



**July 16, 2023**  
**15th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Collection July 9, 2023**

Regular Collection	\$255.00
Catholic Virginia	10.00
Attendance	41

**July 23, 2023**

Lector: *Guenter Schlottmann*  
 Commentator: *Patty Williams*  
 Ushers: *Klima/Hathaway*  
 Eucharistic Ministers:  
*Sally Warburton & Megan Talbert*

**Readings for July 23, 2023**

Reading 1    Wisdom 12:13, 16-19  
 Reading 2    Romans 8:26-27  
 Gospel        Matthew 13:24-43

**Prayer List** -*Tim Kimbleton, Carol Luttrell, John Balconi, Brenda Lessard, Jody Riffey, Megan Talbert, Rosanna Vallo, Stephen Petrowski, Regina Montgomery, Anna LoMascolo, Jerry Stanley, Bill Vest, Raegan Ray, Marianne McGriffin, Georgia Snell English, Margaret McLawhorn, Carol Canty, Father Bernie, Clyde Bennett, Shannon Yates, Doug Waldrop, Jessi Saunders, Lynn Canty, Chuck Yates, Ron Morgan, Elwood Switzer, and Aubrey Scaletta.*

**Let the Stanleys know if you have additions or deletions**

**Information about St. Edwards-** *Daily readings, the bulletin, homilies, and other information can be found on our webpage at: <https://stedwardpulaski.org>*

**From Father Boat-** *My parish family, I have recently felt a calling from the Holy Spirit to lead my parish family on a Holy Pilgrimage somewhere in the next year! I feel strongly that those who journey with me will also be answering a personal call from the Holy Spirit as well and it will be a life-changing event. I am asking all of you to prayerfully consider joining me and to let me know by email your interest, whether Spring or Fall is best and where you feel most drawn to visit. Thank you and God Bless all of you!*  
 Father Francis K. Boateng Pastor    [frankboat13@gmail.com](mailto:frankboat13@gmail.com)

**Parish Picnic-***Our Parish Picnic will be held at the Stanley's home on August 13 after Mass. Mark your calendar and more details will soon follow.*

**Parish 5-year plan-***The pastoral council is working on a 5 year plan for major maintenance issues, to include the replacement of the roof, repaving the parking lot, and possibly replacing the AC/heating units on the roof. A committee has been set up to work on this, and more information will be forthcoming.*

**July Birthdays**

<i>Linda McCann</i>	<i>July 4</i>
<i>Case Grube</i>	<i>July 6</i>
<i>Bernard LaFleur</i>	<i>July 11</i>
<i>Brenda May</i>	<i>July 13</i>
<b><i>Michele Coalson</i></b>	<b><i>July 16</i></b>
<i>Donna Hathaway</i>	<i>July 25</i>
<i>Annabelle</i>	<i>July 30</i>

***HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

**July Anniversaries**

<i>Father Boat</i>	<i>July 13</i>
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***HAPPY ANNIVERSARY***

**"Taken from the Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer of Creighton University's Online Ministries website: [www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html](http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html). Used with Permission."**

### **Daily Prayer This Week**

This is a great week to grow in a sense of not being alone. It is so difficult to find intimacy with God in the midst of our everyday lives if we go through our lives, either trying to do it alone or simply not acknowledging the fact that God is always with us. We could make this the special gift we ask for each week: "Lord, let me know and experience that you are with me, every day, all the time." If we only came to realize that God is as faithful to us in our slavery as God was in the Exodus story, we'd feel so different each day. We'd express our gratitude more. We'd sing God's praises.

If we walk through each day this week with a little more confidence in God's presence, God's merciful love for us, God's protection and care for us, then the Gospel message of Jesus can find a way into our hearts much more freely. Imagine if with this confidence, we could start asking Jesus:

*Lord, I don't want to keep seeking myself this week. I don't want to be so absorbed in my needs, in winning, in manipulating, in criticizing, in using my power to protect myself. I want to find myself, the life you offer me, by surrendering more, by letting go of what I cling to. Help me be freer this afternoon and when I get home from work.*

We could make this prayer, have this conversation with Jesus, while walking from one place to another, while shopping, over a lunch break, while doing laundry, sitting at an airport or driving to a meeting. Sometimes it is easiest to make this request precisely when I catch myself failing in some way, being particularly selfish or demanding in some way. When the Word can confront us, this is the doorway to naming a new desire. This week, we can find concrete times in our week, in real encounters and responsibilities of our very busy lives to say these or similar words:

*Lord, help me to be more childlike today. Help me simply come to you when I'm burdened or just tired, rather than all the other places I tend to go for relief. Let me be yoked to you as I carry out the promises of my life today. Free me from my impatience and tendency to judge others. Teach*

*me how showing others the mercy you have showed me is more important than my hard driving sacrifice.*

One day this week, one of these prayers will be just right. Another day, a much more personal request will come to us. What is important is that we grow in the habit of connecting with Jesus throughout the day, in these brief moments in the background of our lives. We have these moments, and we can easily get better at finding them. Then we can quickly grow in recognizing how the desires in our hearts can get formed and deepened through letting the Word into our hearts. We can practice beginning each day with a moment of prayer, asking for a desire and then repeating and refining that desire throughout the day.

We will discover that this is very consoling and enjoyable. We will experience ourselves growing in gratitude as God is generously giving us what we ask for, and we are indeed finding intimacy with Jesus each day. And when we get ready for bed each night, we can develop a habit of simply giving thanks – telling Jesus we are so grateful that we were not alone this day and how much we are grateful for his presence, mercy and for the mission he's sharing with us.

**This is the Prayer the Church uses this week of Ordinary Time and the Opening Prayer for the Masses of this week. We can reflect upon it, pray it ourselves, with our family, or adapt it for our concrete desires this week.**

O God, who show the light of your truth  
to those who go astray,  
so that they may return to the right path,  
give all who for the faith they profess  
are accounted Christians  
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ  
and to strive after all that does it honor.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.