

**JULY 24, 2011: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**



The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Mt. 13:44

**LITURGY**

**MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS**

**Sun., July 24 (1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52)**

8:00 am- V. C. & Alois Labay  
10:30 am- Living & deceased members of Christian Mothers

**Monday, July 25, St. James, apostle (2 Cor 4:7-15/Mt 20:20-28)**

7:00 am- Tim Schaefer  
10:00 am- Edna Liebham (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, July 26, Sts. Joachim & Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28/Mt 13:36-43)**

7:00 am- Deceased members of John & Annie Polasek Family

**Wednesday, July 27 (Ex 34:29-35/Mt 13:44-46)**

7:00 am- Rose Trojcek  
8:05 am- Donnie Muska

**Thursday, July 28 (Ex 40:16-21, 34-38/Mt 13:47-53)**

7:00 am- Henry & Mildred Koerth  
10:00 am- Jerome Mikulenska (Stevens)

**Friday, July 29, St. Martha (Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42)**

7:00 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Sr. Colette's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
8:05 am- Special Intention for Recovery (surgery)

**Saturday, July 30, St. Peter Chrysologus, bishop & doctor of the Church (Lv 25:1, 8-17/Mt 14:1-12)**

5:30 pm- Buck & Alois Leopold  
**Sun., July 31 (Is 55:1-3/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21)**

8:00 am- Jerome & Alice Kocian  
10:30 am- Annie Orosco  
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Bulletin & Radio Broadcast: In memory of Henrietta Janak.

Vigil Light: In memory of Henrietta Janak.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,946; Loose-\$1,177; Children-\$105; Catholic Education Envelopes-\$2,071.

Flowers at the Altar of Sacrifice are in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Christian Mothers here at Sacred Heart

Flowers at the Eucharistic Altar are in memory of V. C. & Alois Labay by Leona Labay & Family.

Anniversaries:

Ronnie & Janet Hornischer	35 years	July 24
Felipe & Mary Coronado	56 years	July 29

**Perpetual Adoration** – an adorer is needed on Fridays at 3:00 p.m. If you are able to spend this hour in adoration with our Lord, please call Charlene Bradbury at 798-3224.

Mass & Healing Prayer by Fr. Phi Nguyen on Sunday, Aug. 6 at 10:00 a.m., Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria. If you have been touched or moved by this ministry and would like to share or inform Fr. Phi, please contact Sr.

Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com).

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**SUNDAY, JULY 24**

-Christian Mothers 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, 10:30 a.m. Mass, followed by a reception in the Family Center.

**MONDAY, JULY 25**

-Rosary & evening prayer, 5:30 p.m. in church.  
-Men's ACTS mtg., 7:00 p.m., St. Joseph, Moulton.

**TUESDAY, JULY 26**

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.  
-Mandatory Organists & Cantors meeting, 7:00 p.m. in church to address the upcoming changes in the liturgy.

**SUNDAY, JULY 31**

-Catholic Daughters to receive Holy Communion in a body at the 8:00 a.m. Mass.  
-Blood Drive, 8:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., SHCS Gym Parking Lot. *Give the gift of life!*  
-Covered dish supper, Family Center after Spanish Mass.

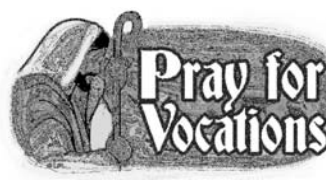
**Among our sick:** Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Helen M. Appelt, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Hubert & Mary Grahmann, Odessa, Doug & Richard Blumberg, Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Dr. Michael Moore, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Brenda Grahmann, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Derrick Berger, Anita Bohuslav, Anita Kallus, Daniel Wick, Josephine Janak, Paul Najvar, Betty Hernandez, Gene Drozd, Irene Bordovsky, Steven DeLaRosa, Benita Bordovsky, Soila Sanchez, Ed Kadlecek, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, David Halata, nursing home residents & the homebound.

**Altar Server NEWS:** There will be a mandatory meeting of parents of all new and current altar servers on Sunday, August 21 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. in the church with Fr. Tommy. Only one parent of each server needs to attend the meeting. The server need not attend. The expectations and responsibilities of the altar servers will be outlined for the parents. Parental commitment and involvement is essential to the success of our parish altar server program.



**Parish Movie Night Coming Soon! – August 10.**

The Parish Youth Group is sponsoring a "Back to School" movie night for all the parishioners of the parish on Wednesday, August 10 in the Family Center. Admission and popcorn are FREE! Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 6:30 p.m. Other movie concessions will be sold to benefit our parish youth group, as well as other items such as our various T-shirts for evangelization. The featured film will be the 1966 movie "The Trouble with Angels" starring Rosalind Russell and Hayley Mills. This movie is in color and is appropriate and fun for all age groups! Come one and all!



We welcome Bishop Fellhauer to our parish this Sunday as he helps us celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers Society here at Sacred Heart.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers has for its object the Christian home education of children by truly Christian Mothers. It plans to unite by the observance of its rules and regulations all Christian ladies, married or widowed, (unmarried as associate members) who are willing to assist one another to attain this noble purpose. Under the special patronage of the "Mother of Sorrows" the members are encouraged joyously and hopefully to undertake the important task of training and sanctifying the young souls entrusted to their care. They are schooled to edify one another by word and deed, to support one another by fervent prayers and thus become the mainstay of spiritual life within their own family, and a fruitful source of blessings to the community in which they live. This is the principal aim of all Confraternities affiliated with the Arch-confraternity.

We thank Vic Roeber for providing the funding to finish off the inside of the Mini gym. The insulation and wire mesh has been completely paneled over. His continued generosity to Sacred Heart Parish is much appreciated.

#### Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124

Angela McConnell, Coordinator

Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute courses for religion teachers & catechists will be offered at Sacred Heart Jr. High Library. **August 2&4:** Sacraments, 6-9 pm.

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CCD Catechists Needed... a 3rd grade teacher, 7th grade teacher and aid, as well as a married couple to lead the 12th grade program. Do you feel God calling you to share your faith? Answer Him by calling 361-741-8730 for more information.



**PRAYER FOR RAIN** – Heavenly Father, we believe that it is You who created our world with all of its beauty and life. We believe that it is You who put into place the systems of nature that sustain, nurture and renew this work of Your hands. We believe that it is You who hears Your children

when they call upon You. Hear, then this prayer which comes from a heart filled with confidence and trust. Grant to us and to all Who seek it, the gift of a bountiful rain. Water our lands so that they may once again spring to life and reflect the beauty of your creation. Fill our lakes and rivers with sufficient rain so that they may continue to provide life giving and refreshing water to all who depend upon it for their livelihood and well being. Please do not let many more days pass without sending us this most needed blessing of rain. We ask this in the name of Jesus, Your Son, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. Amen.

**August 2:** Freshmen Orientation, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

**August 4:** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

*The students and their parents are strongly encouraged to attend.*

Please pray for the repose of the soul of *Henry G. "Bunny" Timm*, father of Sherry Henke of our parish family. *May he and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*



#### 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When my father died, he left a garage full of stuff. Over several years my brother and I made several attempts at cleaning out the garage. While Dad was alive he resisted any efforts that we made at trying to eliminate some of the clutter. He was always fearful that we would throw out some treasure that he had managed to squirrel away in the cavernous three-car garage. After his death we set about the task of eliminat-ing the stacked up boxes, salvaged metal, broken imple-ments, and general junk. There was very little that was valuable and an awful lot that was worthless. The dragnet of my dad's retirement rummaging pulled in a lot that was thrown away.

The parable of the dragnet in today's Gospel can seem a bit heartless. The angels at the end of time act like those who sit on the seashore with their dragnets, separating the good from the bad. The wicked end up in the fiery furnace. While it's clear that the dragnet will be sorted out, good from bad, it's not so clear in the earlier parables who is who. Just who is that merchant searching for fine pearls? Is it the disciple, who seeks the kingdom of heaven and when he finds it he holds on to it with all his heart? Or is God the merchant, searching for those who have lived in accord with the dictates of the law? And when God finds them does He ransom them with the blood of His Son, giving all He has to secure their participation in the kingdom?

True parables are slippery things. They are not always singular in their meaning. The layers of interpretation can be multiple, which is part of the richness of their truth. For my dad, much of what was in the garage was treasure, while for his sons a lot of it was to be thrown out. It's probably good that God doesn't clean out His garage too often.

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#### Serra Club Car Give Away -

The winner of the 2010 Toyota Corolla Sport Car is Clara Heintschel of St. John Parish in Hungerford. Thanks to all the good folks in the Diocese who helped with the raffle of the Toyota. All parishes, large and small, working together on this project made it a great success. We sold right at 19,000 tickets, for a total sales of \$76,138.

Blessings, George Wenzel.



## Financial Report – June, 2011

### Church Income:

Sunday Collections	\$ 32,628.50
Other Donations	2,404.12
Family Center Rental	580.00
Peter's Pence Collection	375.00
Black & Native American Collection	193.00
Religious Articles	1,369.00
Interest	454.12
Picnic Transfer	<u>12,000.00</u>
Total Church Income	<u>\$ 50,003.74</u>

### School Income:

Catholic Education Envelopes	\$ 2,982.00
Friends for Catholic Education	5,930.00
Memorials	445.00
Shop Donations	20.00
Athletics & Band	3,800.00
Home & School Assoc. Donations	6,000.00
Marathon	776.00
Grants	125,000.00
Miscellaneous	<u>169.36</u>
Total School Income	<u>\$145,122.36</u>

### Church Expense:

Salaries	\$ 7,453.70
Utilities	1,873.75
Church Expense	2,470.17
Rectory Expense	286.57
Office Expense	1,250.36
Religious Articles	355.61
Building Insurance	393.00
Family Center Expense	263.57
Special Collections	568.00
Medical Insurance	1,899.00
Priests Pension	1,047.00
Repairs & Maintenance	<u>1,056.57</u>
Total Church Expense	<u>\$ 18,917.30</u>

### School Expense:

Salaries	\$ 65,422.61
Contracted Services	359.81
Office & Teaching Expense	246.34
Extended Care	60.64
Postage	277.02
Staff Development	1,615.75
Assessment	116.00
Public Relations	13.75
Library Expense	118.95
Utilities	4,092.95
Custodial Supplies	1,032.72
Bus & Vehicle Expense	3,638.85
Payroll Taxes	4,981.81
Medical Insurance & Retirement	16,493.00
Property Insurance	2,706.72
Convent Expense	540.37
Acquisition of Equipment	3,150.00
Technology	287.15
Miscellaneous	532.99
Marathon Expense	44.88

Plant Repairs & Maintenance	<u>910.39</u>
Total School Expense	<u>\$106,642.70</u>

<b>Parish Income</b>	<b>\$ 195,126.10</b>
<b>Parish Expense</b>	<b>- 125,560.00</b>
<b>Parish Balance</b>	<b>\$ 69,566.10</b>

### SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND -

**In memory of Leona Najvar:** Judith Renger-\$25; Peoples State Bank-\$10; Leona Chovanetz-\$10; Henry & Elrose Muenster-\$20; Robert & Barbara Grahmann-\$10; Jerry & Mary Timm-\$20; Bill & Sweet Hrcncir-\$10; Don & Barbara Rainosek-\$10; Lillian Harned-\$10; Caroline A. Polasek-\$20. **In memory of Cleo Muras:** Bernard & Mary Grahmann-\$50; Marvin & Annette Grahmann-\$10; David Bujnoch Family-\$20; Aaron & Sheila Etzler-\$20; Miranda Moses-\$5; Edwin & Mary Ann Grahmann-\$20; Pat & Joan Janak-\$50; Leslie & Carmel Faldyn-\$5; Elvera Janak-\$10; Lucille Bujnoch Family-\$10; Virginia Pustka-\$10; Rebecca & Michael Till-\$10; Rob & Lorie Drummond-\$20; R.L. & Elsie Orsak-\$10; Irene Barton-\$10; Ronnie Opela-\$10; Lawrence Wagner & family-\$20; Pat Stroud-\$10; Greg & Wendy Mican Family-\$20; Virginia J. Krobot-\$20; Emil Grahmann-\$25; Ignac & Loretta Janda-\$15. **In memory of Alice Kocian:** Yoakum National Bank-\$20; Gene Renger-\$35; Gene Henkhaus-\$150; Robert & Louise Pesek-\$20; John & Jean Carpenter-\$10; Joan Berger-\$20; Ed & Judy Aulick-\$50; David & Carol Bohuslav-\$20; Peoples State Bank-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Stanley & Becky Bujnoch-\$10; Sandy Joe & Carol Dieringer & family-\$10; Bill & Sweet Hrcncir-\$10; Matthew, Martha & John Bludau-\$10; Forrest & Carol Sevcik-\$10; Don & Barbara Rainosek-\$20; Dennis & Cynthia Matula-\$20; Bohumir & Mary Ann Pustejovsky-\$10; David & Glenda Tobola & family-\$10; John & LaVerne Trojcak-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Allen & Anita Steffek-\$10; Kevin & Janice Busselman-\$15; Bohumir & Mary Ann Pustejovsky-\$10; Mike Dworaczyk-\$25. **In memory of Don Peterson:** John & LaVerne Trojcak-\$10. **In memory of Mary Shaw:** Leo & Evelyn Hoffer-\$20. **In honor of Bro. Nick Grahmann's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Lillian Haas & family-\$60

### SACRED HEART CCD PROGRAM – In memory of

**Leona Najvar & Beulah Wilson:** Kevin & Gayle Kubenka & family-\$30. **In memory of Grace Rother:** Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sitka-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Kevin & Gayle Kubenka & family-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Anonymous-\$10; Patrick & Carol Steffek-\$15; Allan & Mary Leopold-\$20

### SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND - In

**memory of Alice Kocian, John D. Henneke, Sr. & Charles Hrcncir:** Bob Kubena-\$80

**SACRED HEART QUILTING CIRCLE - In memory of Leona Najvar & Alice Kocian:** Kubena Funeral Home-\$40

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND**

**In memory of Leona Najvar:** A.J. & Alice Kallus-\$20; Jimmy & Tammy Garner Family-\$20; Frank & Rita Zaruba-\$20; John & Evelyn Pavliska-\$25; Arnold & Gene Marie Bohuslav-\$10; Dennis & Cynthia Matula-\$20; Alvin Paul & Barbara Grahmann-\$15; Wilma & David Wagner-\$10; Michael & Milissa Zamora-\$20.

**In memory of Charles L. Hrcir:** Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann-\$20. **In memory of Alice Kocian:** Adel Henkhaus-\$20; Dorothy Bujnoch-\$20; Mr. & Mrs. A.J. Kallus-\$15; Wink & Ida Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Grace Rother:** Daniel Kuhn-\$10; Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann-\$20; AJ & Alice Kallus-\$15. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann-\$20; John & Sherry Henke-\$20; Robert & Louise Pesek-\$10; Alton & Marlyn Sevcik-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Sherry Hale-\$10; Franklin Billimek-\$15; Mary Ann Pavliska-\$10; Don & Barbara Rainosek-\$20; Robert & Louise Pesek-\$10; Lawrence & Kathy Korenek-\$25; Dorothy Bujnoch-\$20; Dennis & Cynthia Matula-\$20; David & Carol Bohuslav-\$15

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL OPERATING FUND -**

**In memory of Leona Najvar:** Charles & Irene Matula-\$25; Frank & Jo Nell Janecek-\$25; Richard & Ruth Rouse, Cesar & Rachelle Diaz-\$20; Andrew & Jane Pesek-\$10; Angela Hermes-\$10; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10; Margaret Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Cleo Muras:** Bernice Bujnoch-\$10; Gene & Gertrude Janak-\$20; Fred & Debra Huser & family-\$10; Lawrence & Delores Grahmann-\$15; Ronnie & Shirley Hollas-\$10; Larrie & Brenda Brysch-\$20; William & Charlene Bradbury-\$10; Bill & Margaret Bludau-\$15. **In memory of Grace Rother:** Vernell M. Bozka-\$20; Margaret Bludau-\$20; Charles "Snow" & Irene Matula-\$30; Rosemary Hermes-\$25; Sharon Bludau-\$10; Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15.

**In memory of Alice Kocian:** Glenn & Donna Leopold-\$10; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Charles & Dorothy Jansky-\$20; Daniel & Dorothy Rother-\$20; Rita & Frank Zaruba-\$25; John & Charlene Pillow-\$20; Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Charles Hrcir:** Rosemary Hermes-\$10; Ella Mae Bludau-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Martin & Karen Steffek-\$10; Steven & Jennifer Steffek-\$20; Ella Mae Bludau-\$25; Margaret Bludau-\$10; Donald & Melody Egg-\$25; Leon & Nancy Etzler-\$10; Gene & Maureen Schott-\$20; Leroy & Alice Janak-\$15; Fred & Debra Huser & family-\$20; Frank & Bernadette Bludau-\$10; Glen Bludau-\$20; Darryl & Cheryl Steffek-\$15; Leo & Evelyn Hoffer-\$20; Marty & Debi Bludau-\$15; Alton & Marlyn Sevcik-\$10; Frank & Elrose Migl-\$20; John & LaVerne Trojcak-\$10; J.C. & Esther Kelley-\$30; Ronnie & Shirley Hollas & sons-\$15; Rosemary Hermes-\$10; Bruce & Debbie Schneider-\$30; Leslie Devore-\$25; Michael & Janice Jares-\$20; Jerry & Joyce Kurtz-\$20; Buck & Janice Bludau & family-\$50; Everett & Pam Bludau-\$35; Edward & Patty Grahmann-\$20; Dennis &

Gerardette Haas-\$20; Bob Kubena-\$20; Terry & Ervin Bludau-\$40; Bob & Sally Janak-\$10; John & Charlene Pillow-\$20; Charles & Dorothy Jansky-\$10. **In honor of Bro. Nick Grahmann's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniv.:** Frank & JoNell Janecek-\$25; Arthur & Rose Mary Etzler-\$20

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUND -**

**In memory of Grace Rother:** Bob & Carol Franks-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kolos-\$20

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATHLETICS FUND -**

**In memory of Grace Rother:** Daniel & Dorothy Rother-\$25. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Laurence & Carol Bludau-\$10; Larry & Agnes Greer & sons-\$10; Robert & Leona Steffek-\$25; David & Joyce Smolik-\$20. **In honor of Sr. John Hayden & Sr. Colette Kouba's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Charles "Snow" & Irene Matula-\$50

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL CAFETERIA FUND -**

**In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Roger & Beverly Janak-\$20; Kenneth & Dolores Renger-\$20. **In memory of Arnold Rother:** Kenneth & Dolores Renger-\$10.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL LIBRARY FUND -**

**In memory of Leona Najvar:** John Pavliska, III-\$25

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL BAND FUND -** **In memory of Beulah Wilson:** James & Monica Vanek-\$15.

**In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Tim, Candy & Hannah Hines-\$30

**DOROTHY HENNEKE SCHOLARSHIP FUND -**

**In memory of Cleo Muras:** Richard Grahmann-\$5; Kenneth & Kathryn Darilek-\$25; Roy & Loretta Hardcastle-\$10; Rosemary & Marvin Mikush-\$20; Johnny Grahmann-\$10; Tommy & Elsie Grahmann-\$10; Roland Henneke-\$10. **In memory of Leona Najvar:** Richard Grahmann-\$5; Roland Henneke-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Gary & Carol Pustejovsky Family-\$10; Roland Henneke-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Tommy & Elsie Grahmann-\$10. **In honor of Bro. Nick Grahmann's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Gerlene Gardner-\$25

**DWAYNE JANAK SCHOLARSHIP FUND -**

**In memory of Beulah Wilson & Grace Rother, & in honor of Rev. Bob Knippenberg:** Guntram & Elaine Janak & family-\$50

**CAROLYN DWORSKY SCHOLARSHIP FUND -**

**In memory of William Skelton:** Emil & Joyce Hermes-\$10. **In memory of John D. Henneke, Sr.:** Dennis & Lisa Dworsky & family-\$20. **In memory of Charles Hrcir:** Charles & Kathy Haas-\$10. **In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Jay & Suzanne Pavlicek-\$10; Charles & Kathy Haas-\$20

**BEN & SUE SPANIHEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND -**

**In memory of Richard Klmitchek, Sr.:** Jamie & Marna Klmitchek & family-\$20



Please pray for the blessing of beneficial  
rain!

## The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

### TODAY

**1 Kings 3:5, 7–12**  
**Romans 8:28–30**  
**Matthew 13:44–52**

### MONDAY

**Matthew 20:20–28**  
*"... the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve..."*

### TUESDAY

**Matthew 13:36–43**  
*"The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man."*

### WEDNESDAY

**Matthew 13:44–46**  
*"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure..."*

### THURSDAY

**Matthew 13:47–53**  
*"The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous..."*

### FRIDAY\*

**John 11:19–27**  
*"Your brother will rise again."*

### SATURDAY

**Matthew 14:1–12**  
*"... they regarded him as a prophet..."*

\*Alternate readings exist for this day.

## What Do You Treasure?

During the perilous times of Roman occupation, it was a common practice to hide valuables in a field. In this last section of Matthew's parable narratives, the Gospel opens with the great joy that is experienced when a common laborer sold everything to purchase the field in which he had buried his treasure. This same joy filled the rich merchant. First he searched for a pearl of great value, and then he sold all he had to buy it.

These two parables proclaim that the reign of God is worth our all. The Kingdom of God or God's plan for restoring peace and justice on earth is the treasure for which we were created. One way we can know that we are tuned into the reign of God is the surprising joy that fills our spirit.

The parable of the dragnet is similar to that of the weeds and wheat in last week's Gospel. There is an additional dimension presented in this parable. At that time fishermen spun out the net into a great circle, pulling all sorts of fish and debris into its confines. Here we are reminded that God's love encircles all, the rich and poor, the good and the bad.

Just as Solomon prayed, not for riches or fame, but for the wisdom to judge what would be best for his people, we must seek a heart full of wisdom and understanding. True wisdom understands that the Kingdom is indeed the greatest treasure beside which all else fades. Today Jesus asks us: "Do you understand all these things?"



## The Faith of the Church

The Church is founded upon the Good News of the coming of God's Kingdom proclaimed by the life and teachings of Jesus. While here and not yet, the mystery of the Kingdom of God is a way of understanding that God is continually calling us into union with him through Jesus. The mission of the Church is to proclaim and establish the Kingdom of God through the gifts of the Spirit and witness of the life of Jesus (Cf. *Lumen gentium*, no 5).



## Questions of the Week

The Gospel invites us to give our all, let go of everything else and choose the Kingdom as the focus of our lives. With this wise way of making choices, we will experience great joy even in times of distress. This proclamation of the Good News calls us to treasure God's way over and above our own.

### Adults

*What lifestyle changes could I make to focus more on the reign of God?*

### Children

*What do I treasure?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

We make choices every day. Many are minute choices: what to wear, what to eat. Yet, each choice affects the lives of others. Each decision is an opportunity to center our energies on the treasure we value most. For example, when we choose our food, it has a ripple effect on local farmers, the industrial agriculture business, and on our health. Furthermore how we recycle and dispose the waste from the products we consume has a greater effect on our environment.

Of course, decisions that impact our being like changing jobs,

moving to a new location, choosing a school or a partner for life—all call for wisdom. One can pray for insight to recognize the 'pearl' in these major choices and then look at the ripple effect that comes from the various options. When a choice is made and there is peace in living out that choice, it is a good sign that it is in tune with God's reign.

Simply put, we often know when we make the right and wise choice by the joy we experience. Whenever there is deep joy in your heart, it is a sign that God's reign is present and active within you.

## SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

**In the home.** Have a dinner conversation about how you experience happiness when you make decisions that will build up and sustain the lives of others.

**In the workplace or in school.** Start a paper and cardboard recycling program in your workplace or school. Research where the waste goes and how it is reused.

**In the community.** Work together to create a neighborhood or parish garden in a common area. Encourage neighbors to compost their grass, leaves, and vegetable matter.



### Meditation Moment

An elderly lady in Scotland was so poor her neighbors had to support her. They were happy to do this, but what bothered some of them was that her son had gone to America and become rich. The mother defended her son, saying, "He writes me every week and always sends me a little picture. See," she said. "I keep them in my Bible." Between the pages of her Bible were hundreds of U.S. bank notes. The woman had a treasure in her Bible, but didn't realize it.

### For reflection . . .

*To what extent do I need to rediscover the treasure of my Bible: Jesus Christ?*

CHRIST IS NOT VALUED AT ALL  
UNLESS HE IS VALUED ABOVE ALL.

SAINT AUGUSTINE

FROM *VISION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

### Guide Us, God

Guide us, O God,  
to choose wisely each  
day. May our decisions  
bring peace to a war-weary  
world, justice to those who are  
exploited, and compassion to the  
suffering. Spirit of God, fill us with  
passion for building your Kingdom  
here on earth. Risen Christ, instill  
in us the desire to let go of our  
selfish desires in order to bring life  
and love to others. Father, create  
in our hearts a new way of seeing  
and hearing your voice  
throughout each day.  
May we rejoice in  
knowing you are  
always near.  
Amen.

*Carry this thought in your heart  
as a guide for your faith journey  
this week.*

**For where your treasure is,  
there your heart will be also.**

Matthew 6:21

### Profile in Faith

The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change was begun in 2006 to address the issues of global climate change that affect all peoples. The principles of the organization include: thoughtful, deliberate, and reasoned action; concern for those least able to bear the burden of environmental degradation; and promotion of solidarity over self-interest.

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Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum  
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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
March 28, 2011

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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