

Good News

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dan Finucane

Flower bulbs have an "up" end and a "down" end.

It matters how you plant them. I didn't know that when I was a teenager. If you plant bulbs pointing up, they grow and blossom. If you plant them pointing down, they're in trouble. If you plant them more or less at random, there could be gaps in the flower bed.

I learned this one spring when our parish got a new pastor. He hired a few of us from the parish. I was the flower planter. He didn't select me for this job because of my knowledge of flowers. He picked me because he wanted to hire young parishioners to give us a little spending money.

Later that spring, when the flowers starting blooming, some of mine didn't. Our new pastor wasn't upset. He thought it was funny. He thought I could learn a little about planting bulbs ... but I learned a whole lot more from this man who knew people have to grow into the job of being human. People might start going in the wrong direction, but they can be turned around with gentleness. They might even blossom.

The Bible is full of plant images. Today Jeremiah describes how a shrub in the desert doesn't know when its next drink will come. He describes those who are really blessed--the ones who are planted by a stream.

The Scriptures aren't really trying to give us information about plants. (I haven't found anything helpful there about bulbs.) But some basic growing points are clear. God isn't too keen on tearing up the garden. God plants near living streams. God teaches us to *trust* by an amazing, surprising strategy. God gives us messengers that *trust us*, guide us, nurture us--give us room to grow.

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	Parish
	9:00	Jimmy Farrell
	10:30	Roma & Walter Chandler
	12:00	Joe Tiscia, Sr. & Amelia Ross
	6:00	Lore Hisky
Mon.	6:15	Frank Montesi
	8:15	Mary Jane Norman
	12:00	Gary Pogson & Bernard Kissell
Tue.	6:15	Special intention/Bill Hecht
	8:15	Estelle Pellegra
	12:00	Ralph Scatamacchia
Wed.	6:15	Charles E. Freudenberg
	8:15	Betty Rutledge
	10:00	Special Intention/Ila Jehl
	12:00	Robert Hansom, Sr
	5:00	Ann Hill
	7:00	Bob Moore
Thurs.	6:15	Louise & Phillip Pierini & Special Intention/Ashley Reisser
	8:15	Tina Barrasso
	12:00	David Cianciolo
Fri.	6:15	Kay Kraus
	8:15	Special Intention
	12:00	Leonard G. Ray
Sat.	6:15	Charles E. Freudenberg
	8:15	John & Martha Garrone
	4:30	Eugene Amagliani

Prayers are requested for the sick of the parish: Thomas Pitts+Jacqueline Riley.

If you would like to be remembered in the prayers for the sick, please call the Parish Office, 682-6606.

Prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Tom Pierotti, Herta Lochow, Bill Brennan and Esther Fenton.

MINISTRIES

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday following the noon Mass. Parents are asked to attend an instructional class (usually the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm) prior to the baptism. Please call the parish office if you would like to schedule a baptism.

Adults interested in the Catholic Faith

Are you or someone you know interested in the Catholic Faith? We invite you to learn more about our Church, whether you have no religious background, or whether you are already well-versed in another Christian tradition. "R.C.I.A." is an acronym for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. For more information, call Libby Pretti at 682-6606.

Sacrament of Marriage

Please contact one of the priests for an appointment at least 5 months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Diocesan policy requires that certain guidelines be met before a wedding may be scheduled.

Funerals

Please call the parish office to make funeral arrangements; one of the priests would be happy to assist you. A member of our Parish Bereavement Committee will also contact your family to ask how we can be of further help.

Ministry to the Sick

When a family member is ill, home-bound, or hospitalized, please call the parish office to request prayers and to arrange a pastoral visit. The priests and our lay ministers to the sick make regular visits to the sick and home-bound.

Counseling Services

St. Louis Parish participates in the Parish Family Counseling Program of the Diocese of Memphis. Professional counseling for individuals, couples, and families is available; fees are based on one's ability to pay. Contact Anne McInnis, 722-4711.

Nursery

A nursery is provided in The Clunan Center each weekend at all liturgies except the 7:30 am and 6:00 pm on Sunday. The nursery is also staffed during parish meetings and adult education programs as pre-arranged.

Newcomers

Welcome to St. Louis Parish! Please call or come by the parish office to register in the parish. We look forward to meeting you.