



2323 Montgomery Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95405  
(707) 542-6984

### PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Frank Epperson, Rector  
Fr. Gabriel Sanchez, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Bala Putchakayala, Parochial Vicar  
Rev. Jeffrey Keyes, In Residence  
Deacon Mike Heinzelman  
Deacon Gary Moore  
Deacon Russ Bowden

### WEBSITES

Parish: [www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)  
School: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org)  
Email Comments/Suggestions to:  
[Office@steugenes.com](mailto:Office@steugenes.com)

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office Phone	(707) 542-6984
Parish Office Fax	(707) 542-1621
Religious Education	(707) 326-3408
Finance Council – Marty McCormick	(707) 526-1700
Choir Directress – Pam Zieminski	(707) 578-8848
School Office	(707) 545-7252
Preschool Office – Tess Mellor	(707) 528-9133
Homeschool Academy– Jessica Warner	(707) 206-5579

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday – 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Entrance is located at SW corner of Rectory

### REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Our warmest welcome to all who worship in our community. If you are not registered in the parish, please complete a registration card. Cards are available at church entrances or at the parish office.

### MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS

Please contact the office at least 12 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for baptisms. Check the parish website for more information.

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the parish office when a parishioner is home bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.



### MASS TIMES

Daily Mass: 6:45 and 8:00 a.m.  
Saturday: 8:00a.m; 4:30 p.m. & Sp.6:30 p. m.  
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
12:00 noon and 5:30 p.m.  
Tuesday Latin Mass: 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday Latin Mass: 1:30 p.m.

### CONFESSIONS

3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Saturday or by appointment

### PERPETUAL ADORATION

**Perpetual Adoration** is in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. To sign up for your hour with our Lord, call Annette (English) at: (707)542-3635 or Maria Vega (Spanish) at: (707)710-5094

**Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament** is held in the chapel every First Friday following 8:00 a.m. Mass. *During this time of Covid-19, Benediction is not being held.*

### DEVOTIONS

**Recitation of the Rosary** is Monday – Saturday at 7:25 a.m. in the Cathedral

**Chaplet of Divine Mercy** is Saturday after the 8:00 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral

### CATHEDRAL SHOPS

**Cathedral Thrift Shop** Hours: Tues & Wed. 9:30 am–2:30 pm

**Cathedral Books & Gifts** Hours: Wed-Sat 8:30 am-4:30pm & Sun 8:30am-1:30pm, Closed Mon/Tues -  
Phone: (707)542-0250

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JULY 23, 2023

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### SUNDAY JULY 23

Masses – Cathedral – 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, 12:00 noon,  
1:30 pm (Latin) & 5:30 pm  
Coffee Social – PLC – 8:00 am – 12:00 noon

#### MONDAY JULY 24

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### TUESDAY JULY 25

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Women of the Word – PLC – 9:00 am  
Latin Mass – Cathedral – 5:30 pm

#### WEDNESDAY JULY 26

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am  
Outdoor Rosary – Fatima Grotto – 6:00 pm  
Baptism Class – PLC – 5:30 pm

#### THURSDAY JULY 27

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### FRIDAY JULY 28

Morning Masses – Cathedral – 6:45 & 8:00 am

#### SATURDAY JULY 29

Morning Mass – Cathedral – 8:00 am  
Confession – Cathedral 3:30 – 4:30 pm  
Sunday Vigil Masses – Cathedral – 4:30 pm & 6:30 pm  
(Spanish)

#### ~PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION~

Register your child now for the Parish School of Religion (PSR) 2023-2024 school year! The Parish School of Religion partners with the Cathedral of St. Eugene families to bring the youth of the parish to Christ through authentic catechesis in the Beauty, Goodness, and Truth of the Catholic Faith. We offer: Ongoing Catholic formation for students 1st grade through high school; preparation for the Sacraments of Baptism, Confession, 1st Communion & Confirmation; dedicated teaching by the Marian Sisters of Santa Rosa & lay catechists. **Where:** St. Eugene's School **When:** Tuesdays from 3:45 - 5:00pm; September through May. Pick up registration forms in the vestibules, at the parish office, or register online at our parish website ([www.steugenes.com](http://www.steugenes.com)). **\*Last day to register is Monday, July 31st.\*** Contact Sr. Mary Emmanuel, MSSR with any questions at 707-326-3408 or [srmariyemmanuel2@gmail.com](mailto:srmariyemmanuel2@gmail.com)

### Hearing Aid Users, Switch to T-Coil

#### ADMINISTRATION

#### For the Week of: 7/9/23

Sunday Donations Received:	\$12,734.
Second Collection: <i>No Second Collection</i>	

#### ~ CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS ~

July is the month of the Precious Blood, and our Special of the Month for July is the book, "The Precious Blood: The Price of Our Salvation" by Fr. Faber. During July only, it is 25% off. Fr. Faber calls it the price of our salvation, for Our Lord died from loss of blood. He notes that it is out of the Precious Blood that men draw martyrdoms, vocations, celibacies, austerities, heroic charities and all the magnificent graces of high sanctity. *Also, we are in need of volunteers to help out in our shop. If you can give at least 4 hours of week, we will gladly put you to work!* The shop hours are: Wed-Sat from 8:30 am-4:30 pm & Sun 8:30 am-1:30 pm. We are closed Mon./Tues. Call us at: 707-542-0250.

#### ~NEW TO THE PARISH?~

If you are new to St. Eugene's, *Welcome!* We hope you find a spiritual home here. Please formally register in the parish and be a part of our family. Come to the Parish Office Mon-Fri, 9-4 to register - a welcome packet awaits you there. Registration cards are also available in the front and east church vestibules.

#### ~ CREDIT CARD DONATIONS ~

Consider paying your parish contributions on line using your credit card. You can process a one-time gift or you create an account. Once you establish an account, you can set up recurring entries to automatically process your donations. You can also pay your 2<sup>nd</sup> collections by credit card. From the STEUGENES.COM website, press the GIVE button in the upper right corner. Then press GIVE ON LINE NOW. If you would like assistance setting up your account, contact [bookkeeper@steugenes.com](mailto:bookkeeper@steugenes.com) and we can walk you through the process.

#### SCHOOL NEWS

#### ~REGISTER NOW~

St. Eugene's Cathedral School is well into its registration process for the 2023-24 school year. We are proud of our students and our school. We offer an excellent academic education with a challenging curriculum integrated with gospel values. We are accepting applications for all grades. Come by the school office to pick up an application or call 545-7252, and we'll send an application to you. You can also go to: [www.steugenesch.org](http://www.steugenesch.org) - "Admissions".

## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 22</b>
8:00 am	Joe Saludes, deceased
4:30 pm	James Chuta, deceased
6:30 pm (Sp)	Jose Carrillo Sanchez, deceased
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>July 23</b>
7:30 am	Alejandro Zamora, deceased
9:00 am	People of St. Eugene's
10:30 am	Patrick Maguire, living
12:00 pm	Jaime Shaw, deceased
1:30 pm (EF)	Stanley Wynn Hayes, deceased
5:30 pm	William Thomas Martin, deceased
6:00pm Newman Ctr.	Stanley Wynn Hayes, deceased
<b>Monday</b>	<b>July 24</b>
6:45 am	Ruiz-Garcia Family, living
8:00 am	George Skikos, deceased
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>July 25</b>
6:45 am	Fr. Alan Acevedo, living
8:00 am	Anne Reilly, deceased
5:30 pm (EF)	Lisa Tran, living
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>July 26</b>
6:45 am	Aceves-Zuniga Family, living
8:00 am	Castell & Mayor Family, deceased
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>July 27</b>
6:45 am	Daniel Boyd Fraley, deceased
8:00 am	Ronald Paul Lacasse & Family, living & deceased
<b>Friday</b>	<b>July 28</b>
6:45 am	Maria Jesus Laurel, living
8:00 am	Mathew & Christy Arnerich, living
12:00 pm (Hosp)	Michael Tran, living
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>July 29</b>
8:00 am	Ronald Paul Lacasse & Family, living & deceased
4:30 pm	Aceves-Ruiz Family, living
6:30 (Sp)	Melissa Morales & Gerardo de Leon, deceased

### ~NFP AWARENESS WEEK~

This week, July 23–29, we celebrate Natural Family Planning Awareness Week. *All married and engaged couples are invited to find out more about Natural Family Planning at the USCCB website.* We invite all engaged and married couples to attend the first of 3, in-person, NFP classes. (The other two classes are on September 16 & October 14.) To sign up, please visit [www.ccli.org](http://www.ccli.org)."

## SPIRITUAL ACTIVITY

### ~DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY~

Join us for a new daytime Bible Study Class beginning on Friday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. We will meet in the Parish Life Center (Hope Room) every Friday from 9:00 am until 12:00 Noon. We will read sections of the Bible at each meeting along with watching an accompanying video for instruction on what we just read and discussion. The only requirement is that you bring your own Catholic Bible. To sign-up or get more information, please call Andy Skrypka at 707-758-5882.

### ~RCIA CLASSES TO BEGIN IN SEPTEMBER~

Our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) classes will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held on Sundays, from 10:30 - 11:50 am until mid-May in the Parish Life Center Hope Room. RCIA mainly serves those who have a desire to enter the church or baptized Catholics who desire the sacrament of Confirmation. However, anyone who wishes to learn more about the Catholic faith is welcome to attend. Information/schedule/application "packets" will be available in the church vestibules, the Parish Office, and the St. Eugene's Gift Shop/Bookstores soon. Stay tuned for further updates!

## 2nd COLLECTION INFORMATION

### ~NO SECOND COLLECTION~

This weekend, July 22 & 23, there will be no Second Collection. Next weekend, July 29 & 30, our Second Collection will be for the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Please see below for more details about this collection.

### ~ST. VINCENT DE PAUL~

Thank you for your continued support of St. Vincent de Paul. People always need food and we have helped 1,182 people with \$12,291 in food aid in the 1st 7 months of our fiscal year, thanks to your support. The St. Eugene SVDP Food Pantry, located next to our Thrift Shop, assists an average of 125 each month thanks to your donations. If you'd like to volunteer and help us in helping others, please call Nancy at 707-328-1579.

### ~PLEASE PRAY FOR~

Those who are ill need your support and prayers: Tristan Humble, Samuel Agius, Marjorie Miles, Amelia Lansangan, Gail Brown, Leo Del Santo, Emeline Jane Smith, Rosalind Britto, Ken Davis, Rita Wyatt, Karen Mills, Eileen Carol, Nancy Amador, Patrick Welter, Cristeta Marentes, Jesus Navarro, Michael Boland, Stephen Warner, Aida Catapang, Bob Goldman, Pat Davenport, Paulita Castro, Jean L. Alfano, Theresa Pham, Rainey Olson, Michele Otten, Pauline Goslovich, Mary Gonzales, Nick Sidjakov, Sandi Picconi, Joan Cosgrove, Denise Ealy, Becky Harber, Ernest Lanford, Daniel Bruce Moore, Megan Ingrassia, Art Haake and Rosalie Elliott.

The bulletin submission deadline is Thursday @ 3:00pm for the Sunday after next bulletin. We reserve the right to edit or omit items. E-mail items to: [office@steugenes.com](mailto:office@steugenes.com).

# MY CATHOLIC FAITH

## **THE WHEAT & THE TARES**

### **~FROM THE PASTOR~**

Today's Gospel gives us one of my favorite parables: the Wheat and the Tares. The lesson to be learned from it is deep and should ultimately fill us with hope. The two selections below will help us all to plumb the depths of what our Lord is teaching His disciples. Let's read on.

## **MORE ON PARABLES**

### **~KINGDOM DISCOURSE~**

*"The Kingdom of heaven is like...* This Sunday's Gospel continues Jesus' Kingdom discourse. The three shorter parables we hear in this week's Gospel fall immediately after the parable of the sower that we heard last Sunday. Jesus addressed these three short parables to the crowds (Matthew 13:36). But only his disciples get an interpretation of the first parable, just as only they received an interpretation of the parable of the sower. Also, like last week's parable, the three kingdom parables all use images from daily life in Palestine. In his parables, Jesus showed a familiarity with the lives of his listeners. He used images from their occupations and their families. He recalled scenes from their kitchens, their backyards, and their daily chores to help them understand the mysteries of the kingdom. The parables use these familiar images to teach deep truths. Jesus is taking his audience into deep mysteries, beginning first with things they know very well."

### **~THE WHEAT AND THE TARES~**

"In the parable of the wheat and the weeds, Jesus describes the sabotaging of a field by planting tares or darnel, a poisonous plant that looks like wheat when it is very young. By the time one could easily tell them apart, the roots of the tares would already be intertwined with the roots of the wheat. If you attempted to pull out the tares, you would lose the wheat as well. Since tares was bitter-tasting and poisonous, the seeds would be spread out after harvesting and picked out by hand. There were Roman laws on the books against planting bad seed in someone's field, showing us that this scenario is not something Jesus invented. It would be something known to his listeners. This is one of the few parables for which

listeners. This is one of the few parables for which Jesus also gives a clear interpretation (see Matthew 13:36-43). In his explanation, He reveals that He is the sower, and He always sows good seed. The devil sows the tares. The good and bad seed will grow up together until the end of the world, when judgment will separate evildoers from the children of the kingdom. This parable is a much-needed reminder that judgment is the prerogative of God, which happens at the end of time (or the end of our lives). Until then, the good and bad seed will grow together – and may be difficult to distinguish. It's distressing to live in a world of both good and bad seed. We want to be able to distinguish and put people into neat boxes. We want to view the world wearing white hats and black hats. Wouldn't life be easier if the lines were more clearly drawn?"

### **~GOD JUDGES HEARTS~**

"But the lines are not. Not even in our own souls. We want to be able to classify people as "good" and "bad." We want to know who to associate with and who to snub. We falsely give ourselves the prerogative that is only God's: to judge hearts and decide who is worthy of our time, our love, and our mercy. This parable reminds us that only God knows what He is doing when it comes to sifting the wheat from the tares. Only He knows our hearts, and only He can know the state of someone's soul. This doesn't mean that we can't judge actions. It's not wrong to state that certain actions are sinful. Christ commands us not to judge (Matthew 7:1-5), but he *does* command us to rebuke and correct someone who sins against us (Matthew 18:15-17; Luke 17:3). There is a difference between judging a behavior and judging the state of someone's soul. Only God can judge someone's eternal destination, since only He knows their backgrounds, wounds, thoughts, and motives. We live in a world with both weeds and wheat. Wickedness and fidelity exist side by side, even in Christ's Church. There are sinners in the Church and leading the Church. While that can test our faith, it shouldn't destroy it. Even our first Pope denied Christ. The devil works on all of us, and if we allow the weeds in the Church to lead us away, we're giving the devil exactly what he wants. We must have patience with each other and ourselves. Every gardener knows that patience is a

requirement. Growth doesn't happen overnight. It is the same in the kingdom. Perhaps we are that servant that wants to pull up all the bad seed. Purify the Church militant here are earth and toss out the sinners! But what will happen? We risk tossing out the wheat. If we're honest, we risk tossing out ourselves! Jesus is working in people's lives, and we don't necessarily know what He's doing or where He's working. As hard as it can be sometimes, we must trust He is at work. Judgment happens at the end, and it is important not to despair or judge people and situations prematurely."

#### ~DON'T DESPAIR~

"Ultimately, this parable should be reassuring to us. Many people want to accuse the Church of hypocrisy because She calls people to virtue while being led by sinners. Of course there are sinners in the Church... the Church militant, anyway. Don't despair at the wickedness in the Church or in the world, because we know in the end, there are no sinners left in the Church triumphant. They've all been purified. Judgment *will* eventually happen. We know there are consequences to our actions. Far from rationalizing sin or wickedness, this parable doesn't mince words when it comes to speaking about the "end of the age." But the parable is also reassuring because it reminds us that judgment does not come until the end. There is hope for our family members and friends who seem to ignore the call of conversion. Never give up praying for conversion. And never give up in your own conversion! Scripture commentator William Barclay reminds us, "In the end, we will be judged, not by any single act or stage in our lives, but by our whole lives. Judgment cannot come until the end. It is possible to make a great mistake, and then redeem ourselves and, by the grace of God, atone for it by making the rest of life a lovely thing. It is also possible to live an honorable life and then in the end wreck it all by a sudden collapse into sin. No one who sees only a part of a thing can judge the whole; and no one who knows only part of an individual's life can judge the whole person" (Barclay, *The Gospel of Matthew*). Weeds and wheat, side by side. Continue to till the soil of your soul, asking God to make it rich for the good seed to grow. Seek out the sacrament of Confession when thorns are choking the seed. Pray for your family and friends, that they will be rich soil for the good seed to take root. And pray for your enemies, those whom you perceive to be the tares growing in the Church and the world. Thanks to the mercy and

patience of God, may the harvest at the end of the world be full of wheat." By: Joannie Watson <https://integratedcatholiclife.org/2020/07/watson-wheat-weeds/>

#### ~DONATISTS & PARABLES~

"What we believe is often at odds with the world in which we live. In a culture that doesn't tolerate intolerance, the Church is often portrayed as one of the most intolerant institutions. The language used in this regard is intentional. It is said that we are opposed to reproductive rights, rather than saying we support the inalienable right to life. It is said that we are opposed to the LGBT community, but no mention is made of our belief in the dignity of each and every person as created in the image and likeness of God. The list goes on. It's a difficult enough task for us to defend and explain why we believe what we believe. But this task is made nearly impossible when our Church is ceaselessly saddled with scandal after scandal. "Why," people have said to me, "would you continue to stay Catholic?!" Why indeed. The simple answer is that I believe Jesus Christ established the Church. He vested his authority in Twelve men whom he called to minister the sacraments and proclaim the gospel throughout the world, see Matthew 28:16-20). I believe that this Church is indefectible, that it cannot be destroyed by the world or the powers of darkness (see Matthew 16:16-20). But, I also believe that the pilgrim Church is imperfect. Its individual members have and will continue to fail. The earliest Christians also wrestled with the human reality of the Church. St. Augustine was confronted with a group known as the Donatists who claimed that the only valid ministers were ministers who had never rejected the faith. ... But St. Augustine knew that was just not possible. While he believed in the efficacy of the sacraments to sanctify us; he knew from personal experience that "sin is lurking at the door" (Genesis 4:7). No matter how hard we try to master it, no matter how much we *want* to do what is right, we often find ourselves doing that which we know is not right, (see Romans 7:13-24). To great effect, St. Augustine employed the Parable of the Wheat and Tares to combat the error of the Donatists (see Matthew 13:24-30). This parable teaches us that we will always struggle with sin and sinners. We will not be rid of either in this life. Although we'd like a field of pure wheat, we will have to continue to live with a field that has been corrupted by noxious weeds. Although God sowed good seed, the enemy came and sowed weeds. Likewise, although Christ founded the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church, the Church often finds itself more divided, less holy, less Catholic, and less apostolic than it is called to be. This doesn't mean that the Church we have today is not the same Church founded by Christ. What it means is that the Church is still on the way and awaiting its ultimate purification during the harvest at the end of time."

By: Dn. John Harden, <https://media.ascensionpress.com/2018/04/20/weeds-among-the-wheat-donatism-and-why-im-still-catholic/>

**EL TRIGO Y LA CIZAÑA**  
~DEL PÁRROCO~

El Evangelio de hoy nos ofrece una de mis parábolas favoritas: la del trigo y la cizaña. La lección que se desprende de ella es profunda y, en última instancia, debería llenarnos de esperanza. Los dos fragmentos que siguen nos ayudarán a profundizar en lo que el Señor enseña a sus discípulos. Sigamos leyendo.

**MÁS SOBRE LAS PARÁBOLAS**

~DISCURSO DEL REINO~

*El Reino de los cielos es como...* El Evangelio de este domingo continúa el discurso de Jesús sobre el Reino. Las tres parábolas cortas que escuchamos en el Evangelio de esta semana siguen inmediatamente a la parábola del sembrador que escuchamos el domingo pasado. Jesús dirigió estas tres parábolas breves a la multitud (Mateo 13,36). Pero sólo sus discípulos reciben una interpretación de la primera parábola, al igual que sólo ellos recibieron una interpretación de la parábola del sembrador. Además, al igual que la parábola de la semana pasada, las tres parábolas del reino utilizan imágenes de la vida cotidiana en Palestina. En sus parábolas, Jesús mostraba familiaridad con la vida de sus oyentes. Utilizaba imágenes de sus ocupaciones y de sus familias. Recordaba escenas de sus cocinas, sus patios y sus quehaceres cotidianos para ayudarles a comprender los misterios del Reino. Las parábolas utilizan estas imágenes familiares para enseñar verdades profundas. Jesús lleva a su audiencia a profundos misterios, comenzando primero con cosas que ellos conocen muy bien.

~EL TRIGO Y LA CIZAÑA~

En la parábola del trigo y la cizaña, Jesús describe el sabotaje de un campo mediante la plantación de cizaña, una planta venenosa que parece trigo cuando es muy joven. Para cuando uno pudiera distinguir las fácilmente, las raíces de la cizaña ya estarían entrelazadas con las raíces del trigo. Si se intentaba arrancar la cizaña, se perdería también el trigo. Como la cizaña tenía un sabor amargo y era venenosa, las semillas se esparcían después de la cosecha y se arrancaban a mano. Existían leyes romanas contra la siembra de malas semillas en el campo de alguien,

lo que nos muestra que este escenario no es algo inventado por Jesús. Sería algo conocido por sus oyentes. Esta es una de las pocas parábolas para las que Jesús también da una interpretación clara (véase Mateo 13:36-43). En su explicación, revela que Él es el sembrador, y que siempre siembra buena semilla. El diablo siembra la cizaña. La buena y la mala semilla crecerán juntas hasta el fin del mundo, cuando el juicio separe a los malhechores de los hijos del Reino. Esta parábola es un recordatorio muy necesario de que el juicio es prerrogativa de Dios, que tiene lugar al final de los tiempos (o al final de nuestras vidas). Hasta entonces, la buena y la mala semilla crecerán juntas, y puede resultar difícil distinguirlas. Es angustiante vivir en un mundo de buena y mala semilla. Queremos distinguir y encasillar a las personas. Queremos ver el mundo con sombreros blancos y sombreros negros. ¿No sería la vida más fácil si las líneas estuvieran más claramente trazadas?

~DIOS JUZGA LOS CORAZONES~

Pero las líneas no lo están. Ni siquiera en nuestras propias almas. Queremos poder clasificar a las personas como "buenas" y "malas". Queremos saber con quién asociarnos y a quién desairar. Nos atribuimos falsamente la prerrogativa que sólo corresponde a Dios: juzgar los corazones y decidir quién es digno de nuestro tiempo, nuestro amor y nuestra misericordia. Esta parábola nos recuerda que sólo Dios sabe lo que hace cuando se trata de separar el trigo de la cizaña. Sólo Él conoce nuestros corazones, y sólo Él puede conocer el estado del alma de alguien. Esto no significa que no podamos juzgar las acciones. No está mal afirmar que ciertas acciones son pecaminosas. Cristo nos ordena no juzgar (Mateo 7:1-5), pero sí nos ordena reprender y corregir a alguien que peca contra nosotros (Mateo 18:15-17; Lucas 17:3). Hay una diferencia entre juzgar un comportamiento y juzgar el estado del alma de alguien. Sólo Dios puede juzgar el destino eterno de alguien, ya que sólo Él conoce sus antecedentes, heridas, pensamientos y motivos. Vivimos en un mundo con cizaña y trigo. La maldad y la fidelidad coexisten, incluso en la Iglesia de Cristo. Hay pecadores en la Iglesia y dirigiendo la Iglesia. Esto puede poner a prueba nuestra fe, pero no debe destruirla. Incluso nuestro primer Papa negó a Cristo.

El diablo trabaja en todos nosotros, y si permitimos que la cizaña en la Iglesia nos aleje, le estamos dando al diablo exactamente lo que quiere. Debemos tener paciencia entre nosotros y con nosotros mismos. Todo jardinero sabe que la paciencia es un requisito. El crecimiento no se produce de la noche a la mañana. Lo mismo ocurre en el reino. Tal vez seamos ese siervo que quiere arrancar toda la mala semilla. Purificar la Iglesia militante aquí en la tierra y echar fuera a los pecadores. Pero, ¿qué ocurrirá? Corremos el riesgo de echar fuera el trigo. Si somos honestos, ¡corremos el riesgo de echarnos a nosotros mismos! Jesús está trabajando en la vida de las personas, y no necesariamente sabemos lo que está haciendo o dónde está trabajando. Tan difícil como puede ser a veces, debemos confiar en que Él está trabajando. El juicio ocurre al final, y es importante no desesperar o juzgar a las personas y situaciones prematuramente.

### ~NO DESESPERES~

En última instancia, esta parábola debería tranquilizarnos. Mucha gente quiere acusar a la Iglesia de hipocresía porque llama a la gente a la virtud mientras es guiada por pecadores. Claro que hay pecadores en la Iglesia... en la Iglesia militante, al menos. No te desespere por la maldad en la Iglesia o en el mundo, porque sabemos que al final, no quedan pecadores en la Iglesia triunfante. Todos han sido purificados. El juicio acabará ocurriendo. Sabemos que nuestros actos tienen consecuencias. Lejos de racionalizar el pecado o la maldad, esta parábola no tiene pelos en la lengua a la hora de hablar del "fin de los tiempos". Pero la parábola también es tranquilizadora porque nos recuerda que el juicio no llega hasta el final. Hay esperanza para nuestros familiares y amigos que parecen ignorar la llamada a la conversión. Nunca dejes de rezar por la conversión. Y nunca renuncies a tu propia conversión. El comentarista de las Escrituras William Barclay nos recuerda: "Al final, seremos juzgados, no por un solo acto o etapa de nuestra vida, sino por toda nuestra vida. El juicio no puede llegar hasta el final. Es posible cometer un gran error, y luego redimirnos y, por la gracia de Dios, expiarlo haciendo del resto de la vida algo hermoso. También es posible vivir una vida honorable y, al final, arruinarla por un repentino colapso en el pecado. Nadie que vea sólo una parte de una cosa puede juzgar el todo; y nadie que conozca sólo una parte de la vida de un individuo puede juzgar a la persona entera" (Barclay, El Evangelio de Mateo). La cizaña y el trigo, uno al lado del otro. Sigue cultivando la tierra de tu alma, pidiendo a Dios →

que la enriquezca para que crezca la buena semilla. Busca el sacramento de la confesión cuando las espigas ahoguen la semilla. Reza por tu familia y tus amigos, para que sean tierra fértil en la que arraigue la buena semilla. Y reza por tus enemigos, aquellos que percibes como la cizaña que crece en la Iglesia y en el mundo. Gracias a la misericordia y paciencia de Dios, que la cosecha del fin del mundo esté llena de trigo

### ~ESCUELA PARROQUIAL DE RELIGIÓN~ (Catecismo)

¡Inscriba a su hijo ahora para la Escuela Parroquial de Religión (PSR) 2023-2024 año escolar! La Escuela Parroquial de Religión se asocia con las familias de la Catedral de San Eugenio para llevar a los jóvenes de la parroquia a Cristo a través de la catequesis auténtica en la belleza, la bondad y la verdad de la fe católica. Ofrecemos: En curso de formación católica para estudiantes de 1er grado hasta la escuela secundaria, la preparación para los sacramentos de:

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