

“Which Illustrates the Problem of Evil in the World and Highlights God’s Patience”

Rome, July 23, 2017. Zenit.org

Today’s Gospel page proposes three *parables* with which Jesus speaks to the crowds of the Kingdom of Heaven. I will reflect on the first: that of *the good seed and the darnel*, which illustrates the *problem of evil* in the world and highlights God’s patience (Cf. *Matthew* 13:24-30,36-43). How much patience God has! Each one of us can also say this: “How much patience God has with me!” The story unfolds in a field with two opposite protagonists. On one hand the householder, who represents God and sows the good seed; on the other the enemy, which represents Satan and sows the darnel.

With the passing of time, darnel also grows in the midst of the wheat and in face of this fact the householder and his servants have different attitudes. . The servants want to intervene and pull out the darnel, but the householder, who is concerned above all with saving the wheat, is opposed saying: “No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them” (V. 29). With this image Jesus tells us that in this world the good and the evil are so intertwined that it is impossible to separate and extirpate all the evil. God alone can do this, and He will do so in the Last Judgment. The present situation, with its ambiguities and its composite character, is the field of the freedom, the field of the freedom of Christians, in which the difficult exercise of discernment between good and evil takes place.

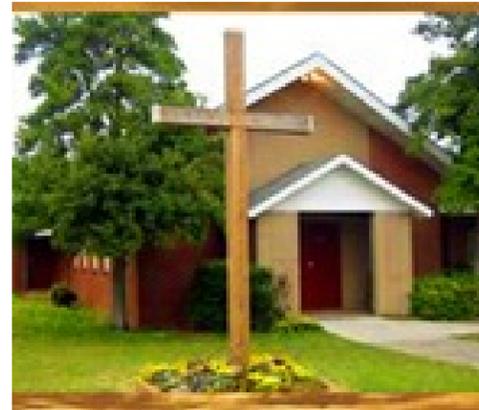
Therefore, in this field, it is about combining, with great trust in God and in His Providence, two seemingly contradictory attitudes: *decision* and *patience*. The decision is to *want to be the good seed* — we all want this, with all our strength, and, hence, distancing ourselves from the Evil One and his seductions. Patience means to prefer a Church that is leaven in the dough, who does not fear soiling her hands washing the clothes of her children, rather than a Church of “pure ones,” that pretends to judge before the time who is an who is not in the Kingdom of God.

The Lord, who is Wisdom incarnate, helps us today to understand that the good and the evil cannot be identified with defined territories or specific human groups: “These are the good, these are the evil.” He tells us that the boundary line between the good and the evil *passes in the heart of every person, passes in the heart of every one of us, that is, we are all sinners*. The desire comes to me to ask you: “Let him who is not a sinner raise his hand.” No one! Because we all are, we are all sinners. Jesus Christ, with His Death on the Cross and Resurrection, has freed us from the slavery of sin and He gives us the grace to walk in a new life. However, with Baptism He has also given us Confession, because we are always in need of being forgiven for our sins. To look always at the evil that is outside of us, means to not want to recognize the sin that is also in us.

And then Jesus shows us a different way of looking at the field of the world, of observing the reality. We are called to learn the times of God – which are not our times – and also God’s “look”: thanks to the beneficial influence of an anxious wait, what was darnel or seemed to be darnel can become a good product. It is the reality of conversion. It is the prospect of hope!

May the Virgin Mary help us to pick up in the reality that surrounds us not only the filth and evil but also the good and beautiful; to unmask Satan’s work but especially to trust in God’s action that makes history fruitful.

St. Gerard Catholic Church



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803 649-3203

Fr. Emmanuel O. Andinam: Administrator
Joseph A. Dennis: Deacon

SUNDAY READINGS

First Reading:

1 Kings 3:5,7-12(109A)

Responsorial Psalm:

*Psalm 119:57,72,76-77,127-128,
129-130*

Second Reading:

Romans 8:28-30

Gospel:

Matthew 13:44-52

Today’s Missal

Lectionary Readings for Week of July 30, 2017

Monday: *Exodus 32:15-24,30-34;
Matthew 13:31-35*

Tuesday: *Exodus 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28;
Matthew 13:36-43*

Wednesday: *Exodus 34:29-35;
Matthew 13:44-46*

Thursday: *Exodus 40:16-21,34-38;
Matthew 13:47-53*

Friday: *Leviticus 23:1,4-11,15-16,27,
34b-37; Matthew 13:54-28*

Saturday: *Leviticus 25:1,8-17;
Matthew 14:1-12*

The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time July 30, 2017

Mission Statement

Called to be a People for Others

Vision Statement

*Anchored by faith hope and love in Jesus Christ,
we strive to be active disciples, serving each
other and all God’s people by welcoming and
embracing the enriching diversity of our community of faith.*



This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the upright, to throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. 'Have you understood all these?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of Heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom new things as well as old.'

Matthew 13:49-52

Mass Times: Weekdays Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8:15 AM,
First Friday Benediction after Mass
Weekend Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, Sunday 7:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Confessions: after weekday Masses and by Appointment

Office Hours: 9:00 AM till 3:00 PM Tuesday - Thursday

Bible Study: Fridays 10:00 AM , **CCD:** No Class at this time

RCIA: Contact Deacon Joe 843 743-8779

Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages and Funerals: By Appointment, Contact the office.

Contact Us: Phone 803 649-3203, E-Mail stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net

Facebook @stgerardaiken, **Emergency number for Father 803 341-5933**



Pray for our sick:
 Marge Glauser
 Leonard Saunders
 Shirley Paige
 William and Jackie Cobbs
 Woody Alexander
 Rosa Johnson
 Brenda Ligons
 Joe Fulmer
 Jean Schodowski
 Agnes Beckert
 Dick Smoot

“Christian stewards respond in a particular way to the call to be a disciple. Stewardship has the power to shape and mold our understanding of our lives and the way in which we live.” (SDR, 42)



Pastoral Council:
 Marge Glauser,
 Chairperson
 Janet Menefee,
 Vice Chair
 Payson Borst
 Jacqueline Brown
 Fredrick Cadek
 Joan Hesik
 Gregory Wright
 Patricia Hayes
 Matt Fitzpatrick

Mass Intentions:
 4:00 PM, 7:00 & 11:00 AM Masses are said for your own personal intentions.

Weekend Offering
July 23, 2017

Collected \$1,819.00
 Needed \$2,612.00
 Short \$793.00
 Attendance 135

Stewardship a way of life

11:00 AM Mass for Judy Riley

The Entrance Hymn is #460 BB
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 The Offertory Hymn is #428 BB
 Amazing Grace
 The Communion Hymn is #461BB
 Fly Like A Bird Choir
 The Recessional Hymn is #420 BB
 How Great Thou Art

4:00 PM Vigil Mass

The Gathering Hymn is #197BB
 Praise to the Lord
 The Offertory Hymn is #431BB
 Seek Ye First
 The Communion Hymn is #635BB
 Blest Are They
 Song of Praise is #603BB
 We Are the Light of the World



Lay Ministers

	Saturday August 5 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Joan Hesik E E Ministers: Pam Ziomek	Sunday August 6 7:00 AM Mass Denise Gelinis Roger Gelinis	Sunday August 6 11:00 AM Mass Nancy Cadek Wayman Johnson
	Saturday August 12 4:00 PM Vigil Mass Lector: Linda Cooper E E Ministers: Jerry Schaeffer	Sunday August 13 7:00 AM Mass Mary Kay L'Esperance Gerard L'Esperance	Sunday August 13 11:00 AM Mass Patricia Hayes Jackie Brown
	Refreshments July 30 Shirley Paige/Anne Marie Key	Refreshments August 6 Janet Menefee/Joan Lacombe	Refreshments August 13 Jackie Cobbs/Rosa DiStefano

The Legion of Mary is meeting at 1:30 on Fridays. Please consider joining. Call Paula Thurston at 803 226-1120

Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Tuesdays at the 8:15 Mass



Our July Men's and Woman's groups meeting/program was canceled. We will resume on August 7 at 7 PM. There will be a silent Auction.

Farther's birthday is Sunday August 6. Pot luck dinner after 11 AM Mass. Please Sign up for food! Sheet in the lobby.

If you are on the Eucharistic Minister, Lector of refreshment schedule and have a conflict please switch with someone so we have someone serving.

Shepard Community Blood Center and The Knights of Columbus will host a Blood Drive At Saint Mary Help of Christians Church On Fairfield Street. Please note the new start time Saturday August 5th from 3:30pm to 7:00pm. Sunday August 6th from 7:45 am to 1:30pm. A mothers tears cannot save her child's life But a pint of your blood can. Please consider becoming a blood donor, and save someone's life perhaps even your own. One out of every seven-hospital patients are in need of blood. Will you Choose 2 Give? Thank You. Each donor will receive a free T-Shirt and free Lipid Profile After your 3rd donation in a calendar year. Bring a picture ID, Drivers license or donor card! Donors should drink plenty of water prior to donating



Volunteer Corner:
 We wish to welcome Agnes Beckert to our finance council. Thanks for volunteering to serve and for all you do. Thank you Nancy Durden and Madeline Pedley for coming on board as head counters.

Family Charitable Outreach:
 Contact Marge Glauser-Hall or the office.

Handyman or 2 (or 3) Needed!
 We are happy to announce that Lowe's has graciously donated all the materials needed to build the children's games for the Fall Festival. Now, we need volunteers to build the games. If you have tools, space and skills please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676 Please contact Dot Dennis at o2readmore@yahoo.com or call/text 843-743-8676 if you have an empty aquarium that we can borrow for the Fall Festival on Oct. 14

BLACK CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 5-7, 2017 MIAMI, FLORIDA

The Bowman Francis Ministry team would like to invite you to the fourteen annual Black Catholic Men's conference in Miami Florida October 5-7. This conference invitation is extended to all males and youth males 10-17 years of age. Come to the conference and be blessed to be the best youth you can be in the church, community and world. If you have any concerns you can reached me at 317-523-0900 or check out the ministry at bowmanfrancisministry.com

Fr. Chester Smith FOR BROCHURE: Click link below. http://www.bowmanfrancisministry.com/men_s_conference

Hospital Visits: If you or a loved one is in Aiken Regional Hospital (ARMC) please let St Gerards know. Remember - ARMC does not inform us of Catholic patients, even if you register as a Catholic; it is up to the patient or family to do so. You can: ask the ARMC Chaplain to call the Catholic church, ask your nurse to inform the Catholic church (name & room number), call-St.Gerard at 649-3203 and leave a message or email St Gerard at: stgerardscatholi@atlanticbbn.net. You should follow this advice for Nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities also.

Planning continues for the Saint Gerard annual Fall Festival. Although it is scheduled for October, there is much work to be done. Our parish's health and growth are contingent on the success of the festival. You have been very responsive to Fathers request for assistance in the past with this event and parish needs and this year is no exception. To be blunt, now is not the time for resting and the success of this event and the parish depends on the participation of all in whatever way you can. There are many aspects of the event, all of which need volunteers and people to take the lead. Please consider participating or leading one of the following ways: Raffle, Bake Sale, Youth Activities, Set Up, Clean Up, Food Service, Registration, Cash Handling, Vendor Coordinator, Signs, Artwork, as well as may more opportunities. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, at 7:00 PM at the parish. Contact the church office or Deacon Joe at josephadennis@yahoo.com or 843-743-8779. We need your help, your time, and your talents in order to be a success.

Your Spiritual Guide to the HOLY LAND & Holy Sites
 Our Vision is to assist Catholics/Christians have a truly spiritual and meaningful pilgrimage experience while touring the Holy Land and other major religious sites in Europe, call us at **1-844-400-9559**

If you know of someone that needs The Blessed Sacrament brought to their home or hospital please call the office.

In Harms' Way: Please remember in your prayers our Nation and loved ones of our parishioners currently serving in harms' way: James Ligons and Robert McHugh. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. I ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

No Smart Phone... No Problem! Call 1 (712) 832-2674
 During our visits around the diocese, many have said, "I don't have a smart phone so I can't use the TuneIn app to listen to Catholic Radio." Well, there's a NEW way to listen to Catholic Radio in South Carolina and you can use a standard cell or land line to listen. Just dial 1 (712) 832-2674 (Powered by AudioNow.com), and your phone becomes a personal Catholic Radio listening device. There is no extra charge for this service but your normal call rates and limits do apply. BUT, as many plans have unlimited long distance or calling, you can essentially listen on your standard phone for free. Check your calling plan to be sure. Also, if you have friends and relatives who might enjoy listening to Catholic Radio on their standard phone, please pass the number on. Note: Smartphone users can still listen to our broadcast via TuneIn Radio – a FREE app for smart phones and app-based devices. After downloading the app, using the app's browse function, key in "wcki" and our logo will come up. Tap on our logo and the audio feed will play. Then you can save WCKI as a favorite station so that it is easier to access.