Dear Friends in Christ,

In these times with virus, I have found our lives to be so similar to a roller coaster. Just as we adjust to a new part in our lives, another big headline hits the news as we continue our march into the second half of 2020. Many theologians and speakers have made comments, but whatever they may say, what is true is our Lord is testing us all to see how strong is our faith in Him.

We hear of the parable of the sower and the seed in this weekend’s Gospel. The traditional interpretation of this text relates to the firmness or lack thereof of our faith in the Most Holy Trinity.
Everything that we have gone through this year is a test of our personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. As a Catholic Church, currently and in the upcoming months, will be telling to witness where each of our faith resides.

Whenever our Church doors are more freely opened with less restrictions in place because it has been determined that it is safer to attend Mass again with masks and hand sanitizer no longer required, what will our Catholic Church look like? Will we see everyone return to Mass? Will people have grown too comfortable in remaining at home to assist at Holy Mass? Will our Church grow in its members, or will our Church shrink in its numbers?

Having our faith rooted in rich soil and being sowed by our Lord Jesus Christ is the only way that our beloved Catholic Faith will come out of this virus with strength and firmness. If you haven’t already, do a self-reflection:

Have I drawn closer to our Lord since the lock down four months ago? Have I become complacent in my faith? Am I yearning for Holy Mass? Am I going to change my way of life if I realize that I am not in rich soil and thus our Lord Jesus Christ cannot sow me well? Do I even accept that this is important for myself?

Go to Mother Mary, and she will guide you down the better path during these unique days that will lead you closer to her Son. God bless you all and may Mother Mary keep you safe.

Godspeed.

In Christo et Maria,

Father Vogel
Pastor

Visit our website
Diocesan Coronavirus Updates

Liturgy Ministers

**THIS WEEKEND**
**SATURDAY, JULY 11**
Server: Leland Edenburn
Ushers: D. J. Breitbach, Guy Emhoff
Rosary Leader: TBA
Music: Renee Edenburn, David Bremer

**SUNDAY, JULY 12**
Server: Curtiss and Ryan Schaller
Ushers: Tim Long, Bill Ruth
Rosary Leader: Barry Schaller
Music: Kaitlin Long, Daniel Yung

**NEXT WEEKEND**
**SATURDAY, JULY 18**
Server: Wil Peck
Ushers: Sean Binkley, Guy Emhoff
Rosary Leader: TBA
Music: Kaitlin Long, David Bremer

**SUNDAY, JULY 19**
Server: Curtiss and Ryan Schaller
Ushers: Bill Kennedy, Bill Ruth
Rosary Leader: Barry Schaller
Music: Renee Edenburn, Daniel Yung

Mass Intentions
14th Week in Ordinary Time

Gifts to God and Church
Through July 10, 2020
Double your money! Last chance next weekend

**Knights of Columbus Love Fund Collection**

The Knights of Columbus will match donations up to $500 for the Pleasant Hill Lay Clergy Love Fund. For every $1 you give, they will donate $1. Your donation will help the needy of Pleasant Hill, and at this difficult time there are more needing assistance than usual. Please drop a check made out to "Knights of Columbus" (or cash) in the collection basket at church, at the parish office or mail it in. Thank you for your generosity.
The installation of Knights of Columbus officers and events surrounding it will be on Thursday, July 16th at St. Bridget Church and Ledwidge Hall.
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Taco Bar
7:00 p.m. Rosary
7:30 p.m. Installation of Officers
Short meeting afterwards if needed

New CEO Introduction
After months of searching, we joyfully announce Karen Noel as the new Chief Executive Officer of Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Our tagline, “To Serve & To Lift,” encapsulates the passion and history of Catholic Charities Kansas City - St. Joseph, and is the same passion that has ultimately brought our agency to Karen’s leadership. Karen is actively engaged in and promotes continuing education as a bridge out of poverty. Between Karen’s credentials, passion, and personal love for our work, we are excited to begin this next chapter together with the friends, family and clients of Catholic Charities. For more information on the services we provide, please contact Nancy Butters, Development Manager, at (816) 659-8266 or nbutters@ccharities.com.

Reflection: Loving God in Good Times and Bad

It’s easy to “love” God when all is well. But when all is well, our love is not tested. The testing that comes from human suffering clarifies our love of God. This can be very fruitful for our spiritual lives. It’s easy to believe that difficulties in life are nothing other than sad and unfortunate burdens and should be avoided at all costs. Though we would be foolish to create difficulties intentionally, we will each have our share of them in this life. Therefore, every difficulty and suffering in life must be embraced as an opportunity for you to increase your trust in God and, in so doing, to increase your love of Him. How blessed is the soul who suffers greatly in this life while choosing to love God throughout, making that suffering the source of its increase in holiness (See Diary #1014).

What do you complain about each day? What is it that burdens you? Too often we run from these burdens or get angry. Try to look at your struggles in a new light. Try to see them as opportunities to deepen your trust and your love. Every suffering and every burden in life has the potential of being infused with the spiritual power of the Cross. By embracing them in love, we embrace the Cross. And by embracing the Cross, we love God all the more. Do not think that hardships deal you a poor quality of life. Recognize them for what they are as a result of grace. They are opportunities for holiness and for an increase in the reception of the Mercy of God.

Lord, when I get down, angry or despairing in life, on account of the difficulties I endure, help me to use that struggle as an opportunity for greater trust. Lord, I desire to run to the Cross.
Reflections by Father Paul Turner
Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Romans 8:18-23

Suffering Nothing

The older we get, the more we groan. Muscles ache. Memory fades. Taste buds fail. Hearing diminishes. Eyesight darkens. Stature bends. Our physical health decays, and suffering intensifies. Growing old, as they say, is not for wimps.

For many people, aging might be cause for despair. But for Christians, it is just another aspect of the imperfections of life. We have grown accustomed to the disappointments of this life. They are nothing compared with the promise of salvation. We put up with the inconveniences we experience because we believe in the joy that lies ahead.

St. Paul writes to the Romans, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.”

Paul believed in God’s promise, that there was more ahead for him after he died. He believed that promise extended to all the faithful, and indeed to all creation. Creation itself has been groaning, awaiting a more perfect life. Perfection comes to all the world through Christ.

We may be growing older, but we are always children—God’s children. We may be heading towards death, but we are really heading towards birth—birth to a new kind of life. The sufferings of today are as nothing. We are groaning in expectation of a joy that is to come.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bulletin announcements are due via e-mail by Monday of week of distribution.

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you wish to be added to the prayer chain, please contact Roberta Klein at (816) 540-5980

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome! Please register after Mass using the registration form in the vestibule, download form from our website, or contact the parish office.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

Parent preparation session is required. Please call the parish office prior to the birth

ANOINTING OF SICK

As requested after Mass and by appointment

CONFIRMATION

Program for high school students, according to Diocesan guidelines

MARRIAGE

Please call the parish office when engaged. A nine-month preparation period is required (diocesan policy). One party should be a registered, attending parishioner.

2020 SECOND COLLECTIONS

Aug. 2: DREAM Fund

Aug. 15: THE ASSUMPTION

Aug. 16: Diocesan Life & Justice

Sept. 6: DREAM Fund

Sept. 20: Church in Latin America

Oct. 4: DREAM Fund

Oct. 18: Mission Sunday

Nov. 1: ALL SAINTS DAY

Nov. 1: DREAM Fund

Dec. 6: DREAM Fund

Dec. 8: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Dec. 13: Religious Retirement

Dec. 25: CHRISTMAS

ST. BRIDGET FINANCE COUNCIL

Chair: Ross Dale.............charleendr@comcast.net

Gary Crabtree...............garycrabtree@comcast.net

Greg Dustman...................gdr21@hotmail.com

Joe Fiedler.....................jacomojoe@comcast.net

Robert Radmacher...............radybroex@aol.com

ST. BRIDGET PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Rick Kitchell.......rickkitchell@gmail.com

Secretary: Rita Pilcher........ritapilcher@gmail.com

Bill Ruth..........................pandbruth@yahoo.com

Melissa Thornsberry........irish_girl@7979@yahoo.com

Bob Dostal.....................bsdos@comcast.net

Mark Bock....................markcbock@sbcglobal.net

The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 392-3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and

2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and

3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at (816) 812-2500 or crayon@ombudsmankcsj.org, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact the Victim Services Coordinator, Kathleen Chastain.
Chastain, at (816) 392-0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more information.