

**For The Bulletin Of
February 26, 2017**



**THE EIGHTH SUNDAY IN
WINTER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Today's gospel is full of questions, just as our everyday living is. We struggle with providing for our needs, having enough for retirement, worrying about paying mounting bills. And so we often ask, how will we manage? Where will we be in ten years? How can we not worry? Amidst the myriad questions that fill this gospel and daily living, we are invited to strike a balance between having an overly confident trust in ourselves and our own abilities, on the one hand, and not having too naïve a dependence on God on the other hand.

Everyday living requires that we both engage with providing ourselves with what we need as well as turning ourselves to God Who provides all. It's all about perspective and Jesus tells us what is a proper perspective: we are to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." In all we do, we must keep God and right relationship before us as our guiding perspective. The issue of the gospel is not our time and

concerns; the issue is who or what master controls our decisions and their outcomes. Beginning with the conviction that God cares and provides for us, our only overriding worry ought to be how strong we seek God and divine righteousness.

It is natural to worry about immediate things that affect our daily living like food and shelter, job security and paying bills. We usually don't worry about ultimate things. Our own short-sightedness can leave us quite impoverished. Jesus challenges us to a longer view: "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." With this perspective our wealth is assured, but it is not a wealth counted by met needs, worry-free security, or material possessions. The wealth God offers is the Life given those embraced by God's tender love – Life lived today, tomorrow, and for eternity.

Jesus tells us that we cannot serve "two masters." Clearly, He is pitting exclusive concern ("worry") with ourselves, our wants, our needs against single-mindedly seeking "the kingdom of God and His righteousness." We are not to neglect our legitimate needs, but to keep them in proper perspective. We must "not worry" but look beyond today and even tomorrow. In everything we do, we must serve only one Master, the God Who lavishly provides and cares for us – today, tomorrow, and even unto fullness of Life forever.

Living The Paschal Mystery

Our perspective on life, on what matters to us, on what drives our decisions is revealed to us in many ways. We need only to look at our possessions, preoccupations, what motivates us.

When we become caught up in serving our social status or image, our acquisition of things, our professional success, even our own self-righteousness, we afflict ourselves with the anxieties such priorities always engender. When we choose to serve God – make God the Master-center of our lives, - we enter a realm of internal freedom and wealth beyond calculation.

The gospel invites us to turn our attention to what truly matters – the Life only God can give. What is Jesus telling us must be our first concern in life? While being attentive to having the food and clothing, etc. that is normal and necessary, our priority must be what God offers and only God can give eternal care, eternal Life.

On this last Sunday of Winter’s Ordinary Time, the gospel continues to challenge us. How have these past seven weeks prepared us to enter into the Season of Lent?

- I find myself worrying most when...What I worry most about is...
- My “master” is...
- I recognize that what I do today and even tomorrow goes beyond...

About Liturgy: Liturgy’s Proper Perspective

Just as it is so easy to get caught up in the wrong everyday concerns and end up fretting and worrying about many things, so it is easy to get caught up in the wrong liturgical priorities and lost sight of what we are really doing when we gather to worship. Because liturgy comprises a rather complex ritual with many details, it is easy to lose sight of

the bigger picture and proper perspective we are assembled primarily to give God thanks and praise.

Rather than whether we like the choice of music, the personality of the presider, the friendliness of the hospitality ministers, the informal atmosphere, (and none of these elements are unimportant!), liturgy calls us to have a different perspective, a different focus. God is first and our attention is directed there through surrender to the ritual prayer, encountering God through many divine Presences, making a good effort to hear God’s words spoken to us in the readings, entering into remembering God’s saving deeds on our behalf, offering ourselves as a pleasing gift along with the bread and wine, opening ourselves to being transformed by God’s Presence and grace, praying for the living and the dead of the whole world, accepting the disciples’ duty to live the celebration upon dismissal.

It is actually much easier to be more concerned with right music, postures, movement, etc., than it is to be concerned about focusing on God and the fullness of life that God offers us each time we gather to celebrate liturgy. The former can be quickly forgotten upon leaving the church building; the latter shapes a life.



Please Return Your Dried Palms

Each year we invite you to return your dried palms from the previous Palm Sunday to be burned and become the

ashes which we take upon ourselves on Ash Wednesday. Palms are to be returned to the receptacle provided in the narthex today, Sunday, February 26th. The palms will be solemnly burned in the brazier in the Gathering Plaza at the conclusion of the Liturgy this coming Tuesday morning, February 28th.



Remember man
that you are
dust and into
dust you shall
return.

Lent begins this coming Wednesday, March 1, with **Ash Wednesday**. Our schedule of liturgies are as follows:
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes
7:30 p.m. Sung Evening Prayer with the Blessing and Imposition of Ashes



Beginning Friday, March 3rd, the First Friday of Lent, our **Knights of Columbus** will once again be offering

their Lenten Fish Fry from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bingo will also be offered as a part of the evening. Dinners may be eaten in or taken out. Beer and Wine are offered when dining in at a nominal cost and delicious desserts are available without charge for those who dine in. The Lenten Fish Fry will continue on all the Fridays of Lent with the last dinner being held on Friday, April 7th. Bring your family and friends! All are welcome and invited. All proceeds benefit the charitable programs of our Knights of Columbus.



An Invitation From St. John's Lutheran

This afternoon you are invited to join with me and our sisters and brothers at St. John's Lutheran Church for a program to begin the 500th Anniversary Celebration of the Reformation. It begins at 4:30 p.m. and goes until 6:00 p.m. A film will be shown on the Reformation and there will be a time for questions and discussion.

Also, please reserve Sunday, October 29th, for the major East County Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation here at St. Ignatius of Antioch at 4:00 p.m. when we will host area churches for a liturgy at which the Lutheran Bishop along with **Pastor Will McGarvey, Executive Director of the Contra Costa Interfaith Council and Pastor of Community Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pastor Linda**

Vogelgesang of St. John's Lutheran, Father Tom Bonacci of the Interfaith Peace Center, myself, and other area clergy will join with our congregations to mark this historic event. Please watch the bulletin and my insert for more information as the date draws near.



The Rite of Sending and The Rite of Election

Next Sunday, March 5th, during our 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending for the adults and children who are preparing for initiation at the Great Vigil of Easter. The candidates will be invited to sign the Book of the Elect which will be brought to the Cathedral for the Rite of Election that same day at 4:00 p.m. It is in this liturgy that The Bishop officially “elects” them for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Holy Eucharist. Please continue to pray for (list names of candidates) as they take this next important step in their journey of faith.



...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Mency Osborne, Sofie Zimmerman, Cathy Romeo, and Angela Bueno.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall: **Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Virginia Noack, Steve Rojek, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Jeannine Ford, Sofie Zimmerman, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Judy Quicho and Vangie Parrilla.**



Our Newly-Confirmed Adults
Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, Peter Degl'Innocenti and myself with our newly-confirmed: **Arnoldo Rajo, Ashley Rodrigues, Nicole Rodriguez and Kyle Trevarthen.** Congratulations once again!