

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

From Sunday, October 1st to Sunday November 26th (Feast of Christ the King) all the Sunday Gospel readings are taken from St. Matthew. The readings comprise sections from Chapter 21 through 25. Matthew frames these passages as Jesus' time in Jerusalem with the leaders plotting against Jesus and the gathering storm. Apparently, the majority of the Scribes and Pharisees believe they must get rid of Jesus or their own positions of authority will be lost. The crowds are with Jesus but most of the leaders of the Israelites are opposed. Caiaphas, the High Priest that year, advised the Jewish leaders that "it would be expedient if one man should die for the people." This is the omen, an omen to keep the leaders in power no matter what.

Jesus on his part continued to preach that the Kingdom is the true home which God has prepared for all who love him. Jesus recognizes the gathering storm and his likely sacrifice. In these passages Jesus reminds all of us that we have an end to this life and asks if we are prepared to enter a new life, life to which he himself is going. He is going back to his Father in the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus wishes all men and women to follow him.

Remembering Our Loved Ones

This Wednesday at the 6:00 PM Mass our parish will specifically remember the loved ones who have completed their journey in life and ascended into God's hands. At the Mass families who have lost a loved one are invited to approach the altar and light one of the vigil candles when the name of the their deceased loved one is read.

Pope Francis has said so poignantly that a Christian is one who remembers. Our loved ones have been influential in our lives and Pope Benedict XVII spoke specifically that we are able to continue helping them as they go through their reflective period prior to entering wholly into the Kingdom of Heaven. None of us know the time frame for this reflective period. Our loving relationship with those who have passed on is not broken with natural death but rather transferred to a realm of another Kingdom that is beyond our dreams and hopes.

Loop Technology for Hard of Hearing Installed

The Loop Technology for those who use hearing aids is now installed. We are in the testing period. Mary Denny, 107 years old and the senior member of our community, found it utterly surprising. For the first time she could hear the music, hear the words of the Mass, and hear the homily. The Loop Technology cuts out all the extraneous sounds around us and broadcasts directly into the hearing aid.

I am told that all new hearing aids must be equipped with tele coil technology that picks up the Loop. In some of the newer models it may also be present but needs to be activated. Advanced Ear Gear under Debra Valatka is available to you to activate your tele coil or give you other advice. Debra's telephone number for assistance is 330-785-0800 and is located at 2828 S. Arlington Rd. If you call for an appointment, simply inform her you are a member of St. Joseph Parish in Randolph.

New Year Eve Party Planned

The parish again will have a New Year's Eve Party beginning at 7:00 PM and lasting til just after midnight. Cordially invited are all people who have no place to go but like to associate with others. Most specifically we invite widows and widowers, single people, and young families with children. We will have a babysitter for all the children. After a short time with the group the children are moved into our classroom to play until just before midnight. The main gathering is in Gaudete Hall and there will be food along with beverages suited for adults. There will be a sign up list for those wishing to come. I give you this announcement for your planning.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
November 5, 2017