

Pastor's Desk

Understanding the Mass

(With Dr. Edward Sri)

Because it is such a sacred moment in our liturgy, I'd like to pick up in our journey through the order of the Mass with further reflection on the **Gospel**. The Gospel accounts are not simply stories from the past or distant memories about Jesus. These are God's own inspired words about Christ's life with God himself speaking to his people. The proclamation of the Gospel, therefore, makes Jesus' life present to us in a profound way. We are not spectators in the pew hearing *about* what Jesus once said and did a long time ago in Palestine. We are not listening to a news report about Jesus or to a lecture about a famous religious figure from the first century. Christ speaks personally to each one of us through the divinely inspired words of the Gospel. For example, we do not merely hear *about* Jesus calling people to repent and follow him; we hear Jesus Himself say to us "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt. 4:17). We do not simply hear *about* Jesus forgiving a woman who was caught in adultery. It is as if we hear Jesus say to us in our sorrow over our sins, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again" (Jn. 8:11).

The priest or deacon with his preaching will try to emphasize the truths and increase understanding of the Gospel and of the other Scripture readings with the homily and this is where we will pick up next week.

Sacred Doors

In a very real sense the doors of the church represent Christ Himself who awaits to receive us into sacred space. The doors at St. James Church on the Main Street and Gordon Street sides are currently in bad shape. We would like to do something about that. If you are interested in serving on a small committee to look into repair or replacement of these doors, please call the office. I'm hoping a few hearts will be open to this.

Meeting at Sacred Heart

There will be an informal meeting at Sacred Heart Church in Edwards on Tuesday, July 27, at 6:30 pm. This will simply be a listening session and an opportunity for parishioners to express concerns or ask questions. The meeting will take place in the parish hall and is open to anyone who is interested.

Father Jay