LITURGIES FOR THE SIXTEENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME AND THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINRY TIME

July 20 - 26, 2026

Monday, 7/20 † Weekday, Saint Appollinaris, Bishop & Martyr
6pm: ✞✞ Joseph Kotsis by Priscilla Vogel

Tuesday, 7/21 † Saint Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest Doctor of the Church
9am: A. S. John Gum by Julie cole

Wednesday, 7/22 † Saint Mary Magdalene
6pm: SS. C & M – ✞✞ Mary Ingram by Janet Fingerhut

Thursday, 7/23 † Weekday, Saint Bridget, Religious
9am; A.S. Scott

Friday, 7/24 † Weekday, Saint Charbel Makhluf, Priest
9am; A.S. Mary Smolek by Christian Ladies

Saturday, 7/25 † Saint James, Apostle
8:30am: SS. C & M ✞✞ John Gum by Christian Ladies

Saturday, 7/25 † Vigil: The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30pm: SS. C & M ✞✞ Bob Jachim by Barb Patterson

Sunday, 7/26 † The Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am: A. S. ✞✞ Linda Potempa by the Potempa Family
11am: Ryan

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Thurs., July 23– Legion of Mary
Thurs., July 23 – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Starke County Food Pantry Needs

Peanut Butter, pancake mix & syrup, canned fruit, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet tissue, salt, pepper, small packages sugar & flour, sanitary pads, fresh fruits & vegetables, canned meat, canned pasta with meat.

Christian Ladies Organization is focused on Prayer, Charity & fellowship. If you are looking to connect with other women who share your Christian values, want to grow spiritually, participate in charitable activities, and support grieving families as well as supporting the Religious Ed Program, you are invited to come and join us at our next meeting August 11th at 6:30pm in the Church Parlor.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society would like to thank all who supported our Pork Chop dinner this past Sunday. It was a huge success.
We also would like to thank the many helpers who made the event happen. What a wonderful group of people to work with.

Coming Soon

Our Annual All Saints/SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish Picnic
Saturday, August 15, 2026
Mass at 4:00pm at All Saints Church
Picnic to follow in Parish Hall/ All Saints Park
Lots of fun games & bingo for all

"Those who are just must be kind," says today's first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord's harvest.

Hearing this Gospel, we can trust that God knows our love and good deeds, and that he will mercifully gather us into his kingdom.
This week, please say a special prayer each day for the poor and forgotten in our parish.

Dear Padre

July 19, 2026

My former boyfriend died recently. He was very abusive and caused me a lot of pain. Should I pray for him even if I believe that no amount of prayer could help him?

Yes, you should pray for him and, despite your lingering hurt from the relationship, resist the urge to make a judgment about him. This decision is not only a healthy spiritual choice, but it will also help you heal the wounds that you still carry. Praying for him does not mean that you are denying any of the hurt that he inflicted on you but rather that you are capable of maturity and choices that were seemingly beyond his ability. Praying for him really says more about you than it says about him. It is also an act of grace-inspired honesty and faithfulness. It is a statement that you believe wholeheartedly in the merciful and forgiving God who is capable of healing the deepest hurts and is even capable of helping his faithful people ultimately forgive those who have inflicted harm upon them. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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Good News!

July 19, 2026
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Wisdom 12:13, 16–19 / Romans 8:26–27 / Matthew 13:24–43 or 13:24–30

MIGUEL DULICK

Jesus loved parables. "He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfi ll 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]'" (Matthew 13:34–35).

Indeed, parables spring from creation itself. Wheat and weeds grow, a natural process, just waiting for Jesus to read the kingdom of heaven hidden within. Jesus doesn't force an interpretation on these elements; he, more than anyone, follows his own advice: "Whoever has ears ought to hear" (Matthew 13:43).

Matthew is the only gospel writer who records this parable. Maybe he liked it because it's his own story. Among the beautiful wheat of the chosen people, he was an ugly weed, a tax collector for the Roman Empire. Once Jesus plucked him from obscurity to follow him, Matthew might have thought, *Why didn't God just strike me dead for all the poison I spread among my own brethren?*

Now, in the parable, the weeds never become wheat, and they indeed meet a terrible fate, but the point is to let the wheat and weeds grow together, lest we uproot the wheat when we pull up the weeds. Oftentimes, it's difficult to tell the difference. Those who are "wheat" should not find excuses to separate from those judged to be "weeds." The risk is too great for the damage we may do. Let God do the separating in God's own time. ●

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5,000+ Christians have been killed or abducted in Nigeria so far this year: report

(Persecuted Church Alerts) Jul 9, 2026 — The coordinated attacks on Christians and Christian communities in Nigeria has worriedly continued to be on the rise in recent months, with Plateau, Benue, Southern Borno, Southern Kaduna, Taraba, Adamawa, Niger, Kwara, Kogi and Nasarawa states recording some of the highest levels of violence.

In its 2026 Mid-Year Report released on Thursday, July 2, a Nigeria-based human rights organization, the International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety), has claimed that at least 2,550 Christians were killed and another 2,800 abducted across Nigeria between January and June 2026, alleging that the attacks were carried out by Islamist armed groups operating with impunity, and that 1,050 Muslims were killed and 1,150 abducted during the same period.

The group, which was speaking through its executive director, Emeka Umeagbalasi, further noted that about 300 churches were destroyed or abandoned, 10 Christian pastors were killed, 10 others abducted, while around 800 Christian women and children were forcibly converted to Islam in captivity, with Plateau, Benue, Southern Borno, Southern Kaduna, Taraba, Adamawa, Niger, Kwara, Kogi and Nasarawa states recording some of the highest levels of violence.

Intersociety attributed the attacks primarily to armed Fulani groups, Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Lakurawa and other jihadist groups. It alleged that some of the groups collaborate in carrying out attacks, kidnappings and ransom operations, while also accusing the Nigerian government of failing to adequately protect affected communities.

"Findings of the report were based on a 66-page incident database compiled from field investigations, eyewitness accounts, survivors, community leaders, media reports, religious organizations, researchers and other open-source intelligence," Umeagbalasi said.

The report also alleged that approximately 300 churches and other Christian places of worship were destroyed, burned, abandoned or forced to close during the first six months of the year. It claimed that the Catholic Diocese of Wukari in Taraba State recorded the destruction of 217 churches between September 2025 and May 2026, while more than 100,000 worshippers were reportedly displaced by sustained attacks on Christian communities.

According to the organization, about 175 Christian schoolchildren were abducted during the review period, with many of the incidents occurring in Borno and Oyo states. Intersociety also reported that 10 Christian pastors were killed and another 10 abducted in separate attacks, alleging that clergy and places of worship have become recurring targets of armed groups operating across parts of northern and central Nigeria. The organization further criticized the Nigerian government for what it described as a failure to prosecute perpetrators or seek international accountability through the International Criminal Court.

What this signals

- Christians continue to be a prey to Fulani groups, Boko Haram, the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), Lakurawa and other jihadist groups, with their safety and freedom of movement not guaranteed.
- It highlights the government failure to protect vulnerable communities and prosecute perpetrators.

Fr. Ripperger says obsession with aliens is attempt to 'supplant Christianity'

(LifeSiteNews) Jun 26, 2026 — Exorcist Father Chad Ripperger said during a recent podcast that the goal of the alien narrative is "to supplant Christianity."

During a discussion on aliens and demons with Catholic podcaster Timothy Gordon and guest Frank Wright of the Quite Frankly podcast, Fr. Ripperger affirmed a relationship between the occult and reports of aliens when suggested by Frank.

One of the signs of the relationship of "aliens" to demons is the supposed backstory of these extraterrestrial beings that gives an "alternate explanation" to the creation of the universe in which the aliens came to earth and "seeded" us as offspring. This idea excludes the biblical understanding of original sin and Adam and Eve, Fr. Ripperger noted.

Another indicator of their relationship to the demonic is the idea that aliens have "come to save us from ourselves" and to enlighten us with new knowledge so we can "get our act together."

"The whole goal of that is to supplant Christianity and supplant how we understand ... man's relationship to God," Fr. Ripperger said.

He also highlighted the fact that significant numbers of people who report alien abduction experiences or have seen UFOs say that as soon as they invoke Christ's name, Jesus, the aliens disappear, evaporating out of thin air.

"That gives us an indicator there's something connected to the occult in some fashion in relationship to all of this," the exorcist remarked.

He went on to point out that during exorcism the facts of possessed people often morph into different shapes, resembling an animal, for example. Numerous exorcists have reported seeing possessed people's faces morphing into alien-like shapes, with a big forehead and eyes, while the demon inhabiting the person refers to itself as a "Grey." This is significant because those who say they have encountered extraterrestrial beings often describe them as "Greys," humanoid beings with large heads who communicate telepathically.

They tend to tell the witnessing exorcist that they are a being between the angels and men who is neither good nor evil, shared Fr. Ripperger, who implied that this is a lie and an attempted cover for the demon.

Further on in the discussion, Gordon brought up Cardinal Robert McElroy's removal of Monsignor Stephen Rossetti as an exorcist in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. for saying that demons can disguise themselves as aliens or UFOs.

Fr. Ripperger pointed out that he himself had made the same point over a year earlier to Msgr. Rossetti, as had at least six other exorcists worldwide.

"Ecclesiastically, it just looked like an excuse to get rid of Msgr. Rossetti," Fr. Ripperger said. "My take on it was that he was basically hung on something that was the common opinion of most exorcists, which kind of surprised me."

It is not uncommon for those who believe in aliens to perceive their existence as undermining the Christian religion. Director Steven Spielberg warned that his recent movie *Disclosure Day* would "shake the faith" of Christians because it tells a tale of eight decades of the U.S. government hiding evidence of alien visits.