

Welcome to The Church of the Sacred Heart

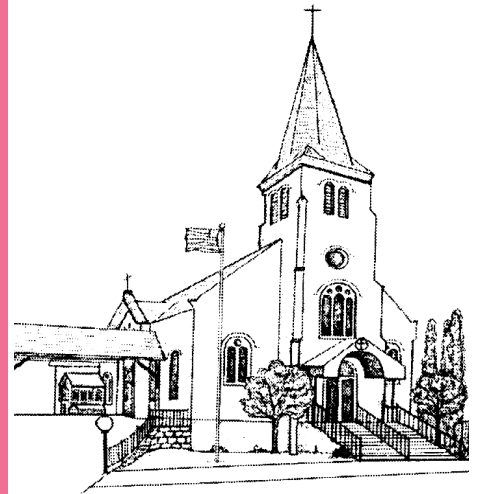
The Mother Church of East Central Minnesota

Parish Office / Mailing Address:
415 West 5th Street

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Weekend & Weekday Masses

Saturday-Temporarily Suspended
Sunday 9:00 am
Wednesday 9:00 am

Private Prayers:

Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays-
8:30-Noon

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Every Wednesday after 9:00 am Mass
until Noon

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Confessions will be heard by request
after mass on Wednesdays or
by appointment.

Clergy

Pastor:

Fr. Shane Stoppel-Wasinger

Assisting Priest:

Fr. Chuck Brambilla
Fr. Thomas Fitzgerald

Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
8:00 am. - 12:00 pm.

Parish Staff Contacts

Admin Asst: Marsha Marcussen
Bookkeeper/ Music: Steve Yurick
Faith Formation: Claire Kind
Minister Scheduling: Amy Prickett
612-716-9147



25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"Are you envious because I am generous?" Thus, the last
will be first, and the first will be last." - Mt 20:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, September 20, 2020



FIRST READING:

As high as the heavens are
above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.
(Is 55:9)



PSALM:

The Lord is near to all who call



SECOND READING:

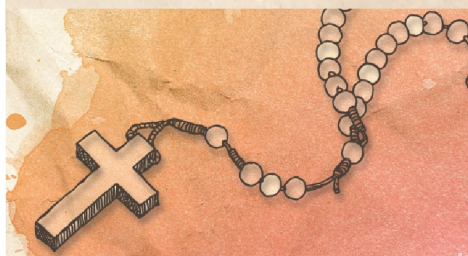
Brothers and sisters:
Christ will be magnified in my body,
whether by life or by death. (Phil 1:20c)



GOSPEL:

“Take what is yours and go.
What if I wish to give this last one
the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish
with my own money?
Are you envious because
I am generous?”
Thus, the last will be first, and the
first will be last.

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
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WORSHIP & MEDITATION



If I work for five hours, I expect to get paid for five hours. If I work for two, I expect to get paid for two. What if we worked for a company that paid everyone the same amount regardless of how long they worked? How would we feel going home with the same pay for working eight hours as my co-worker did for working only two hours? Secular wisdom would have a huge problem with this and a visit to the Labor Board would quickly pursue. But this is God's wisdom and God's ways.

We sometimes think that if we pray more, better, or more fervently and go over and above with the practice of our faith, God will somehow reward us and present us with some kind of merit badge. We are so wrong. Spiritual practices have only one true purpose: to deepen our love for God. In deepening our love for God, we also increase our ability to see God's presence around us, living life more purposefully and contemplatively. What if God chooses to treat someone who has come on the scene of faith later in life the same as someone who has devoted their whole lives to it? Does it really matter? If we have the merit badge notion of faith, we can find ourselves feeling a little arrogant and even jealous of folks who have not followed the same path that we have. We can even see ourselves as the privileged few who have a corner on the faith and fully possess it.

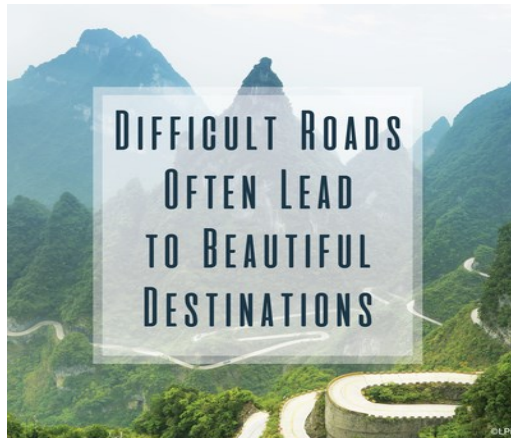
That thinking doesn't square with God. God is all about mercy in abundance and is ready to take anyone to himself regardless of when they come. He is only happy that they have come home and delights in their return. After all, if you really and truly love someone, does it matter what they will give you in return or what you receive as a benefit? If relationships were assessed based upon productivity, they would lack authentic love. We invest too much self interest in our prayer and neglect to see it as an opportunity to pursue our Lover and deepen the intimate bond we have with God.

When we breathe our last, all that is of consequence is union with God. If my love for God is real, I am going to want to live the Gospel, abide by the commandments, practice my faith, forgive and love my neighbor, and care for the environment, regardless of how much time it takes or benefits me. We want God to think and behave as we do, and in doing so, we set ourselves up for disappointment. God has a totally different agenda and that's okay.

If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn't He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He's not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealousy, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!



FAITH FORMATION REGISTRATION

Faith Formation Registration forms will be mailed to Sacred Heart families this week. Registration forms are due on September 14 for 9th & 10th graders and September 22 for 1st - 8th graders. More information will follow about online classes.



Father God, Your Word says the prayer of faith shall heal the sick. We come to You today in Faith asking that you heal us from every sickness, disease, and illness. We receive our healing by faith. In Jesus name AMEN.

Continued prayers for:

Sue Roth, Janet Yurick, Gerald Mollberg, Jim Thorn, Judy Strandmark, Shirley Kirchberg Traci Bartz, Joseph Schwaab, Grace Schwaab, David Gamache, George Stenger Jr., Erin Hestbeck Mielke

FOOD SHELF DONATIONS

Get more value for your donations by giving cash! Please note "Food Shelf" on your envelope. If you do donate food, please, no produce that can spoil. Thank you.

September 26 & 27 Celebrants

Fr. Fitzgerald	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Fitzgerald	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.

October 3 & 4 Celebrants

Fr. Shane	St. Gregory	5:00 p.m.
Fr. Shane	Sacred Heart	9:00 a.m.

Be Sure to Look the Part

I used to coach my oldest son in soccer when he was younger. As he got older, he would go to tryouts for select and high school teams. I was no longer the coach, but I always shared with him one piece of advice before any tryout: Be sure to look the part. I told him that if he showed up looking like a soccer player, there was an increased chance of him being seen as a soccer player. If he showed up looking like a kid that plays soccer in video games as opposed to the real thing, he might not be taken seriously. As he grew older, that same advice was then applied to getting a job. It's advice I have heeded myself all my life. You can even say it is like another common phrase: "Fake it till you make it."

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we certainly do not want to fake it, but we do need to look the part. The world looks at those of us who proclaim to be Christians to see if there is anything to this way of life. If they see us looking and acting like people transformed by Jesus Christ, they will be more likely to take Christianity seriously. If they look at us and see nothing different, then they can easily conclude that there is nothing different about Jesus Christ. He just becomes simply another religious figure of history. Can the world see the power of Christ in you? How well do you look the part?

— Tracy Earl Welliver