February 16th 2020 - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

We listen to the words of the first reading: ‘we have life and death’ before us. Faced with such an option obviously we would choose life over death. This appears to be the most sensible thing to do.

However, when we recognize that it is in our personal choices, in our day to day living out our lives, that we make all the difference, then it dawns on us that we examine our lives and make right choices.

Our Lord talks about these choices. He tells us that our virtue must go deeper than that of the scribes and Pharisees of his day. What we say and what we do expresses what is in our hearts. When we have anger, lust, hatred, jealousy, revenge in our hearts .... then we clearly have some serious thinking to do! When our ‘yes’ means ‘yes’ and ‘no’ means ‘no’ we have the choice – between life and death.

This life or death refers to one’s inner life, that life with God. We have a choice; we are free to choose life or death for eternity.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL RETIRING - NEW INTERIM PRINCIPAL APPOINTED

As many of you know Sister Shirley Garbaldi has announced her retirement as the Principal of St. John School. On behalf of the Parish of St. John the Evangelist and the Archdiocese of San Francisco, I accepted her resignation effective from February 14, 2020. Until February 28th Sister will be transitioning away while remaining to assist the Interim Principal.

Please join me in thanking Sister Shirley for her many years of devoted service to both our Parish’s Grade and High Schools. We wish her well in her future endeavors. She will be missed. I have appointed Ms. Alexandra Iwaszewicz, as the ‘Interim Principal’ for the remainder of the 2019-2020 School year. This past fall, Ms. Iwaszewicz was the ‘Acting Principal’ when Sister Shirley was away for six weeks. Ms. Iwaszewicz has experience leading the School and will continue to meet with parent groups, manage the day to day operations and support the teachers as she did in the fall.

We have begun to form a ‘Search Committee’ to find the next Principal for our School. As we continue in the process, I will keep you apprised.

We believe this transition will be smooth, and our students will continue thriving here at St. John School.

Fr. Agnel De Heredia, Pastor

From the Office of Worship: Cold and Flu Season

During this cold and flu season all parishioners are reminded to use common sense in the reception of Holy Communion and the sign of peace. If you are feeling ill please receive Holy Communion in your hand and during the sign of peace do not offer your hand to others.

Please remember to wash your hands thoroughly and often with soap and water. If you are a Eucharistic minister and if you are not feeling well please find a replacement for yourself.

Thank you for your understanding.

2020 U.S. Census

The U.S. Census is a count of all individuals living in the United States that takes place every 10 years. It is required by the Constitution. Aside from being legally required, data from the U.S. Census are used to determine the distribution of funds for things like Medi-Cal, Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, school lunch programs, highways, and special education programs. An inaccurate count could decrease funding in these areas, affecting those in need in our communities. In addition, the U.S. Census numbers are used to redraw electoral district maps, affecting the community's representation in the federal government. Forms are expected to be mailed out in mid-March. Responses can be submitted by mail, by phone, or online. For additional details directly from the Census Bureau, visit 2020census.gov.

GOD’S LAW AND PEACEFUL LOVE

There is some urgency in Christ’s call to holiness. Everything in this age is passing away. Jesus’ call is timely and radical, pleading with us to drop other business and make reconciliation a priority. The Lord actually says to ‘leave your gift at the altar’ and return to worship after making peace with the adversaries in our lives. Jesus is serious about the need for reconciliation and righteousness, insisting that nothing—not even our eyes and arms—are worth more than love. All of today’s readings reflect on the deep connection between God’s law and healthy, peaceful love.