

July 26, 2020

Ordinary Time
Seventeenth Sunday



Letting Go of All But God

What would you ask God for if you had a chance to wish for something? Solomon's prayerful interchange with God prepares us to grasp the challenge of Jesus' teaching. The twin parables of the treasure and the pearl affirm the supreme value of the Kingdom of God. We are invited to ask ourselves whether the message of the parables rings true for us. Is my desire for the Kingdom of God so profound that I am willing to let go of everything else in order to know God's purpose for my life? This desire is God-given, without it our lives lose their vitality and our hearts grow cold.

Today's bulletin is sponsored by Gussie Machalec in memory of Paul Machalec, Jr.

MASS INTENTIONS

Friday, August 31

8:00 a.m. Susie & Henry Butschek Family

Sunday, August 2

9:00 a.m. Eugene A Patalik, Sr.,
Julia & Anton Stryk (Praha)

Owing to the uptick of Covid-19 in Texas and for the safety of parishioners all Masses with a congregation under the pavilion in Moulton & Praha have been cancelled for the remainder of the month of July.



*** **Outdoor Mass with a congregation will resume August 2nd. Face masks and social distancing protocol will be required at all Masses.** ***

Sunday Mass will continue to be available on demand for viewing on our Facebook Page: St Joseph's & St Mary's - Moulton/Praha, TX and on our website www.stjosephsmoulton.org.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Clarence Bohuslav, Gail & Matthew Maskey and all those in our community suffering from the Corona Virus.

ST. JOSEPH'S SOCIAL CENTER FUND



We are very grateful to the following for their recent donation to the St. Joseph's Social Center Fund:

Shirley & Jordan Dees - \$250

In Memory of Bea Bohuslav

Nancy Sivyer - \$25

Elyse & Eugene Chaloupka - \$25

In Memory of Frank Darilek

Linda Muehlstein - \$50

Rhonda & Glen Muehlstein - \$50

In Memory of Marie Schumacher

Margaret & Larry Berckenhoff - \$50

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH REPAIR FUND



We thank the following for their contributions:

Lorene & Dennis Fishbeck - \$5,000

Mary Ann & Patrick Wenske - \$500

Anonymous Donor - \$5,000

In Memory of Allan Butschek

In Memory of Marie Schumacher

Dana & Steve Blahuta - \$50

To make a tax-deductible donation you may go to our website www.stjosephsmoulton.org and donate online or make a donation directly to St. Joseph's Church.

ST. JOSEPH'S MEMORIAL FUND

In Memory of Evelyn & Frank Darilek

Minnie Lee Fisbeck

ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY FUND

In Memory of Bea Bohuslav

Frank Darilek and Marie Schumacher

Lorene & Dennis Fishbeck

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145

Second Reading: Romans 8:35, 37-39

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

REFLECTION

Acquiring the Only Worthwhile Treasure The Kingdom of Heaven

Today we read three more comparisons that Jesus uses to help his disciples understand what he means by the *Kingdom of Heaven*. In both the parable of the buried treasure and the story of the pearl of great price, the person recognizes the value of his find and joyfully sells all he has in order to have that which is most valuable. Jesus' disciples must do the same. The third comparison is quite different from the other two parables. Just like the parable of the weeds and wheat of last week, the parable of the dragnet is used to teach that we are each accountable for our actions. The end for those who do good and those who do evil is not the same.

There is something about the Kingdom that resembles God's gift freely offered to us in today's first reading. Appearing to Solomon, God invites him to ask for whatever he would like. This demonstrates the generosity of God. The treasure we find is really a gift that is given. We need not work to attain it. The Kingdom is something God is doing. It is not a possession to be acquired. It is given to us by God. All we have to do is to accept it. In a sense the Kingdom of Heaven is ours for the asking. Unfortunately, we do not always recognize its value, and we do not ask for it.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 27 – Catherine Wenske
July 28 – Matthew Terra
July 29 – Ervin Patek
July 30 – Molly Jalufka
July 31 – Barbara Anderle
Aug. 1 – Annie Mae Berckenhoff, Anita Drabek,
Stephen Gold, Steven Nieto, Charles Tomek

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

July 28 – Phyllis & Kenneth Schoenfeld
July 29 – Debbie & Eugene Pilat
July 31 – Dolores & Ben Scott

The Gift Received Is A Gift Given

The Gospel concentrates on the treasured character of the Kingdom. The First Reading adds another dimension to our consideration. Having been given the opportunity to choose any blessing he might desire, Solomon chose to be of service to others. In this he is a model for disciples to follow. We have discovered the treasure in the field; we have found the pearl of great price; we have been blessed with the Kingdom of God. What we have been given, we must now give to others. We can be assured that it will be with us as it was with Solomon. In giving we will lose nothing. In fact, we gain an abundance of blessings. All things work for good, and God is glorified in all. Such is the character of the Kingdom of God.

LITURGICAL ORIENTATION

Looking Ahead

From the 18th to the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When Jesus finished these parables, he went away from there. (Matthew 13:53)

This formula indicates, that we are coming to a new part in the Gospel of Matthew. The preceding Sundays centered on the mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. The coming Sundays concern the community of disciples, the Church which will be built after the Lord's resurrection. In this ensemble, the Gospel readings focus on the topic of faith in Jesus, who multiplies the loaves, who comes to the aid of his own when their boat is tossed about by the storm, who answers a foreigner's prayer.

Eighteenth Sunday:

1st Reading – Isaiah 55:1-3

Come to the water.

Psalm – Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

You satisfy every desire.

2nd Reading – Romans 8:35, 37-39

What can separate us from the love of Christ?

Gospel – Matthew 14:13-21

They ate and were satisfied.

Nineteenth Sunday:

1st Reading – 1 Kings 19:19a, 11-13a

God was in the whispering sound.

Psalm – Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

The Lord proclaims peace.

2nd Reading – Romans 9:1-5

Cut off for the sake of my people.

Gospel – Matthew 14:22-33

Let me come to you on the water.



Twentieth Sunday:

1st Reading – Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

I will bring all to my holy mountain.

Psalm – Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Let all nations praise you.

2nd Reading – Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

God's gifts are irrevocable.

Gospel – Matthew 15:21-28 Woman, great is your faith.

What We Can Learn From Dogs

- When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- When it's in your best interest, practice obedience.
- Let others know when they invade your territory.
- Take naps and stretch before rising.
- Eat with enthusiasm.
- Be loyal.
- When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
- When something you want is buried, dig until you find it.
- Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
- No matter how often you are scolded, don't dwell on it, run right back and make friends.

