15th September 2019 - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor....

Please pay close attention to the first sentence in the Gospel today: "Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus". Then..."but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying ‘This man welcomes sinners and eats with them’"...

One can imagine: Lines have been drawn, and Jesus has crossed over them. Jesus continues to expand the citizenship of the kingdom of God. Sinners and tax collectors can find a place. Jesus illustrates the Father’s love in three parables. The first is the good shepherd who rescues the errant sheep. He rejoices. The second is the woman who rips her house apart to find a small coin and when she finds it, she rejoices. The third is an errant son returning to his father. His father is overwhelmed with joy. He rejoices.

There is a whole lot of rejoicing going on in today’s Gospel. The three stories are remarkably similar. Something is lost. Something is found. A moment to rejoice now that it is found! Everyone celebrates.

However, the third parable breaks the mold, and that occurs in the rejoicing. The son (represents) is a public sinner, which does not mean much to his father: He is still his son! and therefore does not diminish his mercy and love. He calls for a communal celebration. The sinner returns not to condemnation, but with full dignity.

Not only is the ungrateful son welcomed home, he is vested with cloak and ring even when the other brother sulks and causes some trouble. He is restored and healed.

However, the Gospel reading continues its mission with an open ended question: Do you think the older brother would let the bygones be bygones, take the high road and forgive his brother and join in the celebration......

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS ......

The Parish Council prayerfully discerns on how to harness resources and coordinate God’s Blessings upon us. Among other considerations, given the fact that we have only one Priest now serving in our Parish, the immediate plan is to invite you, to reflect together as a Parish Family on how to address and assimilate our Sunday schedule of four Masses. We will soon have a survey going out and invite you as Parish stewards to give us your valuable input in this endeavor.

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 three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. R.C.I.A. is a journey of faith, filled with hope and fired 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”. 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 415-534-4646.

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 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 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Dinner will be served, followed by a raffle and dancing. Tickets are $25 per person, and will be sold after each Mass.

FORMED Highights

At the end of Mass, the priest says, "Go forth, the Mass has ended." Do you ever wonder what that means?

Our mission as Catholics is to share the Good News through Evangelization, but sometimes we can get overwhelmed with the state of our world and how to truly bring Christ into it.

Catholics are challenged to carry their faith after the celebration of the Holy Eucharist from the Church building out into the world: outside the parish doors. With our real stories from real Catholics sharing the beauty of the Church in their communities, inspire you to be the ‘salt of the earth’ and the ‘light of the world’ to take our Catholic Faith and live it out beyond Sundays.