November 3rd 2019 - Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Today’s readings are a testament to the love and mercy of God. In the eyes of God, every man, woman and child is precious like a ‘diamond in the rough’ of great value; every one of us possesses a goodness and dignity just by virtue of being created by God. The readings today proclaim the immeasurable love of God for all of us. God, showers us with mercy and calls us into a life of reconciling love. It is a call coming from within the heart of our God:

‘Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house...’ Have you ever heard God call you by your name?

It is God’s unwavering determination to reconcile the whole creation so lovingly fashioned, with him. Jesus would define his mission as... the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.

Sometimes Jesus did not wait for an invitation. As he was making his way to Jericho, he encountered the smallest tax collector of them all, Zacchaeus, who had perched himself in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus. When Jesus spied him in the tree, he invited himself to the house of Zacchaeus.

In today’s Gospel Jesus demonstrates to the ‘new’ honest Zacchaeus in the eyes of his skeptical neighbors, how God reaches out to the ‘diamond in the rough’ in each of us and helps us discover the immense potentials that exist in us. Jesus affirms and upholds the compassion and integrity of the shunned tax collector, transforming the life of the man in the sycamore tree, to respond to the love of God and enable others to do the same. It is a calling to be ‘faithful’ and sincere in our commitment, and to bring that transforming love of God in the lives of others.

God loves you more than you will ever know!

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 478 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: 160 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: 83
   • 11:30am: 1
   • 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!

The name Zacchaeus comes from Hebrew and means “the Pure One.” Before reforming his life and meeting Jesus, Zacchaeus was the pure one only in name but not in deed. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus. Was it just curiously because a crowd was gathering or was it because Zacchaeus had heard much about Jesus already and knew that Jesus would be kind to him? Surely it must be that he already knew much about Jesus because we see that his heart was ready to receive Jesus. Zacchaeus had to climb a sycamore tree to see Jesus because he was so short. But class distinctions between people were pronounced and when the chief tax collector Zacchaeus climbed the sycamore tree it shows that he was serious about seeing Jesus. He is probably the most despised man in Jericho and has the honor of receiving Jesus in his home. Will you come down from your tree, abandon sin, and invite Jesus to your heart? Jesus knows you are seeking him will you, abandon anything that may be keeping you apart from Jesus, and then enjoy even more of Jesus in your life?