From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The story of Lazarus and Dives strikes a resonant chord in our lives. Lazarus, covered with sores, begged for food, "and would gladly have eaten his fill off the scraps that fell from the rich man's table." That rich man is Dives, who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.

The story progresses to tell us that the poor man died and was whisked away to Abraham's bosom (heaven). The rich man died and went to hell. From his hole in the fiery torment, he looked up and spied Lazarus in celestial bliss, just "rocking" his soul in the bosom of Abraham. He asked Abraham for help. Unfortunately, no help is given.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church cites this story to distinguish mortal from venial sin. Mortal sin is a deliberate and willful decision to oppose God. "Feigned ignorance and hardness of heart," the text reads, "do not diminish, but rather increase the voluntary character of a sin". Many homilists see the sin that caused Dives to merit such eternal punishment is his reluctance to share his wealth with Lazarus.

Other homilists say that Dives while he lived, knew that Lazarus and others like him could have eaten well from his table scraps. But that he chose to ignore the prophetic witnessing against the abuse and neglect of the poor. It is the sin of ignoring and despising Lazarus and his needs that catapulted the rich man to hell fire. The rich man knew the good, but he chose the bad.

I guess, this second rendition has the power to chill us to the bone. It gets to the heart of what it means to be a true disciple.

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. This weekend we 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 who wish to receive all the three sacraments of initiation: Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. RCIA 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 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 415-334-4646.

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 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 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.

Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi—October 4

St. Francis was born in 1182 in Assisi. He was the son of a rich merchant. He received a good education, and in the beginning followed the ways of the world. He was taken prisoner in the battle between the Assisians and Perugians. During his imprisonment he experienced a vision from Christ and changed his life completely. He left all his possessions and embraced complete poverty, taking the Gospel as his rule of life.

Blessing of the animals will be on Thursday October 4

On the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, the co-patron of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, there will be a special Blessing for animals, after the 9:00 am mass. All pets and their caretakers/guardians are invited to attend this Blessing ceremony at the front of the Church on 19 Saint Mary's Avenue at 9:30am.

FAMILY ROSARY RALLY

Rosary Rally, "We are all one in the family of God", will take place at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption, on Saturday October 5, 2019. The schedule of events are as follows: 10 am mass at the Cathedral with Renewal of the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 11:30 am Procession to U.N. Plaza, 12:15 pm Adoration with Rosary and confessions, 12:30 pm Homily by Father Robert Elias Barcelos, concluding with Benediction at 12:45 pm. All are welcomed to join.

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the Ministries of St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. John the Evangelist Conference.

Thank you for your generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

September 16th - September 22nd, 2019

Tuesday's Spec. coll. $69.00
Tues. On-line giving $5.00
Weekend Offering $2,429.00
Weekend On-line giving $300.00
Priest's Retirement $1,409.25
Priest's Retrmt On-line giving $100.00

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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Fellow Parishioners,

Historically our Parish was blessed with two or more priests who celebrated four masses on Sundays, daily Masses from Monday through Saturday and a Saturday Vigil Mass. Since July 2015 Father Agnel has maintained that mass schedule while also performing a variety of Pastoral duties.

Canon law of the Catholic Church, in normal circumstances and on regular basis, directs a pastor to say no more than three masses on a given day. In the past we invited priests assigned elsewhere to assist with Sunday Masses. However, this is no longer feasible due to a very limited number of priests and scheduling challenges. Therefore, we need to reduce the number of Sunday Masses from four to three.

Our Pastor has invited us all as members of the Saint John the Evangelist family to join him in arriving at consensus and embracing a solution that will benefit our community.

Please complete this survey as soon as possible and place it on the box provided in the back of the church no later than October 13, 2019.

1. Circle which of the following masses do you normally attend?

   | 7:30 am | 9:30 am | 11:00 am | 12:30 pm |

2. If you attend an English mass, what times would you prefer? Please circle two options

   | 7:30 am and 9:30 am | 7:30 am and 10:00 am | 8:00 am and 10:00 am | 8:30 am and 11:00 am |

3. If you attend the Spanish mass, what time would you prefer? Please circle one option.

   | 11:30 am | 12:00 noon | 12:30 pm |

4. Any comments or suggestions:

Thank you for responding to this questionnaire.
Gracias por responder al cuestionario.