

FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
19 July 2020

"Let them grow together until the harvest."

Something to Think About

Sometimes we are quick to judge people. We might think it is easy to recognise a 'good' person or a 'bad' person. It is important to remember that every person is capable of both bad and good deeds. We don't always know the full story behind someone's actions. For example, we might condemn a child who takes other children's lunches. Yet, how would we think differently if we knew that child came to school hungry each day without any lunch? Jesus tells us to accept everyone, because only God truly knows a person's heart.

The Story

Today's gospel from Matthew is another parable with an agricultural context. A man sows good seed in his field but during the night an enemy comes and sows weeds. They both grow together, the good and the bad. The servants want to pull up the weeds immediately but the wise farmer says, leave them grow together until harvest time and then it will become apparent which is weed and which is wheat!

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 13:24-26, 28-29

Jesus told his disciples this story:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field. While everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left.

When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds. The farmer said,

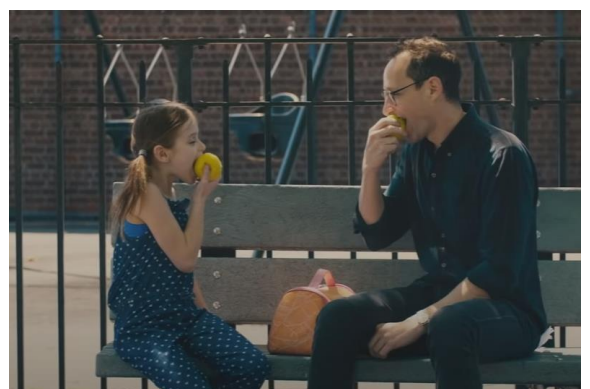
'Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn.'

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

[A Clever Lesson About Not Judging Others](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Prayer

We can ask our guardian angel for help in guiding us to make good choices. This is a good prayer to say in the morning, or at any time of day.

You might like to print it out and colour in the picture.



Family Discussion

Talk together about what makes a plant a weed. When you are weeding the garden, how do you tell which plants you want to keep and which plants are weeds? In last week's gospel when Jesus was talking about seeds, he was really talking about us. What does Jesus mean in this reading when he is talking about good seed and weed seed? Why didn't the farmer want the weeds pulled up as they were growing? What would happen to the wheat?

Family Activity

You will need two bowls or baskets, pens, pencils and paper. Label one container GOOD SEEDS and the other WEED SEEDS and place them in the middle of the dinner table. During the week, family members write or draw about GOOD SEEDS (people who bring us closer to Jesus) or WEED SEEDS (people who lead us away from Jesus). Add the stories and drawings to the appropriate container. When you have time as a family go through the containers and talk about whether you are all being GOOD SEEDS or WEED SEEDS for the people in your lives.



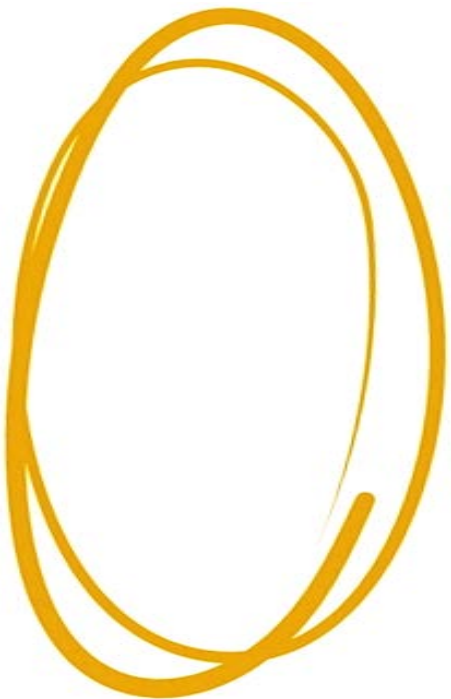
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DRAW WEEDS GROWING AMONG THE WHEAT



IF WE PULL OUT THE WEEDS, WE'LL PULL UP THE WHEAT TOO.



**SO WAIT UNTIL
HARVEST TIME!
AT HARVEST, WHAT
WILL HAPPEN TO THE
WHEAT – WEEDS**

