



Dear Parishioners,

This coming weekend, September 7 & 8, is the weekend for the annual mission appeal for our parish. This year we welcome Msgr. Jerome Feudjio from the diocese of the U.S. Virgin Islands who will be celebrant for the Masses and talking about the needs of his diocese in his homily. As you might be aware, the Archdiocese assigns us who it is that will make the appeal. Envelopes from the Archdiocese will be provided and you will have a couple of weeks following the appeal to return your contribution. As disciples of Jesus and members of His Catholic Church, we remember that we have the call and responsibility to assist our fellow Catholics throughout the world. So, in this spirit of charity and evangelization, I encourage all generously to support the appeal.

Since I have to attend the biannual meeting of the National Advisory Council of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops I will be in Baltimore September 5-8. Because of this, there will not be a First Saturday Mass and Adoration of the Eucharist on the morning of September 7. Please pray for me and the other members of the National Advisory Council from throughout our nation who are chosen by our bishops to provide input on the various issues that they address at their meetings in November and June each year.

Have a grace-filled and wonderful week.

God bless you,
Fr. Gutowski

SEPT. 2 THRU SEPT. 8

Monday	Priest's Intention
Tuesday	Priest's Intention
Wednesday	Priest's Intention
Thursday	Priest's Intention
Friday	Loretta Patry
Saturday	Bill Urbanski
Sunday	People of St. Joseph



The Ladies Guild Soup Supper and Raffle will be Saturday, October 19. Mark your calendar so you may plan to attend with your family and friends. Also, items and gifts for the raffle are greatly appreciated. The most popular items are gift cards to grocery stores. However, all gifts and crafts are welcome. If you have questions, call Karen Schmidt (402) 253-2575 or Danette Thibault (402)-490-2614.



Please welcome the following families to our parish:
Nathan & Amanda Staroscik and Trevor & Jill Fiala and their sons Nick and Easton, all from Louisville and Mark & Lisa Houlton and their children, Luke, Levi, Mitchell and Mary from Omaha.

“Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding”. Proverbs 3:5

Good News Reflection

September 1, 2013

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Psalm 68:4-7, 10-11

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a

Luke 14:1, 7-14

This Sunday's Gospel reading raises the question: What are my expectations (my motivations) when I do good? How other-centered are they? How *self*-centered?

If benefiting others is done for the sake of receiving something in return, our motive is not Christ-like.

Jesus explains this with the example of inviting to a banquet those who cannot return the favor. He's not saying that we have to do this to be holy. That interpretation would be too literal; it misses the point.

The real message is that whatever we do, we should do it for the sake of love, rather than for repayment, i.e., for our own gain. We should do good to others for the sake of the benefit it will give to them. This seems like a no-brainer, but stop for a minute to think about how much you'd like to be thanked and appreciated. What else do you hope to get from the good you do?

Even when someone sins against us and we pray for them to repent, our prayer should be offered out of concern for their souls. Sure, we also wish they would change so that our own lives will be easier, but that should not be our primary concern.

As followers of Christ, if we receive any blessings in return for the good we do, that's our bonus, not our motive. We can rightly look forward to such bonuses, but our joy does not depend on them.

By becoming aware of our motives and expectations, we gain the freedom to choose to be more like Jesus. As he promised, "You will receive your reward at the resurrection of the righteous." The fulfillment of this promise begins now, in the moment that we decide to be like the Resurrected One, our Lord Jesus.

The reward he gives us here and now is the grace that enables us to do whatever he asks and to do it generously and cheerfully. We'll receive other blessings besides, but that's not our main motive.

Questions for Personal Reflection:

How upset do you get when others treat you unkindly after you've been nice to them? When the give-and-take in a relationship is unequal, do you withhold goodness from that person? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you notice your selfish motives this week. Take your anger to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and ask Jesus to empower you to care more about those people who have been upsetting you.

Questions for Family & Community Faith Sharing:

Describe a situation when you gave more than you received. How did God bless you in that? How was your sacrifice an example of Christ?

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