

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mt 13: 24-43)

18th & 19th of July 2026

Dear friends,

Today's Gospel speaks about the Kingdom of Heaven growing in the world. Jesus uses the images of a tiny mustard seed growing into a huge tree, and yeast transforming a massive batch of dough. These parables remind us that God works through small, quiet, and faithful actions to create something beautiful and life-giving.

As we enter this fourth weekend of our parish offertory campaign, we are invited to look at our giving through the lens of gratitude. Everything we have—our lives, our families, our finances—is a good seed given to us by God. When we return a portion of that to the church, we are saying, "Thank you, Lord, for your goodness."

There is a beautiful story about a poor farmer who always put a small portion of his best grain into the church basket every Sunday. One day, a neighbor asked him, "Why do you give so much when you have so little?" The farmer smiled and said, "I am not losing grain; I am just letting God plant it in a bigger field. Look around you. This church fed my family when we were sick, it teaches my children, and it gives us hope. My small seeds help keep this field alive."

Your ongoing financial support is the good seed that enables the vital ministry and mission of our parish. Over these past weeks, we have reflected on our blessings, and your collective generosity quietly lifts up and transforms our entire neighborhood. Like the yeast in the dough, our combined gifts keep our lights on, fund religious education, and

allow us to reach out to the poor. Let us continue to give, not out of obligation, but out of a deeply grateful heart.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus, Master of the Harvest, we thank you for the countless blessings you pour into our lives. Fill our hearts with true gratitude. Bless our offerings today, and use our humble gifts to grow your Kingdom of love, mercy, and peace right here in our parish. Amen.