

Our Lady of Lourdes is a pilgrim church coming to know the Kingdom of God by being Christ to the world

Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic Church

July 2017

Fellow Disciples,

July is a time of late sunsets, festivals, picnics, swimming, and fresh produce! This month's Gospel readings are similar in tone—we hear the “earthy” parables of sowing and seeds, good crops, and weeds! We are treated to words of comfort, peace, and encouragement to live justly.

These simple summer scriptures bear fruit in our lives if we are open to the possibility. Are we good soil? Are we open to the tender gestures of joy, of tilling the soil of our relationships? Good seeds want to grow and produce great fruit!

As disciples on the way, we can do so much in God's garden. Simple gestures of welcoming and kindness to our visitors at the parish festival July 14-16 can be the Word made Flesh that someone is longing to receive. Willingness to embrace a visitor at weekend liturgy might just be the good fruit needed in that person's day.

Our discipleship efforts can be directed to specific areas of ministry within our liturgy as well. Summertime is good ground to consider joining the choir, to raise our voice as a lector, to serve as a cantor, a sacristan, an acolyte, greeter or usher, or perhaps as a parish ambassador. Committing ourselves to daily prayer for the seeds of our faith to grow deeper roots in our community at OLOL and within our surrounding neighborhood will bear much fruit as well!

We do need to think of the bigger ground as well—that beyond our parish doors. The St. Vincent DePaul Society, which aids so many who are in need of a home, furniture, rent assistance, etc., could use a big boost from us this summer. You will notice that the SVDP will be a more regular giving option in your monthly sharing. We know and trust your generous and loving response. When we asked for St. Ben's aid and food pantry monetary donations, you responded with abundance!

Finally, summer is the time of intense youth service via Reach Out/Reach In within the Milwaukee scenario. It is also travel time to Haiti, as we strive to strengthen cultural bonds and raise awareness of intense poverty. Recognizing, praying for, and supporting these outreach efforts fertilizes the soil of our disciple hearts so that the Gospel can be lived and known.

We are the hands and feet of Christ in this world, this garden. Let us cultivate the fields with love, compassion, and mercy for all.

Blessings,

Nancie Chmielewski
Parish Director

**Our Lady of Lourdes Stewardship Contribution
August 2017**

Env. No. _____ Date: _____

Name _____

Regular Offering-Operating Fund .. \$ _____

Improvement Fund \$ _____

Outreach to Haiti twinning \$ _____

Assumption of Mary (Aug. 15) \$ _____

Festival Support (\$10 suggested) .. \$ _____

Check # _____ TOTAL \$ _____

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Env. No. «Envelope Number»

As of M/DD/YY Pledge Contributions

Weekly/Monthly Offering \$ 0.00 \$ 0.00

ALL PARISH FUNDS \$ 0.00

«STATEMENT NAME»
«SPECIAL ADDRESS»
«DELIVERY ADDRESS»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP CODE»

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