From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The parable of the Pharisee and the Tax-Collector present to us two characters drawn from life: the righteous one and the outcast.

So often the Pharisee has been called a hypocrite. However, the Pharisee was perhaps sincere, scrupulously honest, a faithful family man, a meticulous observer of the Law, a pious person, fasting more that once a week far beyond the demands of the Law. He is perhaps sincerely convinced that he stands right with God. After all, he has done what he ought to do, and more. However, what he does and says in the temple, is not ‘prayer at all’. He fails to see that God’s gracious gift of salvation, is just that ‘pure and simple ‘a gracious gift’, given to us not because we deserve it, but because of His merciful and compassionate love for us. It is freely given, without any merit on our part, precisely because we could never measure up to be worthy for it.

The tax collector was a man bereft of hope, though not without faith. He had been robbed of hope by the so-called ‘righteous’ Pharisees. He is so thoroughly branded as an outcast, that he had come to regard himself as such. If salvation depended on meticulous observance of the Law, as the Pharisees maintained, then he had no chance at all. But he cannot bring himself to believe that God is like that. Hoping against hope, he dared to come to the temple of God.

And his prayer is the most moving of all prayers. It is a prayer that should resonate and sound an echo in our hearts, a prayer that should spring, unbidden, to our lips... ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner’... This is the prayer that God listens and answers. This man went home justified.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

The Parish Pastoral Council thanks you for your overwhelming support and participation in the "Parish Mass Survey" conducted in the last few weekends.

The committee responsible for tallying the survey presented their report to the Parish Council this week. The following is the report on the survey:

A total of 476 surveys came in.

- From Parishioners attending 7:30am Mass: 88 surveys
- From Parishioners attending 9:30am Mass: 139 surveys
- From Parishioners attending 11:30am Mass: 91 surveys
- From Parishioners attending 12:30pm Mass: 100 surveys

The Survey reports the following Mass Schedule preferences:

- 7:30am & 9:30am: 66
- 7:30am & 10:00am: 25
- 8:00am & 10:00am: 163
- 8:30am & 11:00am: 63
- 11:30am: 7
- 12noon: 87
- 12:30pm: 67

Given these reports, the Parish Council recommends to the Pastor and the Parishioners the following Mass schedule:

- 8:00am (English); 10:00am (English) and 12noon (Spanish) effective from Sunday January 5, 2020.

We are grateful to all of you who took time and invested yourselves in this stewardship of the Parish. Your comments were indeed very positive, encouraging and appreciative. Your efforts and your hearts say in so many words that you care and are invested in this Parish of St. John the Evangelist. Thank you.

Long live St. John the Evangelist Parish. God Bless!

Friday, November 1, All Saints Day, is a Holy day of Obligation masses will be at 9:00 am, 5:30 pm in English and 7:00 pm in Spanish.

All Souls Novena

Our annual All Souls Novena begins on November 2nd, at the 9:00 am mass. Novena remembrance envelopes are available in the vestibule of the church. You may write the names of your deceased loved ones on the envelopes which will be placed on the Altar during all masses in the month of November.

Feel free to take one and write down the names of your loved ones along with your donation. You may place your envelopes in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish office.

All Souls' Shrine: On the Feast of All Souls we will have a special shrine for all our departed loved ones. You are welcomed to bring a small photograph to include in the shrine. The shrine will be located in the baptismal side altar. The shrine will be on display during the All Souls Novena. Please remember to write your name and phone number on the back of the photograph. For those who do not have a photograph you are welcomed to write the names of your loved ones on the notebook next to the shrine.