From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The hardest thing of all to achieve is, to serve another person freely, selflessly and out of love. But if we achieve it, we not only make the work a lot lighter, but we remove all fear and compulsion from it. We will not spend our time looking over our shoulder to see if 'the boss' is watching us. We will do what has to be done, what is expected of us, what we need to be done, whether the boss is absent or present. It is this quality of 'faithfulness' and 'constancy' that is singled out in the Gospel today. This is the ideal that is put before us today, regarding our service of Christ, our Master.

Today's Gospel says that both Jesus and the thief come to us 'at an hour we least expect'. But the similarity and the element of surprise end just there. The thief comes to rob, to vandalize and to destroy.

But Jesus comes to surprise us with his gifts of bountiful compassion and mercy, of love and forgiveness, with a miracle of transformation. The Reason Jesus warms us is not to fill us with fear, but because he loves us and He wants us to share in all the blessings he has for us. If we are not ready, we may miss out.

Most of the people of God who left Egypt started off with faith, but when the going got difficult, they refused to do the things God told them to do, and they missed out on enjoying the blessings of the Promised Land. The Unfaithful lived carelessly and foolishly, as if they are not accountable to God in our lives. But the faithful servants we must always be on the alert and be ready for His coming doing His will all the time.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

On Thursday, August 15th we will celebrate the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 am, 5:30 pm (English) and at 7:00 pm (Spanish).

When the angel Gabriel announced to her that she was to be the mother of the Messiah, she found the courage and faith to say yes to all that God was asking of her. Mary lived a life of fidelity and obedience to God in union with her Son who was also her Lord. While Mary's assumption into heaven was and is a gift of grace for her, it is also a gift of grace for us. What God has done for Mary God will also do for us. Mary's assumption is a great sign and source of hope for us.

We too will one day be with the Lord, body and soul in heavenly glory.

R.C.I.A.
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a year-round process available to any adult who wishes to inquire into Catholicism. It is also an invitation for adults who have not received and would wish to receive all the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

R.C.I.A. is a journey of faith, filled with hope and fire by love. This time is spent in discovering Jesus, to listen to his call as he says: "Have Courage, It is I, do not be afraid".

While our community prays for them, those in RCIA devote time in prayer in order to respond to his Calling, to recognize him in the Sacred Scriptures, to focus on the Teachings of the Church, to worship Him and meet Him at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and so grow in Catholic Faith, Hope and Love.

If you are interested in learning more about the Catholic Church or in sponsoring someone who is in the process of being initiated into the Church, please call the Parish office at 415-334-4646.

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Children's Liturgy of the Word is conducted during the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm Masses. All school age children are invited to participate. Parents are urged to consider supporting this ministry to help our children to understand the Sunday Mass and readings better at their own level. If you would like your child to participate in the Children's Liturgy on Sundays, please arrive 15 minutes before the Mass starts to sign up your child, and for the children to stand in line at the front of the church ready to be part of the procession. The sign-up material will be supplied to you before the Mass.

To sign-up please talk to Sonia Urquilla, the person in charge of the program.

Save the date for the "San Lorenzo Ruiz dinner and dance"
The FPC (Filipino Pastoral Council) of St. John the Evangelist will have their annual dinner and dance to celebrate the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. The dinner and dance is scheduled for September 28, 2019 in the school gymnasium. Tickets are on sale now for $25.00. For further information please contact Lety Tomas at (415) 585-5081.

WELCOME CEREMONY FOR NEW KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
On Sunday August 18th at 1:00 pm St. John the Evangelist Council #615 will host a ceremony to welcome Catholic men as members of the Knights of Columbus. This is an opportunity for all Catholic men 18 years of age or older to proudly demonstrate their support of our Faith, our Church, and our families and to express a commitment to the principles of Charity and Patriotism. We encourage you to accept the challenge and join with Father Agenl and many of your fellow parishioners of St. John the Evangelist who are currently members of the Knights of Columbus. Your participation is needed. Please contact Michael Bennett (415-279-7542), Paul Limpin (415-823-8911), or Father Agenl today or during the coming week for more details to sign-up for the ceremony. VIVAT JESUS!