

# The Kingdom of heaven

Seventeenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

July 26, 2020

is like a merchant  
searching for fine pearls.  
When he finds a  
pearl of great price,  
he goes and sells all  
that he has and buys it.

Matthew 13:45-46



Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.  
Photos: © Minerva Studio/Fotolia, © ayluncolum/Fotolia, © Pam Walker/Fotolia  
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1985, 1970, CCD

## St. Rita Catholic Parish

*A Faith Community Since 1908*

**JULY 26, 2020**

**17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

### MASS TIMES

**SUNDAYS:** Sat. 5:30 pm (Vigil), 7:30 am, 10 am & 12 noon

**WEEKDAYS:** Mon., Tues., Fri, and Sat. 8 am  
(Wed. & Thurs. 8 am Communion Service)

**HOLY DAYS:** (eve of) 5:30 pm; (day of) 8 am & 6:30 pm

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

(Confession) Saturdays 4 – 5 pm or by appointment

### DEVOTIONS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help: Saturday 7:50 am

### ADORATION

First Friday 8:30 am – 5 pm, Rectory Oratory

**Rev. Thomas Baker — Pastor**

**Deacon Manuel Valencia • Deacon Chuck McDaniels**

318 North Baldwin Avenue, Sierra Madre

Mailing Address: 50 East Alegria Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Phone: (626) 355-1292 • FAX: (626) 355-2290 • [www.st-rita.org](http://www.st-rita.org)

**PASTORAL STAFF**

**Rev. Thomas Baker, Pastor**  
 rtombaker@st-rita.org • 355-1292

**Deacon Manuel & Chela Valencia, Permanent Deacon Couple**  
 deaconmanuelvalencia@gmail.com • 355-1292

**Deacon Chuck & Linda McDaniels, Permanent Deacon Couple**  
 deaconchuck@st-rita.org • 355-1292

**Fr. Chris Thiel, OFM Cap., Weekend Supply Priest**

**ADMINISTRATIVE & MINISTRY STAFF**

**Director of Administration** 355-1292 x222  
 Charlene Henkelmann charlenc@st-rita.org

**Director of Liturgy & Music** 355-1292 x231  
 Paul Puccinelli mm@st-rita.org

**Facilities Manager** 355-1292 x232  
 Justin Smith justin@st-rita.org

**Receptionists** reception@st-rita.org

**Registration Coordinator** 355-1292 x230  
 Sheila Palazzolo

**Database Administrator** 355-1292 x226  
 Jennifer Bowen rc@st-rita.org

**Pastoral Council**  
 Al Francia pastoral@st-rita.org

**Archivist** 355-1292 x233  
 Marilyn McKernan marilyn@st-rita.org

**Webmaster** 355-1292  
 Ralph Seymour seymour@seymourmedia.com

**Bulletin Submissions** 355-1292 x226  
 Jennifer Bowen bulletin@st-rita.org

**EDUCATION & FAITH FORMATION**

**St. Rita School Principal** 355-6114  
 Adela Solis solis@st-ritaschool.org

**St. Rita School Secretary** 355-6114 x102  
 Sara Landis landis@st-ritaschool.org

**Director of Faith Formation** 355-1292 x223  
 Theresa Costanzo dff@st-rita.org

**Coordinator of Confirmation & Youth Ministry** 355-1292 x259  
 Raquel Hernandez ymcoordinator@st-rita.org

**Coordinator of Elementary Faith Formation** 355-1292 x228  
 Louellen Tschopp eff@st-rita.org

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)** 355-1292  
 Dcn. Manuel Valencia / Susan Blakeslee / Gary Fidone rcia@st-rita.org

**PARISH LIFE & MINISTRY**

**Altar Servers**  
 Kathy Ganino & Bill Cosso altarservers@st-rita.org

**Bereavement Ministry**  
 Sheila Palazzolo bereavement@st-rita.org

**Catholic Bible Study**  
 Jim & Alice Cobbin biblestudy@st-rita.org

**Church Environment**  
 Parish Offices environment@st-rita.org

**Eucharistic Adoration**  
 Kathy Ganino eucharistic.adoration@st-rita.org

**Eucharistic Outreach**  
 Chuck McDaniels eucharistic.outreach@st-rita.org

**Finance Council**  
 Bill Sullivan finance@st-rita.org

**Holy Housekeepers**  
 Patty Sullivan holy.house@st-rita.org

**Immaculate Heart of Mary Prayer Group**  
 Susan Day mary.prayer@st-rita.org

**Knights of Columbus, Council 5137**  
 Stan Pinta kofc@st-rita.org

**Knit & Crochet Ministry**  
 Ana Ptasinski & Ann Wolf knit.crochet@st-rita.org

**Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers**  
 David & Jill Muhs em@st-rita.org

**Prayer Shawl & Lap Blanket Ministry**  
 Mary Taillac & Marilyn Delgatto shawl.blanket@st-rita.org

**Porters**  
 Sheila Palazzolo porters@st-rita.org

**Sacristan Coordinator**  
 David Muhs em@st-rita.org

**St. Rita Filipino American Group**  
 Noel Wychico filipino.amer@st-rita.org

**St. Rita Guild**  
 Lenore Crilly guild@st-rita.org

**St. Rita Men's Club**  
 Allen Boyle mens.club@st-rita.org

**Ushers & Greeters**  
 Dave Loera ushers@st-rita.org

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
 Sheila Palazzolo volunteer@st-rita.org

**SACRAMENTS****Baptisms**

First Sunday of the month after the Noon Mass. Registration and Catechesis are prerequisites. Please contact the Parish Office.

**Marriages**

Contact the Parish Office upon engagement; at least six months is needed for preparation of this joyous sacrament!

**Reconciliation and First Eucharist**

Preparation for children who have attained the age of reason (usually during 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) is arranged either through the Religious Education Program or St. Rita Elementary School.

**Confirmation**

A two-year program for freshman/sophomore age teens. Please apply through the Youth Ministry Program.

**Communion for the Sick and Homebound**

St. Rita Eucharistic Ministers provide Communion home visits. Contact the Parish Office.

**Anointing of the Sick and Funeral Liturgies**

Please notify us for the Anointing of the Sick, the sacrament intended for the seriously ill or dying which brings Our Lord's special presence and companionship in serious time of need. If someone should die without anointing, remember that the desire to receive is sufficient.

If your loved one has passed, we will assist in making arrangements with your chosen funeral director; refer you to our Bereavement Ministry and Music Ministry; and offer you helpful guidelines that will aid in the selection of readings for a Mass or Memorial Service. We know this can be a tough time and we want you to know that your parish is here for you. Please understand we only have one resident priest; sometimes arrangements for another priest may be needed.



## *God's Gifts*

Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

In the first reading today Solomon is told by God, “Ask something of me and I will give it to you.” Solomon responds, “Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong.” God was pleased with this request from Solomon, for he had not asked for “long life, nor riches, nor for the life of his enemies” but for a gift which would serve the good of the people. In response God gave Solomon understanding, riches and long life. However, while Solomon became known for his wisdom it also led to his demise. Solomon, the third king of Israel and the son of King David, married many wives who belonged to ruling families in neighboring countries. While this was wise strategy on some levels, it led him into their pagan practices and away from Yahweh, eventually leading to his fall.

What was best about Solomon was his “other-centered” request. We ought to pray for gifts that will help build up the kingdom of God here on earth. We must be careful to use the gifts God has given us wisely, and never forget the giver of the gift. May all glory and honor be given to our God, forever and ever. Amen.

—Fr. Tom

### **PRAY FOR VOCATIONS**

Please remember to pray for more vocations to religious life and the priesthood during this holy season. This can be our special gift to the Church. You may also go to the parish office and check out the “Vocation Chalice” for a week as a reminder and tool to pray for vocations.

*Keep these intentions in your heart  
as you make your spiritual communion  
while public Mass restrictions are in place.*

## MASS INTENTIONS

### SATURDAY, JULY 25

8:00 AM Alejandro Planchart RIP  
5:30 PM Lois & Roger Helvey RIP

### SUNDAY, JULY 26

7:30 AM For all parishioners  
10:00 AM Msgr. Arnold Biedermann RIP  
12 NOON Marshall Boschetti RIP

### MONDAY, JULY 27

8:00 AM Lucy Ho RIP

### TUESDAY, JULY 28

8:00 AM Marra Family INT

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

8:00 AM (No Communion Services)

### THURSDAY, JULY 30

8:00 AM (No Communion Services)

### FRIDAY, JULY 31

8:00 AM Robert & Anna Schrodt RIP

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

8:00 AM Claire Jones INT  
5:30 PM For all parishioners

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

7:30 AM Shawn Blakeslee INT  
10:00 AM Brian Tasker RIP  
12 NOON Helen Hamington RIP

## FEAST DAYS & OBSERVANCES

**Wednesday:** St. Martha

**Thursday:** St. Peter Chrysologus

**Friday:** St. Ignatius of Loyola

**Saturday:** St. Alphonsus Liguori

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Solomon prays for an understanding heart (*1 Kings 3:5, 7-12*).

**Psalm** — Lord, I love your commands (*Psalm 119*).

**Second Reading** — All things work for good for those who love God (*Romans 8:28-30*).

**Gospel** — The one who knows of the kingdom of heaven brings new and old from the storeroom (*Matthew 13:44-52 [44-46]*).

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO REQUEST OUR PRAYERS:



Carmen Ruiz, Joe Moody, Chris Gala, Sheri & Eva Bermejo, Phil Scalzo, Joe Hernandez, Michael Joseph Parada, Joan Juenemann, Charles Humphrey, Mark Stone, Joseph & Josephine Gruppie, Eleanor Raleigh, Margaux Viera, Kellie Loera, Charles Baker, Gilbert Gonzalez, Genise Tully, Mary Kiss, Lisa Bowman, Susan Devin, John Sawtelle, Inez Ybarra, Richard Forcione, Mary Kathryn Genzlinger, Toni Baiunco, Jacque Marshall Martin, Teresa D'Agostaro, Maria Blust, Daisy Walters, Pete & Daisy Olson, Hannah Waken, Clare Greteman, Lalo & Luz Arriaga, Jim Crilly, Trini Marti, Doug Peterson, Sandra Osborne, Evelyn Tres, Gerald Dreaan, Toni Navarro, Tonyja Blakeslee, Fred Mycroft.

### Prayer for Spiritual Communion

**My Jesus, I believe you are really here in the blessed sacrament. I love you more than anything in the world, and I hunger to receive you.**

**But since I cannot receive communion at this moment, feed my soul at least spiritually.**

**I unite myself to you now as I do when I actually receive you. Amen.**

—St. Alphonsus Liguori



## CHURCH CLOSED

### UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Governor Gavin Newsom has announced the immediate closure of indoor worship services in 30 California counties, including the County of Los Angeles. To comply with this order, St. Rita Catholic Church will be **closed until further notice**.

Note that Drive-Thru Confessions in the O'Malley Parking Lot will continue, Saturday afternoons from 3:00-4:30 p.m.

Please look for updates on the St. Rita website and Facebook page.

*Let us continue to pray for the eradication of this disease.*

## Online Bible Study

Jim and Alice Cobbin have posted several episodes of Catholic Bible Study on YouTube. You can view their channel by visiting this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-k5eZwGvFi9ctNr1fv9FYg> or by searching YouTube for "Jim & Alice Bible Study".

### NEW!

Join St. Rita's ZOOM Bible Study  
Wednesday, 7:00—8:30 p.m.  
Email [biblestudy@st-rita.org](mailto:biblestudy@st-rita.org)  
and we will send you links to join us.





### FABRIC DONATIONS NEEDED!

Does anyone have any extra cotton fabric around the house? That could include repurposing some clean, gently-used fabrics such as cotton bed sheets, curtains, tablecloths, etc. that may be sitting in the closet. The **ST. RITA MASKED ANGELS** Ministry, which has now made MORE THAN 1,000 MASKS (!) since March, is in extreme need of 100% cotton fabric. We try to keep costs at a very minimum as we donate the masks — free of charge — to hospitals, clinics, CLIMB, and the like. We are also running low on other supplies, so if you would feel you might want to be a part of this ministry but do not sew, we have the solution: your monetary donations will be used to purchase some of the supplies. Our sewers have depleted their personal fabric stashes — EVERY sewer has one hidden away! — so any assistance is greatly appreciated. We will even do local pick-ups at your door with no personal contact. Let us know at: [volunteer@st-rita.org](mailto:volunteer@st-rita.org). Thank you for considering!