We are in the second week of our message series regarding one of our key areas of focus in our parish: Sharing. This week we are focusing our attention on sharing our gift of time.

Sharing our gift of time:

1. By watching a grandchild so its parents can attend to other concerns.
2. By helping an elderly neighbor raking leaves.
3. By helping a coworker when their car fails to start.

By sharing time we can make a difference and shine the light of Christ for others when they are in need.

However, sharing time in these instances generally makes a difference in the here and now, or if you will, in “chronological” time.

While it is good to do so and I don’t mean to discourage these kind efforts, are you aware that there is another way for us to share our gift of time and make a difference in other’s lives?

That way of sharing our time is not focused on the here and now, or chronological time. It is focused on Kairos, a Greek term which means, “God’s time.” That way of sharing our gift of time is focused on what makes a difference in other’s lives, eternally.

In light of this, I have two questions to consider:

First, when we share our time, what are we focused on: the here and now, or the eternal?

Second, how is God calling us to share our gift of time?

In our first reading we hear of the story of seven brothers who were willing to die a cruel death at the hand of the king instead of succumbing to the pressure and disobeying one of the laws of the Old Testament: avoiding the eating of pork. One after another died, bearing witness to their faith in God. Each of them was focused on the eternal; on Kairos, or God’s time, in a most profound way.

In our gospel reading we hear the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection of the dead...

“Fr. Mark, did you know that the Sadducees denied the resurrection of the dead?”

“Why yes, Deacon Dennis! Don’t you know? That’s why they were so sad-you-see!”

“Oh, I get it now… Sadducees were sad-you-see! I’m so glad I came to Mass today, Fr. Mark!”

Anyway, the Sadducees were putting on a chronological time mindset when they were trying to stump Jesus with a really hard question about who’s wife the widow would be of the seven brothers she had been married to after the resurrection, (a resurrection that they didn’t believe in), assuming she’d have to be married to at least one of them.

Jesus responded with a focus on Kairos, or God’s time, and let them know that after the resurrection the things in heaven will be different than here, and that there won’t be marriage as we know it, as all in heaven will be like angels.

Jesus was letting them know that there will be a resurrection; that there is a whole different type of time: Kairos, or God’s time, and in his answer implied that they should focus their attention, and their efforts here on earth, toward it.
What about us? Are we merely focused on sharing our gift of time for the here and now, or are we focusing our efforts; are we giving our time, in a way that makes a difference for eternity? Are we giving our time in ways that makes an eternal difference in the lives of others? How can you and I share our time here at St. Elizabeth’s in such a way that will make an eternal difference?

Simply put: we need to reprioritize our lives toward Kairos or God’s time. We need to decide to share some of our time with a focus on the eternal. That’s what St. Elizabeth’s is all about! Eternity with Christ! So by learning what opportunities there are here at St. E’s to get involved, and by making a commitment now for your family and you to share some of your gift of time, you and your family can make an eternal difference. But we can’t put this decision off. We need to make a commitment. My challenge to you is to choose to become involved in a ministry activity with your family this coming month. I challenge you to choose to make an eternal difference, along with your family, right here at St.E’s.

If all we ever do is focus our time on the here and now, we will miss the greatest joy; the greatest purpose for our lives: sharing our gift of time for an eternal purpose. We will miss the opportunity to make an eternal difference in the lives of others.

That would be so… sad, you see.

Let’s not do that. Let’s make a commitment of our gift of time, along with our family, this month for an eternal purpose. Let’s make some of our gift of time, God’s time.