From the Desk of the Pastor ....

The Sadducees tried to trip up Jesus with their query about seven brothers marrying the same woman in turn without bearing children to any of them, and then whose wife she would be at the resurrection. Jesus, realizing the silliness of their question, answered that God “Is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive.”

The theme of an afterlife dominates our liturgy today. We sing our belief in after life, “I am the resurrection and the life”, “I will raise you up on the last day”, and even our Eucharistic acclamation: ‘Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory”. These statements are expressions and bedrock of our faith. This belief lights up our lives with meaning and hope.

The story of the torture of the seven brothers, which we hear in today’s first reading, is a reminder to us of the extent to which believers are asked to defend their faith. It is a story of bravery and at the same time, a personal story of trust in God’s promises.

Belief in an afterlife is one of the most important of our beliefs as Christians. But how seriously do we take it and what part does it play in our lives? Of course we say we believe it. Do we not end the Creed each Sunday with these words: ‘We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.’ The test perhaps is how much would we be prepared to lose or suffer for our belief in this life to come?

While it may be true that we will probably never be asked to sacrifice our lives for the Christian faith, we have an opportunity today to ask God to strengthen our faith. We could also pray today for those who, even today, give their lives in witness to the faith.

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: 109 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!

Parish Office Closed

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, November 11th in observance of Veteran’s Day. We will re-open on Tuesday, November 12th.

A meeting for all ministers of Sacred Liturgy

In preparation to the fast approaching Advent Season, Christmas and the New Year to follow, before our lives get more busy with all these exciting festivities, let us meet together on Saturday, November 16, 2019 after the 4:30pm Mass in the Parish Hall. Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Ushers & Music ministers are all invited to attend this meeting. Let us make this a potluck dinner. See you there!

Feast of Christ the King: The Filipino Pastoral Council (FPC) of St. John the Evangelist invite you to the celebration of the Feast of Christ the King on Sunday, November 24, following the 11:00 am mass in St. Anne’s Hall. Food and refreshments will be served. All are welcome.