The Generous Sower

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up…" Matthew 13:3–4

In today's Gospel, the Parable of the Sower is delivered from a boat, as Jesus addresses a large crowd along the shoreline. Jesus uses the natural acoustics of the water to carry His voice to the eager multitude who came to hear Him. Their earnestness offers us an opportunity for self-examination: Am I among that crowd, attentively listening as God speaks to me today? Do I go out of my way to seek, listen, and respond to the Word of God?

A parable is a method that both *reveals* and *conceals*. It reveals divine truth to those who are humble and receptive, and conceals that same truth from those whose hearts are closed. The truths of the Kingdom are not concepts that can be quickly grasped. They are divine mysteries that must enter the soul and be pondered and nourished. Only the spiritually docile can penetrate their depths and allow God's Word to transform their lives.

The Sower is Christ. The seed is the Word of God, and the soil represents the human heart, in all its various conditions of readiness and receptivity. Some souls await God's Word like freshly tilled, moist, and fertilized soil. As soon as the seed enters, it begins to grow rapidly—until fully grown and producing good fruit.

Other souls are less receptive. Like the path, some hearts are hardened, stubborn, refusing to receive divine truth. The Word is heard, but not truly received. The enemy snatches it away before it can penetrate.

Hearts that are like rocky ground are those who initially receive the Word with joy but lack perseverance. When trials come, they fall away. They may attend Mass, read Scripture, or begin with fervor, but without deep interior conversion rooted in prayer, they cannot endure the heat of testing.

The thorny heart is the divided heart, where the Word of God is mixed with anxieties, riches, and pleasures. The Gospel is heard—perhaps even cherished—but it is suffocated by worldly attachments, ambition, or fear. Earthly anxieties and the fascination of riches are thorns that smother the soul and prevent it from growing.

The good news is that God, the Divine Sower, is not passive. He sows the seed Himself—personally, directly, and abundantly. He is not like a remote monarch seated on a distant throne, waiting for us to come to Him. No—God always takes the initiative. He goes forth like the sower, casting His seed upon us even before we ask.

The seed comes to us in two essential ways: truth and grace. As truth, God's Word enlightens the intellect to know His eternal mysteries. As grace, God's Word strengthens the will to embrace and live those truths with faith and charity.

The Divine Sower sows lavishly. He casts the seed everywhere—on the path, among the rocks, amidst thorns, and upon rich earth. This is not careless, but the work of Divine Mercy. God desires that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Even where the ground seems hardened, shallow, or choked with thorns, He still sows. He never ceases to speak, to reach out, to invite. He sows even in places we might deem hopeless—until the final moment, when the time for sowing is ended.

Reflect today on God's generous and continuous sowing in your soul. He never ceases speaking to you, calling to you, and planting His Word within you. How receptive are you? Which soil best describes your soul? It's never too late to respond in this life. God's Word can grow rapidly within us when our souls are fertile and receptive. Remove the rocks, cut down the thorns, and till the hardened path, so that the abundant seed will make its way into your heart.

Divine Sower, You ceaselessly send forth Your truth and grace to enlighten and strengthen us in the mission of building Your Kingdom. Please till the soil of my heart and make it fertile, so that Your Word may take root in me, growing and producing an abundance of good fruit. Jesus, I trust in You.

Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

July 12th 2026

The 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:00 pm English Mass

Sunday Mass: 9:00 am

Baptism and Holy Matrimony:
The family should be registered and active members at Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Semple at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

Anointing of the Sick:
Please contact Father Semple 509-230-3785

Parish Office:
Please email or leave voice message.

Parish Staff:
Parish Office: 509-723-1459
Parish email:
stannemedicallake@gmail.com
Parish website: www.westplainscatholicparishes.org

Father Richard Semple Pastor
Father Peter Miller
Evie Noder, Office Admin- Parish Bookkeeper
Sacramental Emergencies – 509-230-3785

Pastoral Council
Father Semple, Pat Whipple, Janet Whipple, Mario Cruz, Danielle Treis, Casey Stamschror, Jason Merriman

Finance Council
Father Semple Eric Hanson

Physical Address:: 200 W. Alder, Sprague, WA 99032

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day.

Join us for St. Anne's

ANNUAL PARISH

PICNIC!

Date and time to be announced

Please bring one of the following: Sides (fruit, vegetables, salads), Chips, Desserts, family friendly beverage

Pray for Fr. Richard Semple during his adventure to Peru. Returning safely, refreshed prepared to shepherd our St Anne and Mary Queen of Heaven flocks

St Anne has a need for the following

Finance committee—needs one person, meets quarterly, assist in budging for the new year.

Janitorial person (s) to clean weekly the Church, Hall and Rectory.

Parish Council is seeking 3 new members for the fall of 2026

Please email the office at

STANNEMEDICALLAKE@GMAIL.COM

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil

4:00pm English

Sundays

9:00 am - Latin

Adventure awaits, don't miss Mass. APP Store or https://masstimes.org

World wide use to locate Masses, Confessions, Adoration wherever you go

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Liturgical color: green
Lectionary #103

Is 55:10–11

Ps 65:10, 11, 12–13, 14

Rom 8:18–23

Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

Gloria
Creed

PRAYER CHAIN INTENTIONS

can be emailed and kept anonymous if requested or needed. Please call Pam Harper 509-496-5930 to request prayers. or email **stanneprayer-chain@yahoo.com**

Please note: Mass Intensions take approximately 2 weeks to get processed and on the calendar. Please note this when giving your stipends for Intensions.

MASS INTENTIONS

5	Sunday	Pro Populo
6	Monday	
7	Tuesday	
8	Wednesday	
9	Thursday	
10	Friday	
11	Saturday	
12	Sunday	Pro Populo

Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!
St. Anne ... Pray for us!