Where is your treasure?” Luke 12
In Chapter 12 of Luke’s Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples and the crowd on how to be ready for the coming judgment. A crowd of many thousands has gathered to hear Jesus. At first he speaks only to the disciples, reminding them that it is not persecution they should fear but the judgment that is coming for all who do not acknowledge the Son of Man. Suddenly a man in the crowd shouts out to Jesus, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.” He seems to have grown tired of Jesus speaking only to the disciples. Jesus offers the man no help. Instead he uses the question to teach what, in light of the coming judgment, life really consist of.

Jesus tells the crowd a parable. A rich man’s lands have yielded more crops than expected. His response is not to consider how he might share all the extra food with others but to wonder how he can possibly store it all. He has what he thinks is a brilliant idea: to tear down his present barns and build larger ones. Then he will have many things stored up for years of eating, drinking, and making merry.

“You fool” is God’s response to this man because that very night his life will be taken away. To whom will everything belong then, God asks. The rich man’s world is small, just him and his possessions, and now he learns that he is to lose his life. What good are his possessions now? Jesus states the moral of the story. This is how it will be for everyone who stores up treasure for himself or herself but is not rich in what matters to God.

Centuries later St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist in possessions but in sharing what we possess with others. The goods of the earth have been given to everyone.

From Loyola Press “Sunday Connections”

The Treasure Hunt

The treasury we are culturally encouraged to seek can ultimately leave us impoverished. As Jesus states in Luke’s gospel, “…and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong? Thus it will be for all those who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God.” To avoid a futile life journey, we, as believers, are called to seek a Christ-centered treasure. What does that look like?

The product of our search should ultimately be union with God, ourselves, and others. Its outcome is harmony and balance. Karl Jung, (1865-1971), the ground-breaking Swiss psychiatrist and psychoanalyst, believed that each of us has a “whole-making instinct,” the dimension of ourselves that drives one to deeper inclusivity, the balancing of opposites, a simple compassion towards the self, and the ability to recognize and forgive others.

In an attempt to attain these spiritual abilities, most of us have relied on external laws and ritual behavior. Fr. Richard Rohr, in his new book, The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe, suggests that each of us should dare to engage in listening to our deepest selves, our intuitive knowing.

While this may initially feel like this is merely “our own thoughts and feelings,” these innermost thoughts can lead us to authentic compassion, forgiveness, and generosity towards ourselves and others. If we truly believe that God put his stamp of approval on all of creation through Christ, then our human thoughts and feelings are examples of incarnation. If incarnation is true, God attempts to speak to us through our own thoughts, when we dare to listen. Jung writes, “My pilgrim’s progress has been to climb down a thousand ladders until I could finally reach out a hand of friendship to the little clod of earth that I am.”

Whereas the treasure of our gospel’s rich man leads to unjustified pride, incompleteness, greed, and ultimate emptiness, this lifelong, humble treasure hunt of inner journeying has the powerful capability of widening our vision to see God’s grace in all things. Discovering God in the depths of our own souls is the treasure of finding the true God and ourselves at the same time.

Dede Waters-Masters

Our Lady Of The Wayside

Sat. Aug. 3 4:30 pm Victims of violence
Sun. Aug. 4 9:30 am Brunso & Tella Families (+)

In your charity, please pray for...

Teresa Bautista, Maria da Ponte, Sarah Lucas, Holly Hermansen, Pier Iglesias, Rosa Sharif, John Hunter, Janice Varell, Anselmo Briones, Grace Kohan, Ken Newell    Names will be removed monthly unless you let the office know. Thank you.
Stewardship

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Donation Corner

“Save Time and Donate Online!”

Online Giving is available for parishioners with WeShare, an easy and convenient way to save time and support the church. Donating is simple, safe, and completely secure. If you would like to enroll in Online Giving, please visit our website stdenisparish.org, and follow the links. If you have any questions or concerns about the program or would like help setting up your account, please call WeShare at
KeepinG Kids Catholic: Faith Formation Day

Saturday, Aug 24th  9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Here at St. Denis Parish hall
The Parish Catechetical Leaders and Master Catechists of (Southern San Mateo County) are please to present a one-day seminar for parents and catechists. There will be 4 workshop sessions to choose from and FREE LUNCH! All parents and catechists are welcome! Contact Lucy Soltau to sign up at lsoltau@stdenisparish.org

Pray Outside—One of the biggest challenges in prayer life is indoor distractions such as television, computers, video games, and household tasks. Summer weather give us an opportunity to step outside and away from many of the things that disrupt our relationship with God. This summer, spend time outside praying, reading Scripture, and being attentive to God’s voice.

St. Vincent de Paul Twilight Fashion Show

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of San Mateo County (SVdP) invites you to “This Is Us,” an evening to support and celebrate the courageous women of SVdP’s Catherine Center, who with the Center’s unique holistic approach are transforming their lives. The Happy Hour & Fashion Show in Trinity Church’s beautiful courtyard celebrate these women blossoming into new life. The women will model fashions from SVdP’s thrift stores. The evening, produced by Kim Selby, includes cocktails, mocktails, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are $75. Tickets can be purchased and donations can be made. Tuesday, August 13, 5:30 - 7:30 pm Trinity Church, 330 Ravenswood Ave., Menlo Park Information: 650-343-1272 klang@svdpsm.org

Grow With Your Faith This Summer

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