike, with kindness and understanding? Solomon asked God for the wisdom to know right from wrong and how to govern God's vast people. God was pleased with this request, and granted it to Solomon in abundance. Can we ask for the same in our lives? Would our lives be happier if we were wiser? "We know that all things work for good for those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE . . .

Parables and more parables. What have we to learn about the reign of God from so many parables? The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea. These parables are not hard to understand, for they all point to something valuable being searched for: a treasure, a pearl, good fish. Those who search for these things give up what they have to acquire these precious things. Those who search are praised for their wisdom in valuing what they find more than what they already have. Even the fishermen can distinguish what is good from what is useless and to be discarded.

The kingdom of heaven is something precious to be sought, even above the good things we have in this world. It is more important than anything we already have and treasure. Jesus says that at the end of the age when the good shall be separated from the bad, the good will enjoy the happiness of the kingdom of heaven.

## THE NEW AND THE OLD

It is holy wisdom that allows us to realize how valuable the kingdom is. One more parable ends this reading: "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old" (Matthew 13:52). It is like the Church, which knows what to keep from the traditions of the past and what to cherish in the present time. Tradition is something passed down from generation to generation, but not necessarily unchanged. For example, we always have cake to celebrate birthdays. And yet, perhaps in the past that always meant a white or yellow cake with vanilla frosting. Today, it can mean a chocolate cake, an ice cream cake, or even a fruit pie! It can have the number of candles of the birthday person's age, or a candle for each decade and one for each subsequent year, or one big candle. It can even have, as once seen in a catalogue, Roman numeral candles to spell out the years! Traditions can change and still convey the truths they represent. So it is with the Tradition of the Church. The wise leaders bring forth both the new and the old, and seek in the kingdom what is good.

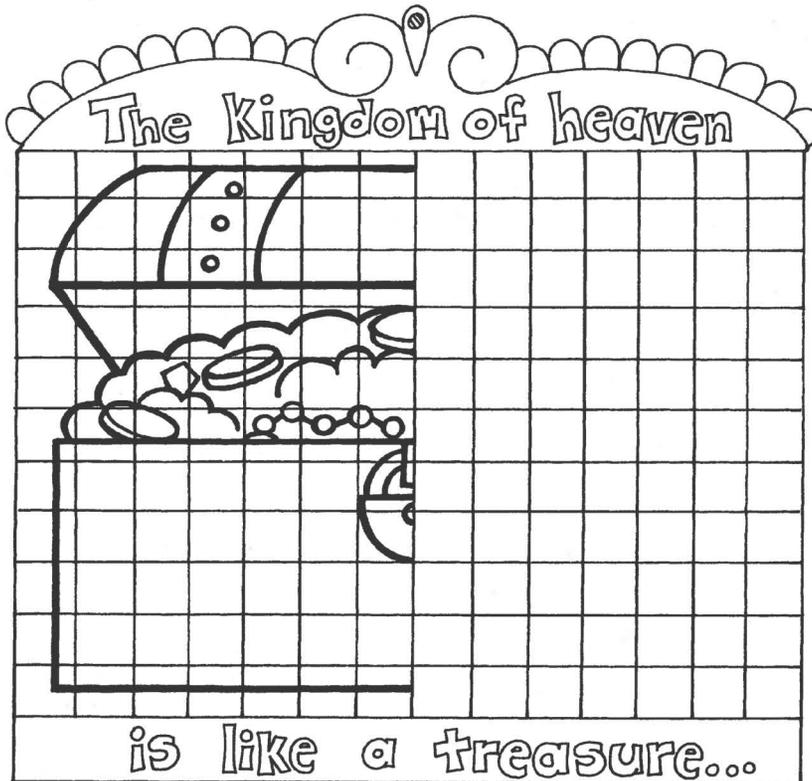
## TODAY'S READINGS

1 Kings 3:5, 7–12  
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76–77, 127–130  
Romans 8:28–30  
Matthew 13:44–52 [44–46]

July 26, 2020  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

# God's Word for Children

Jesus said the kingdom of heaven  
is like a treasure buried in a field.  
Use the grid to finish drawing the treasure chest.  
When you are done write your name on it.  
Let it remind you how precious and valuable you are to God.

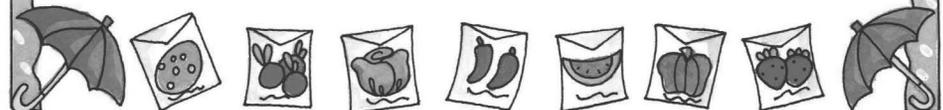
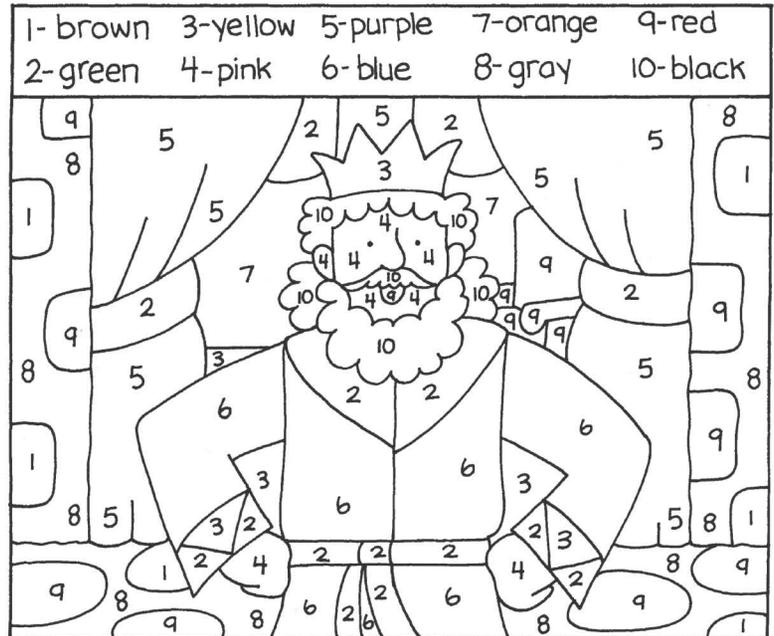


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## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

King Solomon asked God to help him understand and  
know how to lead the people in his kingdom.  
God was pleased with his request and made him wiser than anyone!  
Color this picture using the number code.  
Remember to pray for the gift of wisdom, too.





"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field"  
 Matthew 13 : 44



## SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Catholics have a long tradition of attending Mass on the first Friday of each month. This devotion in memory of Good Friday is a way to give thanks for the great love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is usually celebrated nineteen days after Pentecost.

Think about the symbol of a heart. When we see a picture of a heart we think of the people we love and who love us. When we are sad or missing someone we say, "My heart is breaking." Our beating heart gives us life by sending blood throughout our bodies. If our human hearts can do such marvelous things, how much more wonderful is the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who gave his life for us and who still loves us completely.

The Litany of the Sacred Heart contains many descriptions of the love of Jesus. Some of the prayers of the litany are listed here. Think of a few other ways you can describe this great love. Say the prayer this Friday and every first Friday to remind yourself and your family of how much Jesus loves us. You can find the entire prayer online or in a book of Catholic prayers.

Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for us, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise, have mercy on us.

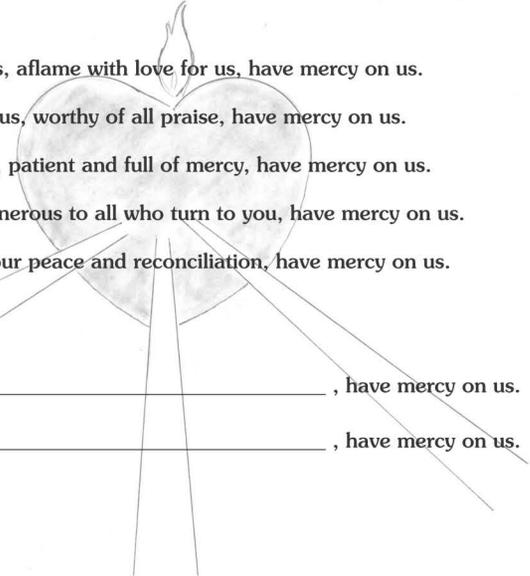
Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn to you, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_, have mercy on us.





Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.  
For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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