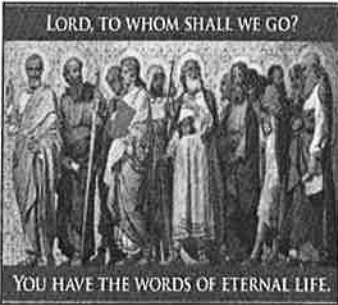


August 22nd - Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 and derails 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.

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MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 21

9:00am † Henry & Teresa Thran

4:30pm † Barbara Lavezzo

Sunday, August 22

8:00am Avelina Leanos (hng)

10:00am Paul Sanchez (bdy)

12:00pm † Martha Chicas

Monday, August 23

9:00am YMI Brothers

Tuesday, August 24

9:00am Gloria Pedro (thnks)

Wednesday, August 25

9:00am St. John Parish

Thursday, August 26

9:00am

Friday, August 27

9:00am St. John Volunteers

Saturday, August 28

9:00am

4:30pm

SECOND COLLECTION

Today's second collection is for the **Missionaries of Jesus (MJ)**.

The Community of the Missionaries of Jesus is a religious missionary congregation founded in the Philippines. The MJ priests and brothers work in the margins of society. Your support, donations and prayers will help poor missions in the Philippines and Guatemala to create sustainable formation programs to alleviate them from their poverty and become agents of change. Your generosity will also help the formation of their growing number of seminarians who will be sent to omissions in the Philippines, Guatemala and Vietnam

Thank you for your support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

August 9th - August 15th, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$ 2,522.00

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church is open for weekend Masses

Saturday Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm.

We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

The people who were frenetically following Jesus, crossing the lake twice to pursue him, eating the bread he miraculously provided, are now puzzled by Jesus proclaiming himself as "the bread of life," and they are incredulous. They can go with him no farther, so they gradually drift away. The Twelve, however, stay with Jesus. What else could they do? Who else offers such a profound vision of human life? Peter expresses it well: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." Not all of our life's crossroads involve our faith, but some do. Perhaps there is someone in your parish who chose to become Catholic and is now alienated from their family; someone who is unhappy with a new pastor and wondering about looking for a different parish; someone who was especially distressed by the clergy sex abuse and prayed long and hard before deciding that they needed their parish to get through it. There may be many in your parish facing such choices, and they need our support and our prayers. In the meantime, we can hope that someday they will again experience Jesus as the Holy One of God, offering them words of eternal life.

The Bread of Life Discourse is one of the most controversial/challenging passages in Scripture. Jesus has proclaimed that the bread of eternal, heavenly life is His own very flesh. It is recorded that the Jews quarreled among themselves because of the radical new teaching. Ultimately, many of His disciples chose to leave Him because "this saying is hard." As much as St. Peter is commonly known as the Apostle who goofed up a lot, he does have incredible moments of faith recorded in Scripture. Peter announces, on behalf of all the Twelve, that they have come to believe all that Jesus has taught about himself: Jesus is the one from God in whom they have found the path to eternal life. He tells Jesus that is the chosen One; "We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Should we not be like St. Peter and believe with all our heart and faith that *Jesus is the living bread come down from heaven?*

Religious Education Program: CCD 2021-2022

Sacramental Formation Program

The Religious Education program is now accepting applications for school year 2021-2022, for First Communion and Confirmation preparation classes. Our first day of class is Saturday, August 28, at 10am in Spanish and 1:30pm in English. Classes are held at the old convent building located at, 98 Bosworth Street. For more information please see the Catechists after the 10am and 12noon masses.

