

From the Desk of Father Ed:

Dear Parishioners,

A man approached Jesus in our Gospel this weekend and asked Him, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus told Him, "You know the Commandments." The man replied that he had indeed followed all the Commandments.

Our second reading from Hebrews reminds us that the "word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword...no creature is concealed from Him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of Him..." Jesus, the Word of God, saw into the heart of this man in our Gospel and said to him, "You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me. At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions."

In our first reading this weekend from the Book of Wisdom, attributed to King Solomon who wrote, "I prayed and prudence was given me; I pleaded and the spirit of wisdom came to me. I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her...Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands."

The man in our Gospel this weekend preferred worldly possessions over the heavenly riches that Jesus offered him. The man did not recognize the value and richness of the truth and wisdom that Jesus was offering him when He told him to give all he owned to the poor and to follow Him. St. Peter said to Jesus, "We have given up everything and followed you." Jesus promised St. Peter and all of us that the reward will be great, "...a hundred times more in this present age, with persecutions,...and eternal life in the age to come." Jesus reminded St. Peter of the promise of eternal life but also that persecutions and suffering are part of following Christ.

The man in our Gospel went away sad because he was unable to part with his many possessions and follow Jesus. Let us always be mindful of the poor and rid ourselves of everything that prevents us from following the Lord. We belong to Jesus and not to the things of the earth. Let us pray for the gift of wisdom to seek the things of heaven and to follow our Lord.

Parish Life:

Our Bishop's Annual Appeal is currently underway. Thank you for your support in the past. This weekend is our in-pew commitment weekend. Last year our parish received a rebate of \$2,062 because of your generosity. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

A special thanks for supporting the Respect Life Baby Shower. Many needed baby items were purchased and donated to Good Council and Birth Haven. Thanks to Rita Wenning and the many volunteers who helped organize this year's Baby Shower.

Thanks to Father Anthony Mastroeni for his inspiring and powerful talk and leading our Respect Life Sunday Prayer Service. Fr. Anthony reminded us of the need to pray the rosary everyday to regain the Culture of Life.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,
Father Ed,
Pastor