

saint John fisher chapel

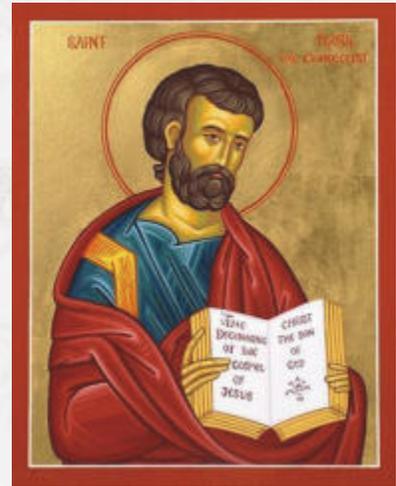
UNIVERSITY PARISH

June 27, 2021 ● The 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Kean Perspective: "A Story Within a Story"

Last week we saw Jesus calm the Sea of Galilee before crossing to the other side. There he performed a miracle on a possessed man and then went back again near the region where he started. That's where we pick up again in this week's gospel, and we hear about a story within a story. Jesus is immediately greeted by a synagogue official, Jairus, and is asked to bring his healing ministry to the man's daughter. Jesus is in the middle of traveling to the man's house when a woman seeks out Jesus to touch the hem of his garment. She is immediately healed.

Though St. Mark's gospel is the shortest of the four gospels, at times he gives the most details. The story of the woman with the chronic hemorrhage is a perfect example. In Matthew's version it is uncertain whether or not the woman even touched the tassels of Jesus' garments. St. Luke's gospel gives more details than Matthew, but his version is noticeably shorter than Mark's version. For example, St. Luke omits the part about how the doctors only made the woman's problem worse. The reason is obvious, St. Luke was a doctor!



The existence of the many specific details are a reminder that St. Mark received his stories straight from the leader of the apostles, St. Peter, when St. Mark visited him in Rome. Though the apostle St. Matthew wrote the first gospel, students of his did almost a complete rewrite in order to incorporate almost all of St. Mark's gospel into the new version. Experts speculate that the first version of St. Matthew's gospel would have been very Jewish in style and would have been arranged as a series of "lists" to record sayings of Jesus, his parables, and other teachings. St. Mark was the best gospel for telling the narrative story of Jesus. Telling the story of someone is a powerful way to give a picture of who the person is. This fact must not have been lost on the early Christians. When the gospel of St. Mark burst on the scene, it was at least 20 years after the death of Jesus. Though many Christians had their own memories of Jesus, most would not have met Jesus in His ministry or would only have had limited experiences recalling maybe one or two details.

When one reads St. Mark's gospel, one meets Jesus. One can meet the other characters, too. St. Mark makes this woman with the hemorrhage a likable figure, a great witness of faith. She also stands out because the story comes within another story. It somehow makes her even more memorable and inspiring. St. Luke gets the point. He not only includes most of St. Mark's material in his gospel, but also, he brings his style and powerful narration to the birth of Jesus. St. Luke researched his sources; he met the Blessed Virgin Mary and took down her stories. Of course, St. Luke needed St. Mark's gospel, inspiration, and his story telling style in order to bring forth his beautiful version. The talented redactors of St. Matthew's community did a similar thing to come up with the version of "St. Matthew 2.0".

The most amazing and miraculous thing of these three gospels, along with St. John's gospel, is that they foster an encounter with Jesus. It was the hunger of the early Christians to meet Jesus that brought forth these gems of the Catholic Church. Of course, we not only meet Jesus in these gospels, but we can know about the Blessed Virgin Mary, a little bit about St. Joseph, and even this courageous woman who approached Jesus to be healed. No other ancient or current books have such power, for no other book is meant to introduce the reader to the Son of God himself and what he did in this world!

—Fr. Jim Kean

ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL

UNIVERSITY PARISH

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MASS TIMES

Tuesday:

12:15pm Mass

Wednesday:

12:15pm Mass

Thursday:

7:15pm Mass

Friday:

12:15pm Mass

Saturday:

8:30am Mass

Sunday:

10:00am & 6:00pm Mass

CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday, 1:05-1:50pm (Drive-thru)

Thursday, 6:00pm in Church

Saturday, 9:00am in Church

PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration

1:00pm every Tuesday

6:00pm every Thursday

Parish Rosary

8:00am every Saturday

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Ezekiel 2:2-5

Psalm: 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Gospel: Mark 6:1-6

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

6/27/21 at 6:00pm - Deceased members of the
Homan and Prost Families

6/29/21 at 12:15pm - Sean Robinson

6/30/21 at 12:15pm - Fr. Steve Mateja

7/1/21 at 7:15pm - Marie Robinson

7/2/21 at 12:15pm - Fr. Paul Onyebuchi

7/3/21 at 9:00am - Thomas & Kathleen Addis

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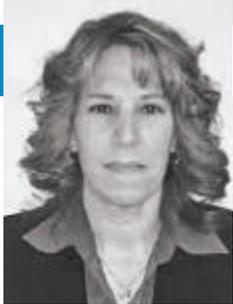
Marv Johnson, mjohnson@sjfcup.com



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

FAMILY NEWS

It was announced at St. Joseph Church last week that Fr. Steve Mateja will be delayed in coming to join the St. Joseph crew until his replacement from India is able to travel (covid restrictions). Fr. Paul Onyebuchi has been temporarily assigned to help out at St. Joseph.



FINANCE UPDATE

OFFERTORY REPORT

Lori Rafferty

Our Offertory is the primary source of funds for our day-to-day operations. Donations through our online giving program are deposited daily.

For the week ending June 20, 2021:

Envelopes: \$1,599

Electronic: \$1,896

Total: \$3,495

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

YTD Offertory Collected: \$278,667

YTD Offertory Budgeted: \$408,398

Over/(Short) from Budget: (\$129,730)



GUEST WRITER

"A BIGGER BOAT"

Fr. John Carlin

Lately, I have had a lot of people asking me for advice on where to find a good examination of conscience or how best to examine your conscience before going to confession. Some of the basic things like lying, stealing, or cheating are obvious — it's easy to remember to confess those. But what about when I have no mortal sins to confess (that I know of) but I still want the grace of the sacrament and to grow closer to God? Where should I start? Well, you're in luck! In this 800 part series, I will describe

every possible sin that someone can commit. NOT! That would take away too long (over 15 years — I did the math) and ultimately wouldn't help you examine your conscience. It would just be a checklist but not a way to hear the Lord — which is what conscience is.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) describes conscience as an inner voice/messenger of God, an awareness of the truth written on our hearts. "When he listens to his conscience, the prudent man can hear God speaking" (CCC 1777). Conscience is our moral compass; just as a needle is connected to magnetic North and points toward it, so our conscience is our connection to God, always pointing toward Him, showing us the way to the Father. It is how we know right from wrong and why we feel guilty when we ignore our conscience or act against it. That's why it is so important to properly form our conscience by spending time in prayer and by educating ourselves on the Church's moral teachings. Our hearts naturally seek to do what is right and just — that's how God made us — but sometimes we can confuse our own wants/desires with what is good and true. Like a compass surrounded by magnets can pull the needle in many different directions, so the people we surround ourselves with or the habits we form can confuse our conscience into thinking evil is good and good is evil (Is 5:20).

Prayer is essential for a moral life. It re-focuses us on what is most important — our relationship to God and the good He made us for. Ven. Fulton Sheen, in talking about the moral decline of any civilization says that, without faith, the decline of morality will continue "because they have lost the vision of the heights from which they had fallen". That's what prayer does; it reminds us of the heights and goodness and holiness the Lord calls us to and made us for. The Catechism continues that, "It is important for every person to be sufficiently present to himself in order to hear and follow the voice of his conscience. This requirement of interiority is all the more necessary as life often distracts us from any reflection, self-examination or introspection" (CCC 1779).

All this to say that a proper examination of conscience is always preceded by prayer and assisted by the habit of a prayerful life. Over these next few weeks, we will consider our own conscience, its formation, and how best to examine it so that we can better prepare ourselves for the Sacraments of Confession and receiving Christ in the Eucharist.

God love you!

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