

## KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

H W S P Q N E G A K  
O H E M N D L O X Y  
U C Y H E V B S B M  
S V O W T H A P Q Y  
E E O L Z T R E H J  
H S V U L M A L U D  
O Z W A F E P M M I  
L V E M L H C P L W  
D P J N E S R T H D  
E K O A E O M E G T  
R D V R P M A V W F  
D E Y O C T Y K G F  
N H S A U T J T Y M  
D E R A E P P A O W  
D T I U R F M D Y E  
R E T S A M G S V E  
F I E L D N L U D D  
S Y K O I T D S B S  
C W R K Y E R E F I  
H A R V E S T J B F

APEARED  
COLLECT  
CROP  
ENEMY  
FIELD  
FRUIT  
GOSPEL

HARVEST  
HEAVEN  
HOUSEHOLD-  
ER  
JESUS  
KINGDOM  
MASTER

MATTHEW  
PARABLE  
PROPOSED  
SLAVES  
SOWED  
WEEDS  
WHEAT  
WITHERED

## Catechizing Corner!

Matthew provides seven parables in the third discourse. Today's gospel presents three of them. Jesus tells the disciples that the parables are intended to announce the arrival of God's reign. The parables of Jesus were based on the lived experience of his particular listener. He used what this familiar to teach them something new about God and about God's reign. Parables are stories. We all know how stories have the power to captivate and transport us into the situation and reality of the story. Jesus uses a story to catch his audience and invite them to see things in a new, transformed light. Jesus invited his listeners to learn for themselves. He did not impose his teaching. He offered them the opportunity to hear the message, struggle with it, and then embrace it as their own. Those who are unwilling to be challenged and enlightened fail to see the point of his parables.

*Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook,  
Cycle A Paulist Press*



**Holy Family Catholic Church**  
South Pasadena, CA  
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## Disciple's Reflection

for the

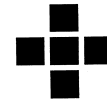
## Question of the Week

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary  
Time  
7/23/2023

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God  
Matthew 13:24-43  
Faith Sharing  
Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH**

**Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!**

## Call to Prayer

**Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.**

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

## The Word of God Matthew 13:24-43

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus proposed another **parable** to the crowds, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who **sowed** good seed in his field.

While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well.

The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?'

He answered, 'An enemy has done this.'

His slaves said to him,

'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them.

Let them grow together until harvest;

then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning;

but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He proposed another parable to them.

### Gospel Glossary

A **parable** is a story or comparison used to teach others.

To **sow** means to plant seeds.

**Yeast** is added to bread dough to make it rise. As the yeast ferments, gas is produced and the dough expands. The bread is then light and easy to eat.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field.

It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants.

It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables.

He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:

*I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will announce what has lain hidden from the foundation of the world.*

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house.

His disciples approached him and said,

"Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man,

the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.

The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil.

The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels.

Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom

all who cause others to sin and all evildoers.

They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.

Whoever has ears ought to hear."

## The Gospel of the Lord

## Faith Sharing

**Questions of the Week:**

**Adults:** What does this parable tell us about God's kingdom?

**Teens:** If God asked you to be the architect for heaven? How would you set it up?

**Children:** Who helped you learn about the word of God?

**Families:** Who helped you learn about the word of God?

## Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary*