

Pastor's Note: July 26, Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Valuable Treasures!

I can remember as a youngster growing up, my family would take a week's vacation to Ocean City Maryland. I always looked forward to walking on the beach looking at the different sea shells, walking on the boardwalk and eating cheese fries and pizza, and playing miniature golf. One of the memories I have is walking along the beach early in the morning awaiting the sunrise and seeing people with metal detectors and headphones scanning the sand. I asked my dad what they were doing and he stated that the people were looking for treasures! They were looking for coins, chains, rings or anything beach goers left behind the previous day. I can remember my parents telling my sisters and me that real treasures in life are not collecting things, but with our family and friends.

This weekend we celebrate the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time. The readings this weekend focus on looking at what is really important in life. In the first reading from the Book of Kings, we read how a young King Solomon, makes a correct request from God, asking for the wisdom to care for God's people. Realizing that his kingship is a gift from God, he speaks of himself as God's servant. Solomon is prepared to serve God and God's people. In the second reading to the Romans, Paul assures us that God gives us every advantage to grow in faith. God calls us and justifies us through grace, and leads us to glory. In the Gospel of Matthew we conclude the parable chapter as we read the parables of the treasure buried in the field, the merchant searching for fine pearls, and a fishing net thrown into the sea to collect the good and the bad. Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom of God is so valuable, that one should do whatever it takes to obtain it. Our common desire for wealth compares God's kingdom to a fortune waiting to be found or a pearl of great value or good and evil being separated.

Jesus' parables are not about making good business deals, but that the Kingdom of Heaven is as much an encounter as it is a goal. The faithful experience God's kingdom in the action of living our lives. God grants us wisdom to know his nearness each and every day.

We pray for those looking for direction in life. Although it is human to want things, we must make discerning needs our priority.

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Parish Improvements

The Diocese has granted us permission to repair St. Bede School roof. Schultheis Roofing is due to begin work on the repairs the next few weeks. Funds from the school account will be used for this much these much needed repairs.

Schultheis recently inspected the St. James Church roof. According to the inspection report, it is recommended that the entire main roof will need to be replaced in the next three years. This is going to be a major project for our parish. Stay tuned for more information.

John Buch Electric has begun replacing the outdated circuit breaker box inside the Mother of Good Counsel sacristy. They will be installing new light switches to make it easier to turn on and off the lights. They will also update some old plugs in the vestibule.

Ruthrauff Services recently repaired the St. Bede School/ Church Carrier roof air conditioner unit. Water was leaking and they replaced a bad belt.

****We appreciate your continued financial support to St. Mary Magdalene Parish. It is important to use the parish envelopes or participate with online giving so we can continue with the various upgrades at our campuses. Also, since all the former parish checking accounts have now been merged or closed into one checking account, please remember to make all checks payable to St. Mary Magdalene Parish****

Looking Ahead

Confirmation will be held on two Sundays, **September 27 and October 11 at 2 pm at St. Bede Church.** Bishop Zubik has given all pastors the permission to conduct the Sacrament of Confirmation in their parishes this year due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Congratulations to **Marie-Elise Wilson** and **Jacob Calvin Witek** who are being baptized this weekend.

Welcome Home A special welcome to **Holly, Eric, Juliana** and **Andrew Mohr** who recently registered at St. Mary Magdalene.

Something to Think About...

*The more we are transformed by the power of Christ,
the less we will be conformed to this world.*

With God, All Things Are Possible!

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