

# ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – SEPTEMBER 15, 2019

## Dear Parishioners and Families,

Last Sunday I spoke to all of you in the following words: “Priests come and go in your parish but the Bible remains as bedrock.” That is why I try to engage you in reading the bible and understanding the readings because you can have biblical inspiration any time day or night when you open Sacred Scripture. Try Luke chapters 14 and 15 this week.

Let me review again Luke Chapter 14 as we also move this Sunday into Chapter 15. September 1<sup>st</sup> we talked about the importance of communication. Jesus communicated even to the Scribes and Pharisees even though there was deep antagonism. We have all seen in our contemporary lives among both children and adults examples of the silent treatment. It is childish. This is the reverse of communication. The silent treatment creates further distance and opposes the Trinitarian model of perfect communication.

While one can speculate why Jesus refused to speak to Herod, two strong indications were given in the Gospel. The first, Herod put John in prison and then had him decapitated. (Luke 3: 19-20). Recall that John and Jesus were contemporaries, close cousins, and clearly loving friends. (Luke 7: 18-29). Secondly, Herod wanted a magic show (Luke 22:8-12). This would deeply offend Jesus in his passion journey because he was presenting God, not magic. The result is an ultimate failure, God will not speak to Herod.

Last week Jesus reflected after dinner with the Pharisees that one must never put anything in the way of God’s continued invitation toward the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is the **Pearl of great price**. One goes and sells whatever is necessary in order to acquire it. The lesson presented to each of us is whether we place something between the pearl of great price (Jesus) and the Kingdom of Heaven.

Luke’s Chapter 15, the readings for today, are three parables of God’s mercy. Jesus looks for the lost sheep, the woman searches for the lost coin, and finally the Parable of the Prodigal Son and Forgiving Father. God does not wear out in offering mercy and favor. Pope Francis in his Exhortation Rejoice and Be Glad speaks about God’s forbearance. “An essential condition for progress and discernment is a growing understanding of God’s patience and his timetable which are never our own.”

## **Two Important Announcements**

The auditor employed by the Catholic Diocese of Youngstown sent a note on August 29<sup>th</sup> indicating each parish develop a log for those having keys and also a receipt for keys given out to individuals. Both of these documents should be signed and kept on file in the parish office. “Every key should have a unique number for tracking.” We shall begin calling in keys so we can develop a log and stamp them.

This Saturday we will begin another course of Immigration Toward the Catholic Faith at 10:30 AM in room 4 of the North Building. If you are interested in joining what appears to be a fairly substantial group, please call the office so that we can have sufficient seating, Sandy: 628-9941.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J  
September 15, 2019