

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: Let us bring our prayers and petitions before the God who lavishes us with love.

- ☺ For openness in the Church to God's generous and life-giving word, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For people in those parts of the world suffering from drought or contaminated water supplies, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For all who work in the fields of communications, that they might strive to increase understanding among peoples, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For the vocations of the women and men who dedicate their lives to the spreading of God's word, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For all who are vacationing or traveling, for their renewal and refreshment, and for their safe return home, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For the dead, especially Alois Iwanski and Deacon Florian "Dutch" Hurrish, that they will be granted eternal rest, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**
- ☺ For the intentions of our baskets, Frank, Racy & Elaine Poeschel, Ruth Suchon, the Living and Deceased Members of St. Joseph & St. Stephen Parishes and the continued success of the Renovation projects, we pray;
▶ **God in your kindness, hear us.**

(Pause for intentions from the heart to be prayed.)

Presider: O God, open our hearts to your word, that we might bear fruit for your kingdom to be shared with all the world. We ask this and all good things through Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN!

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

July 15-16, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS:

†Frank, Racy & Elaine Poeschel
†Ruth Suchon

The Living & Deceased Members of
St. Joseph & St. Stephen Parishes



PENITENTIAL RITE:

We seek God's mercy and forgiveness.

Lord Jesus, you sow the seeds of mercy and reconciliation
among us:

Lord have mercy;

.....Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you shower us with mercy and kindness:

Christ have mercy;

.....Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you nourish us with your body and blood:

Lord have mercy;

.....Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord; Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth, making it fertile and fruitful, giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.

The Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

#18, Gather - Psalm 19
Lord, You Have the Words

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters: I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us. For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

The Word of the Lord.
THANKS BE TO GOD!

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The

disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.' Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: 'You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

The Gospel of the Lord.
PRAISE TO YOU LORD, JESUS CHRIST

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death, and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.