



**WHAT'S WHERE:**

**August 3** – Church of Seven Dolors, Albany. **Annual Church Bazaar.** Indoor Polka Mass at 10:30 am, music by the "Country Polkateers". A delicious homemade **Chicken & Ham Dinner** with dressing, mashed potatoes, coleslaw and much more, including home-baked pie, served from 11 am-2 pm in the new air-conditioned parish center and also in the school lunchroom. Take-outs available. **Quilt Auction** at 3:00 pm with Mitchell Auction Service. **Grand Raffle**, with over \$9,000.00 in cash and prizes, will be held at 6:00 pm – \$1,000.00 grand prize + 265 prizes. Bingo, Fancy Work / Craft Stand, Furniture Raffle, Country Store, Ring Toss, Children's Games, Cake Walk, *Fet Kuchen* and Food & Beverages available. Please come and spend the day with us!

**August 5** – **Daughters of Isabella** will meet at St. Louis Catholic Church in the St. Louis Room. Rosary at 6:45, meeting to follow at 7:00 pm.

**August 11** – St. James Parish, Jacobs Prairie. **BBQ Pork Chop and Corn-on-the-Cob Feed.** 4:00 – 9:00 pm. The menu is fabulous: barbecued pork chops, corn-on-the-cob, baked potatoes, cabbage salad, etc. Tickets: Adults \$8.00, children 5 through 12, \$5.00 at the door; under 5 free, served a hot dog. All the corn-on-a-cob you can eat!

**August 16-17** – St. Boniface Parish, Cold Spring. **Annual Parish Festival.** This year our theme is "Our God Reigns." **Polka Mass** on Saturday at 5:00 pm, music by Country Polkateers. Following Mass, food and beverage stands open. From 7:00 to 11:00 pm, the *Chaser* will perform. Fireworks show at 10 pm. On Sunday, our annual parade, then the fun continues with food, games and entertainment for the entire family. **Quilt Auction** – bidding begins at 2:00 pm. Handmade quilts of all sizes. For a preview, go to [www.stboniface.com](http://www.stboniface.com) and click "Festival" link.

**Save the Date!**

**Lake Wobegon® Regional Trail Ride For the Kids**

**Saturday, September 6, 2008**

St. Joseph to Sauk Centre

**Donations:** Single rider: \$30 (\$35 day of race)

Families of: 2/\$60; 3/\$80; 4/\$100; 5 or more/\$120

The third annual Lake Wobegon® Regional Trail Ride For the Kids will wind its way through Central Minnesota on September 6 to raise funds for Catholic Charities' St. Cloud Children's Home. The Children's Home impacts the lives of hundreds of children each year by providing a safe place for at-risk children to live, attend school and learn some of the basic necessities of living on their own. This wouldn't be possible without the support of the community, so come ride with us and make a difference in a child's life.

For more information and registration forms, visit the website at [www.lakewobegonride.us](http://www.lakewobegonride.us) or call Mary Barthel at 320-650-1641.

**STEWARDSHIP**

July 6, 2008		July 13, 2008		July 20, 2008	
Adults	1225.00	Adults	1004.00	Adults	665.00
Youth	0.00	Youth	2.00	Youth	3.00
Children	2.00	Children	0.25	Children	2.00
Plate	35.00	Plate	64.56	Plate	95.00
Votives	41.00	Energy	300.00	Votives	24.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>1303.00</b>	Votives	36.50	<b>Total</b>	<b>789.00</b>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>1407.31</b>		

**SEED 'N WEED**



Unlike the noxious stuff that comes in plastic jugs. We don't touch that (or eat it if we can avoid it). If we had a couple hundred acres to tend, we might have to resort to it. But our heirloom gardens don't quite total two acres. Since by July they resemble the Devil's Half-Acre, I reluctantly go to work.

*Don't get me wrong. I'd be ever so happy to tend perfectly-tended rows with straw-covered dirt in between. Fortunately, our soil by now is so richly organic that our antique vegetables out-live the weeds, because it happens almost every year that I have to be gone just when the weeds are growing like blazes.*

I guess that's just the way it has to be. So out amongst 'em I trudge in the heat of July, trying to find where my tomatoes are hiding. It's probably better exercise than I actually need, but it does keep me occupied and out of other kinds of trouble.

There's a lot said in the Bible about seeds and weeds. One of my favorites is the parable about false wheat. (*While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off. Matthew 13:25*) Sometimes I get the feeling that describes my situation exactly, but in reality it's just that quickweed came in from Oklahoma with my neighbor's cattle feed, and the strenuous giant pigweed was already here anyway.

But that parable about weeds amongst the wheat captures the tangled ambiguities of the human heart, and I suppose that's what Our Lord was really talking about. His metaphor was based on botanical fact as well as spiritual truth. The word translated as "weeds" referred specifically to a toxic plant called *darnel*, which looks just like real wheat until the seedhead (the fruit) eventually appears.

So what does Jesus counsel? Patience: the true will get sorted from the poisonous false when the time comes for harvest. Within your own soul and mine, within a parish numbering true believers and pretenders alike. Within the global Church and all of humanity for that matter.

Only when the planted seeds ripen into fruit can we hope to know the difference for sure. So it's a good lesson and, for me, a hard and necessary one, to pray unceasingly for patience. It ain't up to me to guess or point or judge anyone. Thank the Lord for that! I'd be as apt to jerk out the true as the fake.

But I still wonder who it actually was who crept in and sowed all that *darnel* amongst the wheat. If *darnel* grows anything like darned quickweed, my money's on the Devil.

*~perspiringly, yr. obt. svt.*

**HAPPY ARE THEY WHO HOPE IN THE LORD**

Lord, I guess the "if only" virus has been around a long time. People in ancient times probably said, "If only I were a Cro-Magnon..." "If only I had a bigger pyramid..." "If only Rome could be built in a day..." It's pretty easy to catch: "If only I had a new refrigerator I would be happy." "If only I had a million dollars...if only I could become a movie star...if only..."

Why is it, Lord, we always think THINGS — or people — will make us happy? "If only I had a wife..." "If only my husband would talk to me..." "If only my children would obey me..."

Real happiness comes only from you, Lord, but please help me remember that the only person on earth who can make me happy is me. Happiness is mine for the finding, but I have to look for it and work for it and hope for it and pray for it — and recognize it when I come across it!

Forgive me, Lord, for waiting for my family and friends to MAKE ME HAPPY — when I'm the only one who could do the job.

But, Lord, if only I could find one of those "economy large double door family" refrigerators that cost only \$14.35, I'm sure that would make me happy — at least for a little while.

*~Bernadette McCarver Snyder*