

Dear Parishioners of Divine Savior and our cherished visitors:

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44--52

For our reflection this weekend, we ponder two more ways that the kingdom of heaven is likened to unique earthly situations. The first parable has to do with someone finding a treasure buried in a field. The person sells all he has to buy that field, treasure and all. At the time of Jesus, there were laws that would have determined the legality of such an adventure. For instance, did the buyer check out whether the seller knew about the treasure? What if the previous owner were deceased and that treasure was part of his estate?

For us, the point is what we are willing to do in order to make the transition from this life to heaven? What will we do so that, like the buyer of the field, we can experience joy here on earth? What in our lives is minimizing or even severely blocking our ability to be joyful? Most of us would not consider our fears, anxieties, shame and worries of great value; in fact, the damage they cause in creating loneliness and a lack of interior awareness of God's Presence that blesses us with joy can be quite severe. Gratefully, God is very happy to rid us of that debris so that we can experience more fully the goodness He wants to share with us here on earth and fully in heaven.

The second parable about a merchant in search of fine pearls presents its unique questions as well. For instance, what will the person use to support himself and any others for whom he is responsible, given that he now has a pearl but nothing else? The point of the parable for us is similar to the previous one. The pearl of great price is a symbol for heaven. While we can't earn our way into heaven, how much are we willing to invest in allowing the grace of God to transform us to be as much a saint as possible so that the transition from earth to heaven is as smooth as possible? What is our focus in life? To what degree are we imitating Jesus in how He became a servant who dedicated His life to revealing God's love while also placing His security solely in the love of God?

Our first reading presents a wonderful example of someone asking God what is most important in life. Granted, Solomon didn't live his entire life displaying this kind of wisdom. Nonetheless, we pray that, like Solomon, we will not hesitate to ask God for what we need in order to fulfill our responsibilities in life at the same time that our focus is on imitating Jesus to the fullest possible degree.

We pray as well that we pause occasionally and reflect on how well we are incorporating into our lives the values by which Jesus lived. Like Solomon, we pray that we will see ourselves as servants of the kingdom. We pray for a heart like Jesus, so that we can feel in the depths of our being the pain that the disadvantaged are suffering. We ask God for the wisdom and the humility to join with others in doing what we can to alleviate the sufferings of those who are wanting. We pray that we will allow the Holy Spirit to help us refine our leadership abilities so that together we can bring about the changes that will allow more people to live the way God intended all of us to live.

~Fr. Roman

Important parish news

Due to the uncertainty of when public Masses will resume as well as when the parish campus will open for ministries, I, with appropriate advice, have had to make some staff changes to maintain a fiscally responsible cash flow, especially in light of our inability to have our two large fund raising events.

All staffing positions were assessed with the goal of maintaining the same level of excellence but reducing hours where possible and reassigning ministries to maintain that excellence. Sharon Laitinen will step down as Director of Adult Faith Formation effective July 30, 2020. To recognize Sharon's many years of dedicated service, the parish prepared a severance package for her and invites all to join for a celebration in the front parking lot on Sunday, August 2nd after the 9am Mass and drive up Communion. I ask for your prayers as we continue navigating the many opportunities presented by the pandemic. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this change, please contact me. ~ Fr. Roman

A message from Sharon ~

Dear Divine Savior Community, It is with sadness and hope that I am leaving my position as the Director of Adult Faith Formation & Sacraments for Divine Savior parish. Recently, I had the chance to reminisce with Fr. Roman regarding my eleven years of service. When I first came to Divine Savior, I was the Director for all the Faith Formation programs, Early Childhood through Adult. Because of the changing times, it was necessary to change my job description to utilize everyone's giftedness to the best degree. Three of my life's goals were accomplished here, supporting the RCIA process, building small Christian communities and moving Faith Formation toward a family-based model.

What's next? Please pray for me as I discern. I'd like to pursue some of my passions. One is to support parents during shelter-in-place as a tutor for their children. Another is to offer private spiritual direction. Because Divine Savior will continue to be my home, I want to volunteer for RCIA and other ministries. I am deeply grateful for my journey with you. This community is a wonderful expression of God's love, and I hope that we can continue to be a witness to a world that needs us now more than ever. You are welcome to email me after July 30 at tedlaitinen@aol.com

Your sister in Christ, *Sharon Laitinen*

Please pray for those who are sick, in pain or recovery, or in need of spiritual healing.

Sheldon Anderson Jr.	Talon Bonanno
Julie Bouse	Eduardo Bravo
Pat Collier	Lauri Comly
Noreen Davis	Michael W. Donner
Carol Dziejcz	JoAnn Elder
Reggie Faulk	Dorothy Feldman
Linda Goulet	Tiffany Gragg
Bud Green	Sandra Harris
Bridgette Hubbard	Martin Jennings
Diane Jones	Carl Larson
Betty Marmon	Vicente Meno
Mauri Murillo	Allen D. Nelson
Glen Newton	Shirley Newton
Patty Nicholson	Jacque Olson
John Padden	Karen Paddock
Linda Parker	Gladys Reilly
Christopher Revak	Roxanne Rosales
Madeline Rose	Gerry Ryden
Donna Schulte	Tom Sekel
Shari Sigl	Isrrael Lopez Silva
Jim Turner	Stella Zipp

*Please pray for the souls of those
who have died:*

Bill Amantea Mary Knepshield

*—For these and all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*

Planning Beyond Retirement in a COVID World - 4 week virtual seminar for Senior Citizens

This online seminar during August is sure to hold some Golden Nuggets for your golden years. For more information and to see all our helpful resources on the Senior Citizens page on the parish website,

[click here.](#)

Liturgy News

We offer two weekend Masses via livestream on Facebook and YouTube: **Saturday at 4:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am.** We will continue to offer drive up Communion immediately after the **9:00am Mass** on Sunday (**Note the time change**).

Daily Mass is livestreamed at 9:00am Monday-Friday.

We will have an outside Mass on August 9th at 7:30am. All current guidelines will remain, including to RSVP for attendance, wearing a mask, maintaining physical distancing before, during and after Mass, and in addition we would ask that everyone bring a chair.

Honoring the Dignity of God's People



One in six children in America live in poverty. In 2018, **4.7 million children were lifted out of poverty** with the help of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and other refundable tax credits; 1.4 million with the help of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); 800,000 with the National School Lunch Program; 216,000 with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); and 169,000 with the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). For more on the social justice principles of our Catholic faith, please go to the Social Justice section of the parish website, [click here](#)

“Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it.” Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them.”

Mark 10: 14-16

Deepening Our Christian Faith - a small faith group study with Fr. Marcel

This Sunday at 2pm, all are welcome to virtually attend Fr. Marcel's small faith group discussion. This week's discussion and reflection will focus on community and the social mission of a parish. Together, let's dig into social justice issues and discover pearls that will help us continue our mission as companions on this journey, here at Divine Savior and in the world.

Please email Fr. Marcel for zoom meeting info or further information at frmarcel@divinesavior.com

Going Deeper with Fr. Roman

Be sure to watch this weeks edition of “Going Deeper” with Fr. Roman: [The Pearl and the Treasures within the Word.](#)



Wondering what to do with your bountiful harvest this year?

Do you have an abundance of fruits and vegetables on your trees and in your gardens?

Are you looking for a way to help out in our community?



Check out the OV-FO Food Bank Summer Harvest! They are currently looking for Volunteers to harvest fruit as well as Property Owners who have fruits and veggies to donate! For more information [click here:](#)