

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Sixteenth Sunday Ordinal Time

July 18th, 2021

Calendar:

- **08/06/21 Frist Friday:** Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast St. John's: 5:30 Breakfast; 6AM Discussion and Prayer; 7AM Eucharistic Adoration; 8AM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
- **08/07/21 Frist Saturday:** 7AM Chanted Morning Prayer and Holy Hour; 8AM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Words from the Pastor

The Gospel of John: Book of Signs: The Gospel of John is also known as the Book of Signs, since Jesus reveals His true identity as the Son of God and the son of man through seven signs. The word "sign" is also used to mean "miracle." Unlike the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke, John does not record very many miracles of Jesus. There are only seven listed in John, but each reveals what we need to know about Jesus. The seven signs are:

- Changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1-11)
- Healing the royal official's son (Jn 4:46-54)
- Healing the paralyzed man at the pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem (Jn 5:1-15)
- Feeding the 5,000 (Jn 6:5-14)
- Walking on water (Jn 6:16-21)
- Healing the man born blind (Jn 9:1-7)
- Raising Lazarus from the dead (Jn 11:1-45)

Each of these signs points us toward the whole point of John's Gospel, which is best summed up in Jn 3:16: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life." The seven signs reveal truths about Jesus, the Word of God.

The first sign — changing water into wine at the wedding at Cana — calls to mind "the hour" when Jesus is glorified upon the cross. In this first sign, we hear Jesus tell Mary that "my hour has not yet come." However, with this first miracle, Jesus sets out firmly on the path to that hour. The water turned into wine is also significant itself, because it had been water meant for washing and now becomes an abundance of wine. The water represents creation and humanity. The wine represents Eternal Life and the Divine Spirit. Jesus clearly teaches that He has come as the man/God to bring humanity into the banquet of Eternal Glory. It also triggers us to think about the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist.

The healing of the official's son takes place at a distance. All Jesus has to do is tell the man: "Go your way. Your son will live." This emphasizes that Jesus' word alone has power and reminds us that he is God, as John's prologue says: "the Word was with God and the Word was God" (Jn 1:1). This sign indicates that Jesus has come for all humanity, not just God's Chosen People, because the official is not Jewish, but pagan.

The third and sixth signs — the healings of the paralyzed man and of the man born blind — both happen on a Sabbath, which leads Jesus into controversy with the religious leaders. These signs reveal Jesus as "the Lord of the Sabbath". In the healing of the paralyzed man, Jesus reveals that He is the source of the True Spirit of Life. The Holy Spirit wells up in Him and is the water that truly heals. In the Sixth sign, Jesus reveals that He is the Lord of the New Heavens and the New Earth, as He demonstrates that He has power to create from nothing. Never was it heard of anyone born without eyes to be able to see. Jesus makes eyes where none existed. He reveals that He is the True Light that reveals the Father in Heaven. All who "see Him" see the Father.

The fourth and fifth signs — feeding of the 5,000 and walking on water — are meant to remind us of how Jesus fulfills the promises of the Old Testament. God fed the Israelites in the desert and parted the waters of the Red Sea before them. In the fourth sign Jesus reveals the heart of our relationship with Him. It is faith. If we "believe the One the Father has sent to us," we will be saved. He instructs us to "eat His flesh and drink His blood, for His flesh is true food, and His blood is true drink. He who eats of it and drinks of it has Eternal Life." The fifth sign reveals that Jesus is not only the Lord of the Living, but also the dead. He walks on the sea (the place of the dead) indicating that He has power over death itself.

The final sign — raising Lazarus from the dead — is the miracle that brought "his hour" upon Jesus. It is because of this act that the Sanhedrin decided Jesus had to die. This last sign also sets the stage for the 8th and greatest revelation of Jesus, which is His own Resurrection from the dead. Which begins His Reign of Glory.

In May of 2021 the Diocese of Fargo granted St. John Nepomucene an emergency loan for \$82,100 for the repair of its roof. \$70,750 plus 3% interest remains on this loan. **This week we received a \$100 donation.** Thank you for everyone's immediate and generous response to this unforeseen need! **Thank You!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!