



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY July 16 & BEYOND**

## The Parable of the Sower

(Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23)



I could write a book about gardening. I would write everything I know about planting seeds, caring for them, and raising great crops of tomatoes, squash, and other vegetables. I could write such a book, but it would be a short and simple book. Here it is: Find a space, clear the space, dig a hole, plant a seed. Add water and wait. When the vegetable comes up, pick and eat. Repeat.

That's my book, right there. Feel free to copy it and share it with all your friends. In other words, I don't know very much at all. However, it is a well known fact, in certain circles that I know plenty about weeds. In my back yard, I have picked weeds almost every day for years. I know what it means to go out, look for the weeds, and tug on them with all my might. Yes, I am a valiant weed tugger. I don't let them win in the battle of mankind over weeds. I'm too ruthless in that regard.

A sower went out to sow, and he sowed seeds on the path, among the rocks, the weeds and the rich soil. I fully understand what Jesus is talking about when he compares the kingdom of God to seeds, sun, rocks, and weeds. It's a constant and daily battle I engage in myself. The weeds may think that they have won, but I refuse to give them any pleasure. I let them know that I am coming for them, if not today, then tomorrow.

The truth is, I'm not trying to grow anything, except oranges, and the weeds are no match for the orange tree. I only want my rock garden yard to live in peace. In my mind, it's a simple, quiet, Benedictine life. Breath in, breath out, pull the weed, till the soil.

I do believe in the kingdom of God, however. I believe in the growth of God's kingdom. I believe that our faith is meant to be spread and flourish. I believe that the teachings of Jesus are words of life and truth. I read the New Testament with

hope and faith. But, I know that sometimes it is difficult. There are a great many obstacles to sharing the gospel. Left untended, our faith may well wither and die. Weeds will come in and choke the work that we have done. I've seen it in churches, and in my own life too. Uncared for, the Body of Christ will not flourish. Forgotten, it may well suffer and die, yielding nothing at all.

Or, it can fall on good ground, prayed over, watched over, weeded and watered. "This is the one who hears the word and understands it". It bears good fruit, bushel baskets full of it, overflowing with rich fruits of the vine and ground—delicious and nourishing harvests that feed people for generations!

That's the good news of God. We are given the chance and opportunity to help yield a great harvest of God's abundant gifts. We share in the good news and good yield. It will take work, time and energy. But, it will be worth it. It will "bring forth grain, some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

Father Steven L. Schuneman

## CALENDAR

SUNDAY:            8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                         9:30a Christian Formation – The Gospel of Matthew (Fireside Room)  
                         10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue—*

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY            7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:        Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY        6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
                         9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

### AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)