From the Desk of the Pastor ....

You, Master, have the words of eternal life

becomes St. Peter’s plaintive confession of faith in today’s Gospel. Though difficult to hear and fully grasp, Jesus’ Gospel of justice, compassion and peace is eternal life. Everything else only distracts us from our search for God.

Our possessions, ambitions, goals, desires, etc may indeed be good in themselves, but then our unbridled attachments to those elements, can take hold of ourselves. This grip begins to grow day by day to the extent that before we know, we are controlled by them. We can become ‘owned’ by that, ‘enslaved’ by what we possess; our lives begin to get run by what we believe we control; we become imprisoned by the expectations created by the technology, when in fact it’s diligent use should free us. But we are terrified to let go, not because we don’t understand what Jesus asks of us but because we understand it too well.

Jesus’ demand that his disciples must be forgiving and merciful runs counter to what human convention dictates; Gospel justice and compassion can make us very uncomfortable and uneasy. While we are obsessed with building and maintaining a lifestyle, Christ speaks to us of life, its purpose; it’s meaning and its ultimate fulfillment.

To be worthy therefore of the name of Christ, demands the constant, focused, and honest faith articulated by Simon Peter, “to whom shall we go, Your Master, have the words of eternal life.

If we follow Christ we will always be free. And here is a strange thing: We are free not when we do whatever we please. We are free only when we do what is right. We are like an instrument that is being played properly. In other words, we are free when like Christ, the perfectly free one; we do the will of God.

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

We are pleased to announce that Online Giving is available for you to make contributions to the parish. This option makes use of current technologies and security standards and allows you the option of setting up recurring contributions. It also enables our parish to take advantage of new tools to become more efficient.

Online Giving Benefits: The process is

- Secure and confidential: No need to share payment information with the parish office.
- Efficient: Set up direct withdrawals from your checking or savings account.
- Simple: Start, stop and change your contributions at any time.
- Convenient: No need to write a check or have cash available.

Online Giving is intended to be a convenient tool for you to use, and we strongly support both Online Giving and offering envelopes for contributions to the parish. “Online Giving is the electronic way to participate in the weekly offertory and in special collections.”

You may start giving online today! So please:

1) Visit our parish website at [www.saintjohnsenvangelist.org](http://www.saintjohnsenvangelist.org) and click on the online giving link.
2) Create your own account.
3) Schedule your gift, at your convenience.

Please prayerfully consider giving online. If you have any questions, you may contact the parish office. Michael Bennett, Christine Riley, and Juanita Aguillera of our Parish Finance Council among many others utilize the "Online Giving" Program and are available and happy to answer any questions regarding the program or assist you in the initial set-up.

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

St. John School, mindful of its mission to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, natural and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students of this school. St. John School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and/or ethnic origin, age, gender or disability in the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

San Lorenzo Ruiz...The FPC of St. John the Evangelist wishes to thank everyone who participated and volunteered at the celebration of the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz. It was a great success!

We look forward to seeing you for the novena Masses in honor of St. Lorenzo from 20—28 September 2018.