

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(Sunday July 26, 2026)

One of the questions we all have to answer for ourselves in life is this:

What is the greatest treasure in my life?

It's an important question because the answer isn't found in what we say—it's found in how we live.

To begin to answer this question – we need to look at where we spend our time, and what thoughts occupy our minds.

We look at what we are willing to sacrifice for. Those things reveal what we treasure most.

For many of us, the greatest treasures in our lives are sitting right beside us today—our spouses, our children, our parents, our family. We gladly make sacrifices for the people we love because they are precious to us.

Jesus understands that, that's why He gives us three short parables in our Gospel today.

A man discovering a treasure hidden in a field, a merchant finding a great pearl, the fisherman gathering every kind of fish into his net.

In the first two parables, we hear that these people make great sacrifices – but they do it “in their joy”.

The Christian life is often misunderstood as a long list of things we have to give up — as though faith is all about rules, obligations and a list of “don'ts”.

Jesus contradicts that.

Christianity isn't primarily about giving things up. It's about discovering God and more personally His Only Begotten Jesus — someone so wonderful, so life-giving, that a relationship with Him helps everything finds its proper place.

Our relationship with Him guides all other relationships we have... And “in our joy” we make sacrifices for Him and for others...

- Parents sleeping less for their children.

- Grandparents thinking nothing of driving across the city to watch a hockey game, a dance recital or a school concert.
- Students spending years studying for a diploma or a degree.
- Couples work hard to build a marriage and family that will last a lifetime.

None of those sacrifices feel unreasonable because they are made for something—or someone—they love.

The same is true of our relationship with Christ.

We don't make time for prayer because we have to, or come to Mass because we must – or forgive because we have no choice. We do these things because we are slowly discovering that Jesus is the greatest treasure we will ever know.

The challenge is that treasures are not always obvious.

Think about the first parable.

How many people walked across that field before that man discovered the treasure?

We don't know—but he wasn't likely the first.

Likewise, how many merchants handled beautiful pearls every day?

Yet only one recognized the pearl worth everything he owned.

The treasure was always there BUT the point is that someone finally recognized its value. Perhaps that's true in our own lives.

Jesus is present with us every single day—in the Scriptures, in the Eucharist and the sacraments, in our families, in the quiet moments of prayer, in the people who need our patience, our kindness and our forgiveness.

The question isn't whether Jesus is present – it's really whether we recognize Him present every moment of every day?

We get so busy in life, rushing from one thing to the next, worrying about tomorrow, carrying the burden of guilt for things, hurts and resentment that we CAN get rid of. We are walking right past the greatest treasure in our lives without noticing Him.

The third parable reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is open to everyone. The net gathers fish of every kind.

Every one of us is invited into God's Kingdom – invited to discover the treasure Jesus offers. The only question is whether we will choose Him.

This weekend, the Church also celebrates the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. Perhaps they teach us this Gospel better than anyone.

Those who have lived many years know that careers eventually end, possessions wear out, achievements fade, and life passes much more quickly than we imagine. Faith, love, family - these are the things that endure.

Grandparents and our elders offer us the witness of a life that says, "I've lived long enough to know what really matters."

So, we honour them by learning from them.

Friends, as we begin our week, let's ask ourselves a simple question – what's my greatest treasure?

And let one decision you make each day reflect your answer.

Maybe consider 10 minutes of quiet reflection time in the morning, before you check your emails, your phone or connect to social media.

Choose patience instead of irritation – forgive someone you've been keeping at a distance.

Tell each, or better still, show each person you love – that you do!

Small decisions like these made every day – reveal where our treasure lie.

The greatest treasure we will ever discover is not something we own.

It is Jesus our Lord—the One who first found us, loved us, and gave everything so that we might belong to Him.