

Editor's Note

(This transcript was prepared from an audio recording. Because the audio quality was poor in places, some wording may differ slightly from the recording, but Father Bob's intended meaning has been faithfully preserved.)

Sin, Evil, and Judgment

July 28, 2026 • 8:00 AM Mass
Reverend Robert Gillelan

The parable of the wheat and the weeds is about sin, evil, judgment, and heaven.

When we think about those subjects today—sin, evil, hell, and judgment—they may not be the most popular topics of discussion, but they are very important topics because they deal with reality. Yet they are not universally understood. They are no longer a significant part of how many people in our society think.

Jesus speaks about sin and the reality of sin.

Consider how many of our young people are brought up today without any real concept of what sin is. People sometimes make fun of the Catholic Church because our second graders go to Confession. But already, at seven or eight years of age, they are learning what sin is.

Consider what the Pew Research Center tells us: about 30% of our nation's population is religiously unaffiliated.

Think about that.

Thirty percent is around 100 million people who have no religious affiliation. They include atheists, agnostics, people who have left religions such as the Catholic Church, and those who were never raised with any religious background.

Think about it.

One hundred million people—that is almost one out of every three people we meet—have had no religious upbringing.

My brother was a state policeman for 25 years. Even 25 years ago, he said he could already see this reflected in the lack of conscience among many young criminals. And that was 25 years ago. Today it is much worse.

Where do we learn our understanding of good and evil? We learn it from Sacred Scripture.

Today, however, we hear voices in our culture that say they cannot define evil. Again, if we go back to the Pew Research data, approximately 62 million people say they cannot define what evil is because society has made it too complicated.

Jesus defined evil.

Jesus clearly spoke about demonic evil, spiritual evil, moral evil, and natural evil that brings destruction and death.

Jesus said that evil comes from the human heart.

Yet many people today are unwilling to make judgments about whether something is good or evil because the younger generation has been raised in an environment that says, “We’re not going to judge anything. We’re going to tolerate everything.”

So if a person has no concept of sin, why should there be consequences? Why should there ever be punishment?

That is the world in which we live today.

So if you are here today—and you are—and you

understand what sin is; if you are able to use your God-given faculty of reason and judgment to discern what is good and what is evil; and if you have a healthy fear of sin, then rejoice and be glad, because you are not far from the Kingdom of Heaven.