

**Dear friends in Jesus Christ,**

I hear people complain about their distraction during prayers, as well as during the celebration of the Holy Mass. Jesus gives an answer to this problem through the Gospel of Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Often, we are distracted by many concerns of our earthly lives. But Jesus says, "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you." (Mt.6:33). Yes, our problem lies in our priorities. Yes, to grow in our spiritual life, the first step we have to make is to fix our priority in life as Jesus.

Once an old woman came to the pastor seeking help to pray better and pay more attention in the Holy Mass without any distractions. The pastor thought for a moment and gave her a glass full of water and asked her to make a round about the church without spilling a drop of water. After some time, the woman came back to the pastor without losing a drop of water. The priest was surprised and asked her, how could you do this? The woman said, "with every step I made, my concentration was on the glass of water." The pastor said, do the same when you pray also, concentrate on Jesus.

Yes, it is the priority that matters. The Gospel of last weekend invited us to make a choice between wheat and weeds; where the wheat will be gathered to His Kingdom and the weeds will be thrown into the fire. The Gospel of today invites us to keep the same frame of mind, and set our priority and achieve it by presenting the imagery of committed people looking for treasure in their lives. So, today, the question to be asked is, where is my heart and what is in my heart? As Christians, through the sacrament of Baptism, we have pledged and consecrated our hearts for Christ, but.....

The Kingdom of God is the treasure that Jesus is promising us today; it is to enjoy this treasure that we have all gathered here. It is to have this treasure; we celebrate all the sacraments in our Catholic Church. It is to experience this treasure we all pray the beautiful prayer Jesus has taught us "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done and on earth as it is in heaven." Yes, it has been so many years we are celebrating sacraments and praying together as members of the Holy Mother Church; but why, we fail to experience the treasure called Jesus in our lives? The most invaluable treasure, the Holy Mother Church promises is the experience of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist, but do we experience Jesus in the Eucharist?

Let us forget about the chances we have missed. God has given us another day and opportunity to enjoy this treasure of Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. But, how prepared are we, is the question? Yes, an

experience of the treasure of Jesus demands an extra sacrifice and commitment. According to the Gospel we have to go through three stages to have this treasure. Firstly, it is a Revelation; to find out exactly the main priority in our life as Christians- Jesus. Secondly, it is the Revolution. It is breaking away from the present stage of life and taking a risk to have a different way of life by selling whatever he has; it is the complete surrendering of oneself to God. Thirdly, it is the Resolution. Making a strong decision to buy the land of treasure. That means, one is ready to make the commitment to fulfill the revelation. Yes He finds, He loses, He chooses.

Yes, to become an authentic disciple of Jesus, let us place Jesus as our treasure and have Him in our lives forever and ever. One who finds Jesus; he/she has no problem in losing anything in life. Today, we are able to live in this world just because somewhere some people are ready to lose for Jesus. We are also called to lose for Jesus, but are you ready? **May God Bless.**

**New Invocations**

Pope Francis has added three new invocations to the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary: "Mother of Mercy" after Mother of the Church, "Mother of Hope" after Mother of Divine Grace. "Solace of Migrants" after Refuge of Sinners.

**Family Retreats at Gasper River**

Bring your family out just for the day or stay a night or two! There are many options available. You can book a lodge, bring your own meals or have Gasper provide meals, hike and explore, do activities, or just enjoy God's creation together. Call or email to get your seat reserve at **270-781--2466** OR **gasperriver@hotmail.com**

***Thanks to everyone for your generous contributions to Our Churches during this unfortunate time. God Bless & Be Safe.***

**Financial Report - July 19, 2020**

**St. Sebastian- Amount Needed: \$3,079.37 weekly**  
Regular Collection \$ 3,439.00 + 359.63  
Emergency Fund \$ 120.00

**Financial Report - July 19, 2020**

**St. Charles - Amount Needed: \$1,102.97 weekly**  
Regular Collection \$ 1,793.00 + 690.03  
Emergency Fund \$ 50.00  
Cemetery Fund \$ 5,319.88

**Money Counting**

Due to safety reasons we are suspending the duty of counting money. At this point in time Sarah Brown will be counting the collection. Thanks.

**Mass Schedule**  
**July 26 - August 2**

**Sunday - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Healthcare Professionals*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*John W. Miller Jr.*

**Tuesday - Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Danny Edwards*

**Thursday - Seventeenth Week in Ordinary Time**

-6:00pm - Mass at St. Charles  
*Stella Fogle*

**Saturday - Saint Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

-5:30pm - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Alvin Bickett*

**Sunday - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

-8:30am - Mass at St. Sebastian  
*Leo Guenther*  
-10:30am - Mass at St. Charles  
*Conversion of Sinners*

***"Remember...that nothing is small in the eyes of God. Do all that you do with love."***  
***-St. Therese of Lisieux***

**Prayer List for members of our community:**

Melanie Mayes, Jason Evans, Stella Ibrahims, Elaine West, Lisa Jackson, Howard Hillard, Brett McPherson, Stephanie Payne, Kathy Hudson, Evelyn Drury, Teresa Jones, Brittney Neal, Ethan Settle, Tom Schutte, Kim Staples, Katherine Roberts, Patricia Hardison, Tommy England, Dennis Millay, Todd Tichenor, Patricia Hayden, Jim Lebold, Jimmy Clayton, Candace Miller, Mary Jewell, Charlie May, David Abrams, Jackie Lee, Debbie Neal, James & Paula Tichenor, Tony Calvert, Mike Dant, Alice Durbin, Jim Logsdon Betty Bickett, John Muster, Pat Calhoun, Kyle Hicks, Kathy Owen, James Lewis Dant, Gloria Farmer and Allie & Josh Kirk. *Please call the office to have a name added to the prayer list. This list will be purged at the end of each month. Thanks*

**Please pray for our Military**

MMN1 Andrew Logsdon, SSgt. James (J.P.) Dye, John Randall Zarembo, Major Jack Kaina, Major Bradley Summers, Lance Corporal Marine Joseph Ryan Hunter, Lt. Col. Michael Rezebek. A.B. Phillip Wilson, Specialist 4 Chaz McKay, Sgt. Adam Dickey & Corpsman Aly Franklin

**Guidelines for Resuming Parish Gatherings**  
**Outside the Liturgy**

Effective immediately (July 1, 2020), parish gatherings outside the liturgy (parish picnics, faith formation gatherings, RCIA meetings, etc.) as well as non-parish sponsored events held by groups renting or using parish facilities or property.

- Limit the persons in attendance to no more than 50% of the maximum permitted occupancy capacity of the space.
- Maintain physical distance of six feet minimum from those not living within the same household.
- Wear face covering over mouth and nose. Based on CDC recommendations, everyone over the age of two must wear a mask for the duration of any event held on parish property if closer than six feet to anyone not living within the same household. Those unable to wear a face mask at the event, whether it be due to age, health condition, or preference, are asked to stay healthy at home.
- Conduct temperature and health checks for each participant.
- Ensure proper, frequent cleaning and sanitation of the gathering space, including restrooms.
- Encourage those at high risk to stay Healthy at Home.

**St. Charles - Happy Birthday**

McEuen Logsdon - July 30  
Sandy Edwards - August 1  
Anna Miller - August 1

**St. Sebastian - Happy Birthday**

Emily Floyd - July 27  
Annie Durbin - July 30  
Paul J. Logsdon - August 2

**St. Sebastian - Happy Anniversary**



Paul J. & Betty Logsdon - July 31

**Women Shaped by Faith**

**Saturday, August 22nd**  
**9am - 3pm at Mount St. Joseph Gym**

Local fitness expert Theresa Rowe will lead "Women Shaped by Faith". Rowe will teach on the health benefits of combining our faith, mindset and fitness, using biblical principles for daily application. Also included is a Pilates for the Soul Mat Workout. Please bring your own exercise mat. The \$30 fee includes lunch (the cost is \$40 at the door). To register, call 270-229-0206 or email [retreatcenter@maplemount.org](mailto:retreatcenter@maplemount.org) or register online at <https://ursulinesmsj.org/registration-form-for-sponsored-programs/>

Whenever you are unable to fill your ministry, please find someone to replace you and/or contact the office so your name will not be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your understanding.