

## **A Kingdom of Sacrifice and Service.**

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The First Reading we heard today from the prophet Isaiah was prophesied six hundred years before the birth of Christ. It was one of various prophecies about how the Messiah would save God's people: through suffering. In other words, God was preparing his chosen people to recognize the promised Messiah by "affliction" and by "being crushed in iniquity." The Messiah is to be known as the suffering servant. These are direct allusions to the passion, crucifixion, and death of our Lord Jesus Christ – six hundred years ahead of time. And it was precisely through those sufferings that Jesus would take all our sins upon himself, atone for them, and re-open the gates of heaven for us.

We can tell from today's Gospel that the apostles were oblivious of the prophecy from Isaiah. Their idea of the Messiah was a powerful political and military leader who would make Israel back into a player on the international scene. And so, James and John, looking forward to that day, try to reserve their spots in the King's cabinet. Jesus took the occasion to teach them that his Kingdom is about sacrifice and service, not power politics and self-indulgence. Whatever authority is to be exercised by the disciples must, like that of Jesus, be rendered as service to others rather than for personal aggrandizement.

Being a servant does not mean allowing people to walk all over us. Sometimes it calls for us to be firm and stand up for ourselves. A parent who always let their child have his or her own way would be doing disservice to their child. A police officer who did not stop traffic violators wouldn't be serving anyone. A teacher who lets a student get by with cheating or not doing their work would be a poor servant as well as a poor teacher. Being a servant is not about popularity. Jesus knew that his service of healing the sick, casting out demons and teaching would change lives, but at the same time be misunderstood, ignored and hated, yet he was ready to lay down his life in order to serve others, proving once and for all that nothing we can do, no matter how terrible it may be, will turn away his love.

### **Special Announcements:**

On October 10<sup>th</sup> we had a wonderful Wednesday night dinner sponsored by Steve and Sarah White and their family. I am profoundly grateful to the White family for the generosity and service to our parish community.

Oktoberfest last Wednesday was a great success with many delicacies and good music. I thank Alice Stadelman for her gracious effort in organizing the event, Sarah Stadelman for the beautiful decorations, Mary and ..... and a everyone who served to make the day memorable for all of us. Thank you very much.

Every year on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, All Souls Day, we commemorate our brothers and sisters who have died with a Mass of Remembrance. During this year's All Souls Mass at Holy Trinity parish, we will pray for all the faithfully departed, but in a special way we will remember our brothers and sisters who passed between November 3, 2017 and November 2, 2018 – especially those buried from our parish – by lighting a candle for each one as their names are called. We will also light candles for those who died in military service and all veterans who have passed. If you lost a loved one this past year, please send us their name before Tuesday, October 30, 2018. I also invite you to join us for this Mass of Remembrance on All Souls day at Holy Trinity Church on Friday, November 2, 2017 at 9:00 am.

I am looking to praying with you in memory of your loved one.

May God bless you and your endeavors this week.

*--Fr. Anthony Ahamefule*