September 2nd - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

It is the heart that matters....... It is not clean fingernails, or clean teeth, or a clear skin that makes a person clean in the sight of God. To be truly clean, is to be clean of heart.

For the heart is what “I am” deep down. It is real me. And while we are all capable of deception, a corrupt heart will sooner or later show itself in the face. At the same time, a clean heart, like a clear mountain lake, shines in the face.

St. Mark presents Jesus’ efforts to keep his disciples properly focused in the face of an attempt by the Pharisees and scribes to redirect the way the disciples express their religious commitment.

The religious leaders complain that the disciples of Jesus are eating with unwashed hands. Their excessive concern over ritual purification does not recognize a more serious integral need to purify one’s thoughts that are within us and that lead to many immoral actions: Jesus calls their attention to be concerned about our innermost thoughts, evil thoughts, uncleanness, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within.

Jesus looked at the Pharisees and said to them: “These men are no better than white-washed tombs: they are clean on the outside, but inside they are full of corruption.” But he looked at Nathanael and said: “Here is a true Israelite, a man in whom there is no trace of deceit.”

In other words, here was a transparent person. Here was a man who was clean of heart, and therefore clean all over.

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.saintjohnevangelist.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 Aguiler 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.

On Saturday, September 8th after the 4:30pm mass we will celebrate our third “Quasquicentennial” event. The theme is Rededicating ourselves to the next 125 years; hosted by the Knights of Columbus.

Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone’s Parish Visit

The Pastoral visit of the Archbishop is scheduled for Sunday, October 7, 2018. On his visits to Parishes, he presides at two masses on a given weekend visit. In our Parish he will offer the 9:30 am and 12:30 pm masses. He will meet the people after masses, the Religious Education Staff and the Parish Councils in between masses. He has been scheduled to visit St. John’s School on Friday, October 5, where he will meet the students and the faculty of the school.

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8: Mary was born to be the mother of the Savior of the world, the spiritual mother of all men, and the holiest of God’s creatures. Because of her Son’s infinite merits, she was conceived and born immaculate and full of grace. In Mary all human nature is exalted. On Our Lady’s birthday the Church celebrates the first dawn of redemption with the appearance in the world of the Savior’s mother, Mary. The Blessed Virgin occupies a unique place in the history of salvation, and she has the highest mission ever commended to any creature. Let us often call upon the Blessed Virgin as “Cause of our joy”.