

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

24th Sunday of Ordinal Time

September 13th, 2020

Prayer for Spiritual Communion: **My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.**

Calendar:

- **9/17/20** Thursday: 6AM Daily Mass due to Catholic Radio
- **9/17/20** Thursday: Fr. Lefor on 1370AM Real Presence Live from 9 to 11 AM. Call in 9:30 to 10:00 1-877-795-0122
- **Oct 22-Nov3, 2020 Holy Land Trip with Fr. Lefor** is officially postponed due to the Corona Virus. Fr. Lefor will lead a trip to the Holy Land Oct 22-Nov 3, 2021. Marian travel will allow you to transfer down payments to next year's planned pilgrimage. Let us hold one another in prayer and also pray that this world pandemic will soon come to an end.

Pastor's Reflections:

- Thank you so much for the women who put together an absolutely delicious meal for the Deanery Meeting. The priests and guests were very grateful and well satisfied!
- Thank you to everyone who donated and worked hard for St. John's Rummage Sale this past week. In spite of Covid it is good to have some "normal" events take place!
- Thoughts on today's readings: The unforgiving sinner clings to anger, resentment, and vengeance (today's first reading). The unforgiving sinner goes before the court to demand what is "his due." He accuses his opponent night and day without ceasing (Book of Revelation). When he does not get "what he deserves" he exacts vengeance on his neighbor. This spiritual condition and the acting out of this spiritual condition leaves God the Father with no other choice than to judge

the unforgiving sinner with “his due,” with “what he deserves,” and exacts vengeance upon him.

“Love your neighbor as yourself” Jesus instructs us. The problem is that we do “love our neighbor as our self!” If I hold anger and resentment against my neighbor than it guarantees that I am holding anger and resentment against myself!

The solution is to “love my neighbor as myself!” So how do I go about loving myself rightly? The answer lies in God the Father’s love for me. In today’s second reading from St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans, Paul declares that we do not belong to ourselves. We have been purchased and at a great price; the Blood of the Lamb! God the Father has purchased us with the Blood of His Own Son! Therefore, I belong to the Father! The temptation is to be resentful about not being my own, until I learn to receive the Father’s healing love. I am not His slave. I am His Son! This changes everything! My Father owns all the banks in the world! In other words there is no debt that my Father cannot pay! In relationship to anyone who owes me, I have the advantage. My Father has my back. I can afford to cancel all debts that are owed to me!

Please Father, forgive me exactly how I forgive my neighbor!

- St. John’s Finance Council has approved two projects to improve the property of St. John’s. 1) The rain gutters and down spouts must be replaced to correct water damage that is occurring to the siding, windows, and foundation due to rain runoff. These will be replaced in October. 2) The ditch east of the church will be cleaned and tiled in order to fix the sump pump runoff problem.
- The new gutters and down spouts will cost \$4,500. The ditch project will run around \$3,000. If anyone feels called to donate to the expenses of these projects it would be greatly appreciated.

Tri-Parish Loan for Rectory update: In 2017 a loan of \$183,000 was received from the Diocese to acquire a new rectory. To date \$14,519 at 4.5% interest remains on the balance. We have paid \$7,150 of interest on this loan since 2017. **Thank you to all who have been so generous!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!