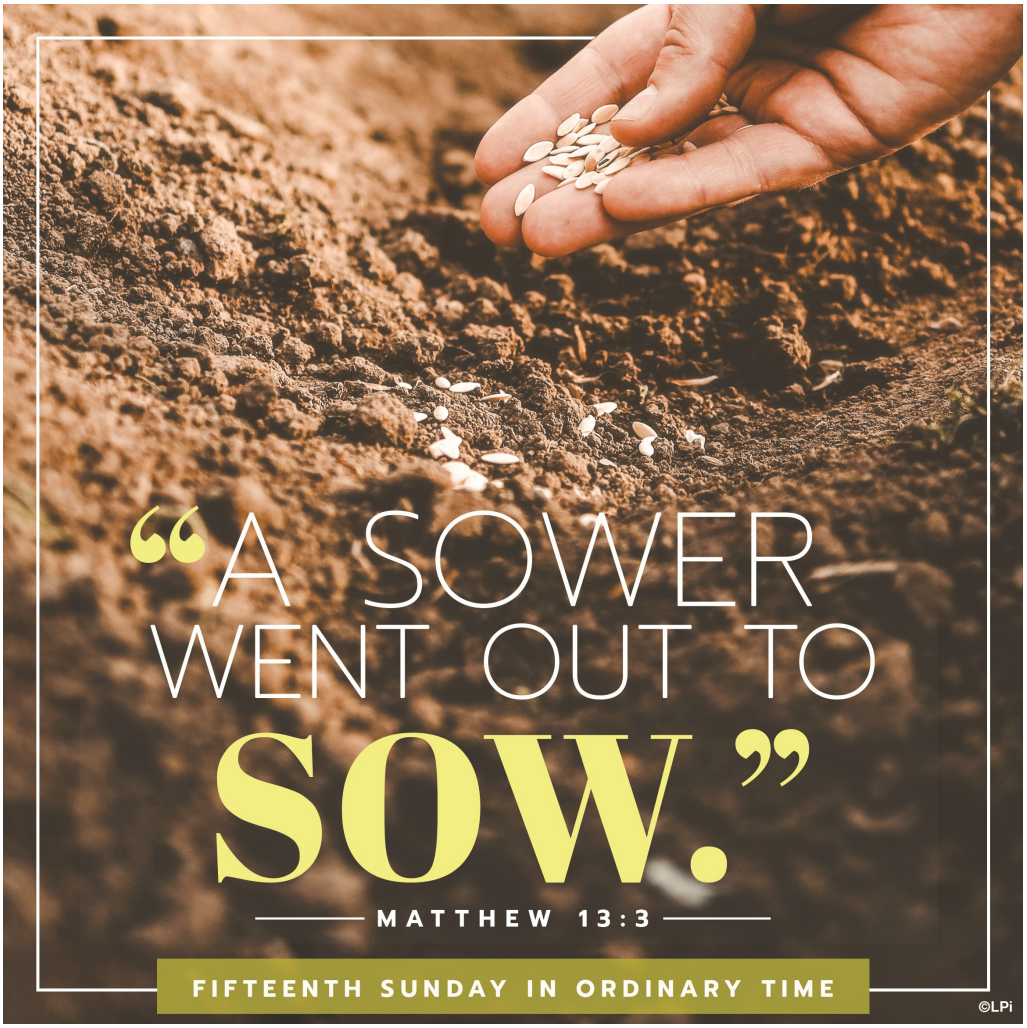
THE Epiphany OF OUR Lord

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

July 12, 2026

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Mass
Monday & Thursday:
8:00 a.m.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:
No Mass

Weekend Mass
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

Sunday:
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

Confession:
Saturday: 3:00 p.m.
Or by appointment

All Sacraments:
Please call the office

A Pennsylvania Charitable

OUR LOCATION

Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church
44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062

724-684-7661

724-397-7035 —Emergency Pastoral Care

www.eolparish.com

Office Hours
Mon.–Thurs.: 8:30 am, - 3:00 p.m. Fri.: 8:30 a.m.– 12 Noon

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Anthony Onoko
aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Michael Thomas
mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin Sec.: Tara Manderino
tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Director of Faith Formation & Discipleship:
Adelle Slebodnik, aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance: Patrick Frederick

Reflection

From Fr. Anthony Onoko:

THE SOWER AND THE SOIL:
15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A
IS 55:10-11; PS 65; ROM 8:18-23; MT 13:1-23

Grace and peace to you, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord.

The central theme running through today's readings is the extraordinary power of God's Word and the condition of the human heart that receives it.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the familiar Parable of the Sower. Interestingly, the emphasis is not really on the sower, who is generous and impartial, nor on the seed, which is always good. The real focus is on the soil. The same seed falls everywhere, but it produces different results because the soil differs.

The first soil is the hardened path. The seed never enters because the heart is closed. Pride, prejudice, resentment and indifference can harden our hearts so much that God's Word cannot penetrate.

The second is the rocky ground. Here the Word is received with enthusiasm but without depth. Faith that depends only on emotions quickly withers when trials, suffering or persecution come.

The third is the thorny ground. The seed grows but is eventually choked by "the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches." This reminds us that not only sin but also excessive anxiety, ambition, materialism and worldly distractions can suffocate our spiritual life.

Finally, there is the good soil. This is the heart that hears, understands, welcomes and perseveres in God's Word. Such a life becomes fruitful, producing "a hundredfold, sixtyfold or thirtyfold."

The First Reading gives us great confidence in the power of that seed. Through Isaiah, God says that just as rain and snow never return to heaven without watering the earth, His Word never returns empty but always accomplishes the purpose for which He sends it. Sometimes we become discouraged because we do not see immediate results from our prayers, preaching or efforts to live the Gospel. God reminds us that His Word is never wasted. It is always working, often silently, patiently and invisibly.

St Paul, in the Second Reading, adds another dimension. He reminds us that although we live in a world marked by suffering, decay and frustration, creation itself is longing for redemption. The present struggles are not the final chapter. The seed of God's grace already planted within us will one day blossom into the full glory of eternal life.

The question, therefore, is not whether God's Word is powerful. It is. The question is whether our hearts are ready to receive it.

Every Mass, every homily, every reading of Scripture is another seed falling upon the soil of our hearts. May we never become so familiar with God's Word that we stop allowing it to challenge, convert and transform us.

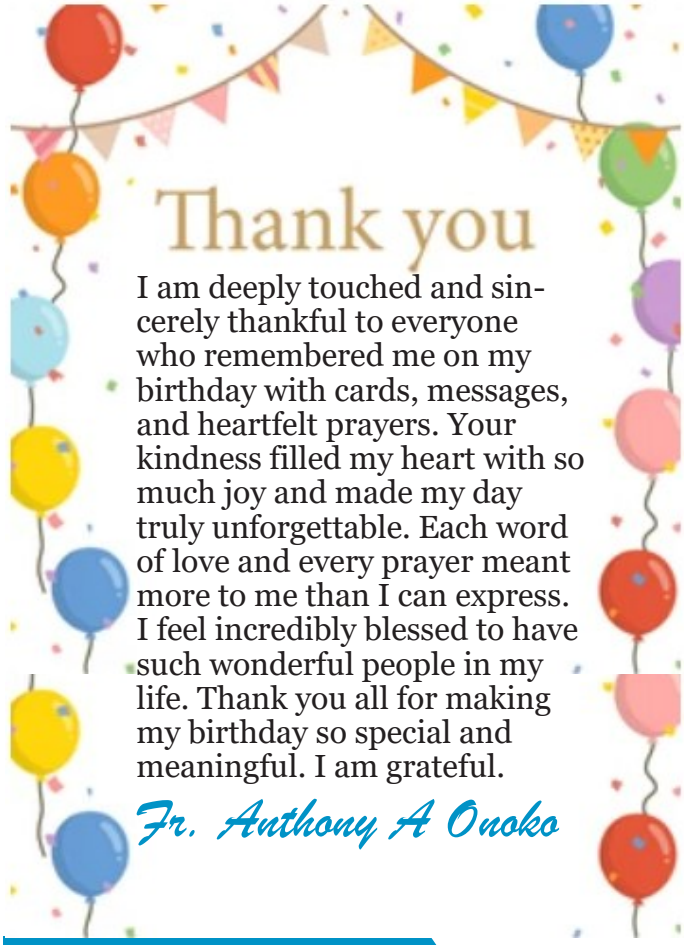
Prayer

Heavenly Father,
thank You for the gift of Your life-giving Word. Remove from our hearts every hardness, every stone of unbelief and every thorn of worldly distraction. Make our hearts fertile soil, ready to receive Your truth with faith, to persevere through trials, and to bear abundant fruit in holiness, charity and faithful discipleship. May Your Word accomplish in us all that You desire and lead us at last to the glory You have prepared for Your children. Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Fr. Anthony Onoko

Have you found your way here and think you would like to join us? **You are most welcome here.** Simply complete the census form found in the back of the church, found in the orange folder in the display rack, complete it and mail it in or drop it in the collection basket. You may also complete the form online at **www.eolparish.com.** It can be found under the links tab. As always, you are welcome to call the office at 724-684-7661

If you would like to have the bulletin delivered to your **email inbox**, sign up at www.parishesonline.com (The address is on the back of the bulletin.) As always, you can read and download the bulletin on the website and on the **parish app**. Search for Parish App in the Apple Store or Google Play.



Outdoor Rosary

Monessen Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #776 will host its 38 th Annual Outdoor Rosary at Mary's Garden, Epiphany of Our Lord Church, on **Tuesday, July 14th**, at 7:30 P.M. A Patriotic Rosary will be prayed. It dedicates one Hail Mary to each State of the United States and asks for God's protection and guidance for the nation. Please bring your lawn chair. A social will follow in the Church Hall. If there is inclement weather, the Rosary will be held in the Epiphany of Our Lord Church. This event is open to the public and all are welcome to attend. For additional information, contact Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335.

Communion to the Homebound

If you are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the office and let us know.

LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, July 11 — Vigil
4:00 PM Pro Populo

Sunday, July 12 — 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM † Megan Vaccaro by Gary and Doreen Smith
10:30 AM † Dolores Harhai by Rosina Volpe & son

Monday, July 13
8:00 AM † Herman Alvarez by Wife, Children & Grandchildren

Tuesday, July 14
8:00 AM Mass at St. Sebastian

Wednesday, July 15
9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist

Thursday, July 16
8:00 AM † Julius and Frances Wojtkowski by Theodore Wojtkowski

Friday, July 17
8:00 AM † Herman Alvarez

Saturday, July 18 — Vigil
4:00 PM † Franklin Silko by Clemmie Malec

Sunday, July 19 — 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:30 AM Pro Populo
10:30 AM † Janice Lefevre by Ed LeFevre

Parish Office:

44 PENNSYLVANIA BLVD, MONESSEN, PA 15062
Parish Office (24/7): 724-684-7661
Church Hall: 724-684-5512
Religious Education: 724-929-9300
Emergency Pastoral Care: 724-397-7035
www.eolparish.com
youtube.com/EpiphanyofOurLordCatholicChurch
Facebook.com/Epiphany-of-Our-Lord

OFFICE HOURS :
Monday –Thursday: 8:30 a.m. –12; 1 p.m.– 3 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ministry Schedule — July 18 & 19, 2026

	Lector	Eucharistic Minister	Altar Server
4:00 p.m.	P. Fantauzzi	L. Henry D. Harkins G. Pesi	Volunteer
8:30 a.m.	S. Stein	F. Petrosky L. DeFelices C. Pawlec	T. Todd
10:30 a.m.	M. Melvin	E. Yatchyshyn W. White K. Byron	S. Yatchyshyn G. Yatchshyn

Money Counters
Monday, July 13 — Team #4 — A. Daniele

Stewardship

Weekly Collection July 5

Votive Candles:	156	Children & Adult:	6,482
Utility & Energy:	305	Online :	3,099
Accent:	24	**Total Collection:**	**$10, 066**

Weekly Collection June 28

Votive Candles:	172	Online :	789
Utility & Energy:	50	**Total Collection:**	**$6,399**
Accent:	0	Peter's Pence	532
St. Anthony:	148	**Total Collection:**	**$6931**
Children & Adult:	5,240		

Give online

Consider online giving. It is quick and easy to set up. You can do it one time, or however often you wish. It can be stopped at any time. Sign up through the app or the website: www.eolparish.com

CRS Spotlight

For many years, families in the mountain community of Minas Arriba, Guatemala, had to travel long distances for medical care, often facing uncertainty when illness struck on weekends. In 2021, Catholic Relief Services, through its **Raíces II project** and in partnership with Caritas, helped train and organize local leaders to address community needs and strengthen disaster preparedness. Through this community-led effort, residents secured support, contributed volunteer labor, and successfully built a new health center that now provides vital medical care to 440 families. Visit **www.crs.org** to learn more and see how you can help.

Pierogi Making

We will be prepping for pierogis for the festival on **Sunday, July 12 and Sunday July 19** following the 8:30 a.m. Mass. On **Monday, July 13 and July 20** we will be making pierogis following the 8:00 a.m. Mass. Come and lend a hand and enjoy the camaraderie.

Catholic Accent TV

The Catholic Accent TV show, the Diocese of Greensburg's television program sharing inspiring stories of faith, community, and service. **The current episode highlights the Diocese's 75th Anniversary celebrations,** including the Diamond Jubilee event at Christ Our Shepherd Center, along with summer parish festivals and the "People of Hope" Museum. Watch *The Catholic Accent* anytime at TheAccentOnline.org.

Readings for the Week

Readings for the week of July 12

Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9
Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34-11:1
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday: Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30

Knights' Notes

Lead with Faith, Serve with Purpose

Do you know a Catholic man looking for a way to put his faith into action? The Knights of Columbus Monessen Council 954 is looking for men who want to make a difference in our parish and our community. We aren't just a social club; **we are a brotherhood** built on the pillars of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. Why join us?

- Impact: support our parish, youth scholarships, and disaster relief
- Faith: Grow spiritually alongside men who share your values
- Family: Enjoy social events that involve the whole family

Join for free on-line (kofc.org #945) or contact Ed Zboyovsky, Membership Director, at e.zboyovsky@gmail.com or 724-454-6419.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, embolden me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Never permit me to be parted from you.
From the evil Enemy defend me.
At the hour of my death call me
and bid me come to you,
that with your Saints I may praise you
for age upon age.
Amen.

All are welcome to join the Dioceses of Pittsburgh and Greensburg for Catholic Kennywood Day **Tuesday, July 14,** a joyful celebration where faith, family and fun come together at Kennywood Park in West Mifflin. Spend the day enjoying your favorite rides while "Riding the Call" — opening your heart to the vocation God has prepared for you. Whether you are discerning priesthood, consecrated life, marriage or single life, this is a wonderful opportunity for individuals and families to grow closer to Christ while making lasting memories. The day will include rides, family-friendly activities, praise and worship, the opportunity for confessions, Mass celebrated by Bishop Mark A. Eckman, and a community dinner. Registration and the full schedule are available at **pghpriest.com.**

Festivals This Weekend

It wouldn't be a summer weekend without a church festival.

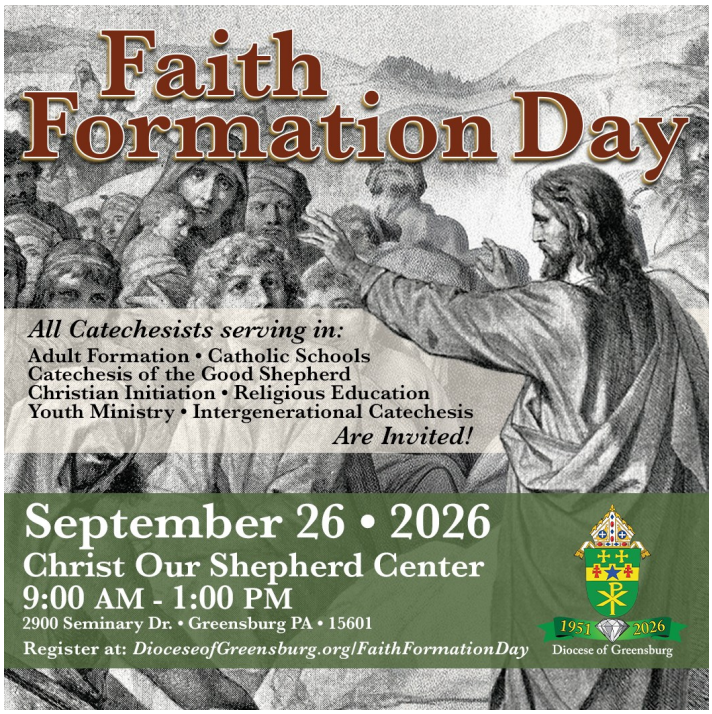
Italian Festival at Ascension Parish, Jeannette, 615 Division Street, on Sat., July 11 from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Sun., July 12 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

St. Benedict's Parish Festival Sat. July 11, the festival will open with an outdoor Mass starting at 5:30 p.m. Festival: 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday, July 12, from noon to 6 p.m.

Faith

Faith Formation Day

Adult faith formation catechists, youth ministry members, Christian Initiation catechists, Catholic school teachers and priests are invite to a Faith Formation Day Saturday, Sept. 26, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. The day begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick, followed by a keynote presentation by Dr. Joseph White, a child psychologist and associate publisher for catechetical resources at OSV. He has authored 12 books on catechesis, ministry and spirituality. The day will include discussions and conclude with an appreciation lunch.
Registration is required at DioceseOfGreensburg.org/FaithFormationDay.



Questions of the Week

1st Reading

Isaiah encourages us to trust in the reliability of God's word and purposes. ***When do you find yourself trusting in the Lord?***

2nd Reading

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Gospel Reading

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Enlighten! Program

The Diocese of Greensburg, in partnership with the Institute for Ministry Formation, invites you to *Enlighten*!, a two-year academic and pastoral program in evangelizing catechesis for lay staff, volunteers and those discerning the permanent diaconate. Participants will engage in flexible online coursework, monthly in-person formation and leadership development while earning certification in catechesis. Learn more at a **virtual open house on Saturday, July 11, from 9-10 a.m.** For a link to the open house or more information, email FFD@DioceseofGreensburg.org. Info is also available at IMF.SaintVincentSeminary.edu/Greensburg.

Indoor Flea Market

St. Nicholas Byzatine Catholic Church, Brownsville, will hold their annual **"Holy Steals and Deals"** indoor flea market

Thursday, July 23, and Friday, July 24, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Saturday, July 25, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.;

Thursday, Aug. 6, and Friday, Aug. 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; and Saturday, Aug. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For information, call 724-892-2587.

AED Training

An informational session on the use of the AED (automated external defibrillator) will be held on **Wednesday, July 29 at 6 PM** in the Epiphany Church Hall. Mr. Bob Stark, Education and Outreach Coordinator for Rostraver-West Newton Emergency Services, will explain the purpose and function of an AED. Procedures for AED activation for both Epiphany and St Sebastian Churches will be reviewed. The goal is to suggest ways our faith communities can help as effectively as possible in an emergency until professional providers arrive. The program is open to all parishioners from both churches and no pre-registration is required. **Those involved in liturgical ministries, and as ushers and greeters are especially encouraged to attend**.

St. Padre Pio Relics

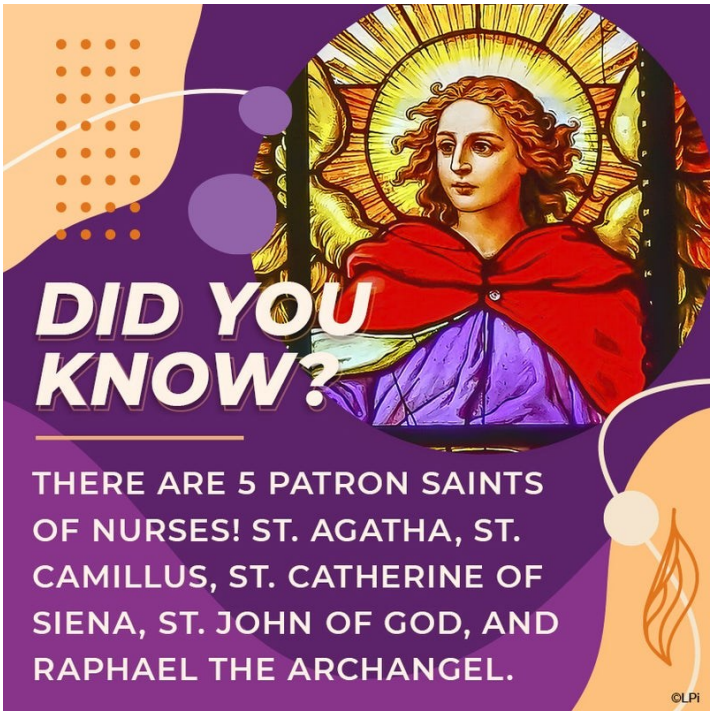
Saint Padre Pio Relics will be on display Wednesday, July 29, from 2-9 p.m. at St. Mary's. The rosary will be said every hour on the hour. Confession will be from 5:30-6:30 p.m., with Mass at 7 p.m. After Mass, there will be a talk on the life of Saint Padre Pio and the founding of the Padre Pio Centre in Barto, Pa. **For info, call 814-594-3972.**

Virtues Explained

Forgiveness

The virtue of forgiveness is described to us in detail by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 18, when he tells Peter that he must forgive his brother "not seven times, but seventy-seven times" before relating the parable of the unforgiving servant. Here we see that exercising forgiveness is an absolute requirement of the Christian life. What we have received from God through no merit of our own, we must likewise extend to others.

Forgiveness is love in action — and as is the case with most virtues, if we find it hard to practice, that means we're doing it right. The Catechism says that forgiveness "bears witness that…love is stronger than sin" (CCC 2844) and points out that it "is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession." (CCC 2843)



Coffee & Doughnuts Each week, one of the organizations at the church provides coffee and doughnuts after the Sunday 8:30 a.m. Mass. **This is a wonderful expression of hospitality.** If you haven't had the opportunity to stop downstairs after Mass, consider doing so. It's a nice opportunity to just relax and visit with fellow parishioners and catch up.

God in Ordinary Moments

The Gardener and the Soil

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I began writing this piece by googling "how do you make soil fertile?" which should tell you everything you need to know about my own abilities as a gardener.

I remember seeing a packet of seeds in the store one summer as a child and convincing my mother to buy them. They were delphiniums, which bloom into a beautiful cone shape if you know what you're doing. Alas, I didn't. I chose for my garden a particularly dry spot of earth right next to my backyard playset, scattered the seeds, congratulated myself, and went on my merry way. I returned occasionally to water the area, but only when I remembered to.

Nothing grew, not even a little sprout. I was more than heartbroken — my faith was shaken. I had planted these seeds! I had watered them! (A little.) There was sunlight! All my childhood books and rhymes said this was all you needed. Was it all a lie?

Of course it wasn't a lie. Seeds need soil, sunlight, water, and oxygen — good soil, adequate sunlight for whatever the plant is, and consistent water.

So what seeds need more than anything is a gardener. (At least, delphiniums do.)

When I hear the parable of the rich soil and the rocky ground in the Gospel of Matthew, I often miss the point. I think Jesus is trying to give me a message about how I should be. "Be better." That's what I think he's telling me. ©LPi

I forget that I am only the soil. I cannot enrich myself; all my efforts to do so will come to nothing. What he is telling me is to ask the gardener: "Make me what I need to be."

COR

High school students: Plan to join us for COR: Awaken the Heart **Sunday, Sept. 13, from 4-8 p.m.** at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. This first COR event will feature musician Dana Catherine, a Nashville-based, nationally known singer who will inspire you to develop a stronger relationship with Christ and to trust Him. The date has changed due to a special recording **request from Pope Leo XIV for Catherine.** The cost is $40, which includes a T-shirt. Register today at DioceseofGreensburg.org/COR.