

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Hamburg, IA. July 26, 2020

Today we hear a young Solomon meekly asking God for wisdom and understanding so that he might properly distinguish right from wrong and judge with kindness and compassion. We often find ourselves misleading ourselves about right and wrong or judging others hastily and unfairly. Let us take this opportunity today to pray that we may emulate Solomon and welcome God's wisdom and mercy into our lives so that we can be guided in using right judgment.



Cycle A -- Reflections on the Readings Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5,7-12; Psalm 119; Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 13:44-52

Theme: Priceless Treasure

Edward VIII was the rightful successor to the throne in England. But whether he would be king or not depended on one crucial decision. He was in love with an American divorcee, Wally Simpson. And if he married her, he would be forced to give the throne. Edward perhaps agonized over the matter for a while. But then his intense love for the lady won the day. She was more precious to him than the throne of England and the sovereignty of the entire British Empire. His decision is now history. He abdicated the throne in order to marry Simpson, his sweetheart.

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure

This anecdote helps us in some way to understand what Jesus is driving at when He tells us the three parables on the kingdom of heaven in the gospel passage of today. The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field and a pearl of great value. The farmer plowing the field discovers the hidden treasure. The merchant seeking pearls finally discovers one of great value. The reaction of both is one of overwhelming joy. For them, the treasure and the pearl prove so precious that with single-minded devotion and dedication each one sells everything he owns till he finally buys the field and the pearl respectively.

The parables of the treasure hidden in a field and the pearl of great value highlight the attitude that is characteristic of the true disciple of Jesus and by contrast, also point a finger at persons who are disciples only in name.

There are quite a few people for whom the kingdom of heaven presents a burden that is too difficult to carry. They drag their feet and are quite flustered about catering to, what they believe, are its many unreasonable demands.

There are still, however, numerous Christians for whom the kingdom of God is a treasure beyond compare and a pearl of great price. For these, living according to kingdom values is a pleasure and a source of great joy.

Dearly beloved, all of us have role models for planning and managing our lives. Those who aspire to beauty and glamour look to Hollywood; those who are attracted to power emulate business executives or politicians; those who are sports-minded look to the superstars of professional athletics. Disciples also need role models.

Stages of discovering the kingdom treasure

The parable of the buried treasure offers a role model of how growth in the kingdom takes place. The *first stage* is normalcy, the day to day routine of the farmer. The *second stage* is the discovery of the treasure that opens a whole new world. The *third stage* is the overturning of the past -- the farmer sells all his possessions to purchase the field. The *fourth stage* is the new world that Jesus offers the disciple. Matthew calls for a radical commitment to the person of Jesus.

Solomon challenges our use of power. Matthew's true disciple reminds us of ultimate values. The Jesus role model of Paul urges us to make those values the guideposts for our living. May our Live's journey lead to the true treasure. Shalom!

RCIA - Adult Faith Formation

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Catholic Faith or joining the Church should kindly call the secretary.

There will be series of discussion, teaching and interview via zoom sometime in August via zoom under the caption "Thank God its Friday."

The purpose is to bring us together as one family in sharing our stories through this pandemic. It is going to be fun and informative. Watch out for the date!

Motivation for the week

Mr. Peter had a job interview to attend at 10am but his wife developed complications at 9am. He decided to take the wife to the hospital and leave for the interview thereafter but on their way to the hospital, the taxi broke down. It was already 10:30am before he could get another taxi.

He arrived at the hospital at 11am, dropped the wife and used the same taxi to go for the interview. He arrived at the interview venue at 12noon (2hours late). He rang the bell but no one opened the door.

Earlier at 10am, the company mail delivery had rang the bell but no one opened the door too.

When the door was finally opened, Mr. Peter said "I'm sorry, I came......wanting to apologize for coming late but the Secretary interrupted before he could finish his statement and ushered him to the Board room.

The Secretary said, I apologize Mr. Peter for keeping you waiting since 10am, we actually heard when the bell rang at 10am but we were held up in a meeting with our company

suppliers... However, we have sat since 8am to deliberate on your job specification, your office and the salary.

Mr. Peter was baffled and said, "Ma'am, I haven't been interviewed yet". The MD answered him and said "we decided not to conduct the interview at least to save time and also save the interviewees money on transport, so we looked at the papers for the most appropriate person we wanted and we opted for you.

Also, we had tested your patience this morning by keeping you waiting intentionally for 2hrs. That is part of your interview. You will not be disappointed. You will be shown your office, your secretary and the driver assigned to drive your company's allotted vehicle. You will be on probation for 2yrs.

He got the job!!! On his way out, his phone rang, and it was the wife. She said honey, I have delivered a bouncing baby boy. It was their fifth child and the only male child. He immediately called the child miracle.

He got a double miracle same day, all the disappointments turned out to favor him.

God positioned the mail delivery man to ring the bell at 10am. God also held them up in the meeting until Mr. Peter arrived.

Moral lesson

You might be held up by issues in your life and hope might be diminishing, and you think the chance is gone. But you know what? God's waiting for you to release His favor, so do not go back along the way, don't quit, don't be upset by what you face along the way.

In fact, God has already deliberated on your specifications.

One more thing, you don't have to go through any interview, since you have all the

qualifications God wants...

My prayers for you:

- 1. God will position somebody at the right place and the right time for you who will ring the bell in your favor.
- 2. God will turn all your disappointments to be a blessing for you.
- 3. Every positive meeting will end in your favor and every negative meeting will scatter in your favor.

May this be your portion in Jesus Name.

Remain blessed beyond measure!

"Ode to Church Volunteers"

There are many among you who volunteer here You volunteer tirelessly and (usually) with cheer

Even though we ask you at the last minute, If it needs to be done, we can count on you to be in it.

You help teach our children or dry the dishes You plant or uproot stuff based on our wishes.

Some flip pancakes, some fetch donuts How coffee gets made is quite beyond us.

You decorate the church and then take it down You host the fun things we do around town

You greet and usher and serve communion, Every Sunday is a like a volunteer reunion!

Some of you sing and hit the right notes, Others play music great composers wrote.

You shuffle papers for mailings and fold the bulletins
You lead classes and meetings no matter what room they're in.

You commit for a day, a month or the year, when you see staff coming towards you, you cower in fear

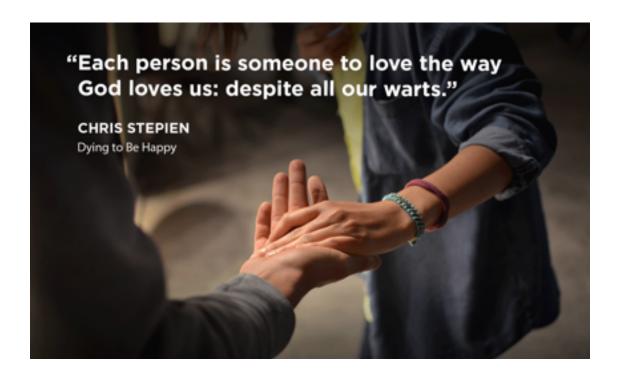
It's not that you're "Done", you are just overcommitted As you are kind, generous, gorgeous and quick witted!

Every great volunteer is in great demand Without you these little jobs can get out of hand

We know you have lives and it's hard to commit We hope the difference you make, makes all this ...worth it.

The impact of your kindness brings many folks cheer, FUMC volunteers: we are in awe of you this year!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you again, Well done, faithful servants, well done, our friends!



A Big Thanks to those who were able to help in the cleanup of **St. Mary's cemetery** and those who volunteered. Sometimes all connections don't connect:). To Greg and Larry who took tractor and scraper to grade and fix the road. Dave Dowling who cut a ton of brush, and Greg, Beth and Maryn who picked up the brush. Tim and Annie Whelan, Dan Goodman for their willingness to help! John Travis for purchasing and putting up the new flag. THANK YOU ALL!



Dr. Michael Gallagher retires.

We want to wish Michael the best in his retirement -As a chapter closes in his life, and a new one starts for him, may his years be filled with all the things he's looking forward to. Best wishes to our friend on your retirement! Our Lord will bless you in all your future plans.

Congratulations on your retirement!

These young adults will make their confirmation this afternoon—

Confirmation Class of 2020



Jonathan Adkisson

Ava Godfread

Brenna Godfread

Braidy Hutt

Lily Johnson

Garett Phillips

Carter Ruzek

Elijah Schuster

Joshua Schuster

Quentin Slater

Reese Spiegel

"May many blessings come to you on this your Confirmation day, and may God's love be in your heart to strengthen you along life's way.

Congratulations and Best Wishes."

Martin Goracke turned 102 on July 15 2020.

Martin has been at Morton Place since 2/18/2020. We had the party at Morton place on the front porch. The party started at 5:30 , after dinner.Because of COVID Martin was in side. We wore Mask and visited through the screen. We celebrated eating cup cakes & ice cream. Kate Roberts led us singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY. Martin even blew out 1 candle through the screen. "That was really good to see all the people from Hamburg" His smile told me he was having a good time. Morton Place estimated Martin received 300-400 Birthday cards. WOW!!

Those attending were:

Dr Fred Ashler (earlier in the day)

Lori & Audrey Goodman

Doc & Teresa Jamison

Marty & Carolyn Maher

Jim &Cheryl Owen

Dave, Kate, Margaret & Joseph Roberts

Joe &Robbi Travis

Annie Wakefield

Tim & Donna Whelan

Helen Beccard (Florence Sister)

Murilla & Marvin Giittinger (Florence Sister &

Brother-in law)

Whitney & Sloan Hayes (Dovel)

Rosie Callahan



Thanks to all who were able to attend, Martin had a wonderful birthday!

We wish him many blessings in the year ahead!



We would like to thank everyone at St.

Mary's for all of the help we have received recently. We really appreciate all of the help we got cleaning up. The meals that were brought to us and all of the prayers we received. We are currently watching

Mass on Zoom, but we can't wait to be back in church with all of you!

Bill and Gloria Green



Readings for the week of 7-26-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

Monday: Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 13:31-35

Tuesday: Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [9]/Mt 13:36-43

Wednesday: Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 [2]/Jn

11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42

Thursday: Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab [5a]/Mt 13:47-53

Friday: Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 [14c]/Mt 13:54-58

Saturday: Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 [14c]/Mt 14:1-12

Next Sunday: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Rom 8:35, 37-39/

Mt 14:13-21

ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES
JOSH SIMMONS
JACOB ANDERSON
DERRICK HUBARD
STEVEN ANDERSON
COLBY MCGINLEY

Your Contributions

July 19, 2020

Tithes—\$2700.10 Plate—\$20.00

Thank You!!



7-25—Cale Phillips

7-27—Amber Spurlock

7-29—Bill Green

7-29—Maelynn Moody

8-5----Robbie Travis

8-6—-Audrey Goodman

8-10—Luke Sheldon



7-3—Dave & Kate Roberts

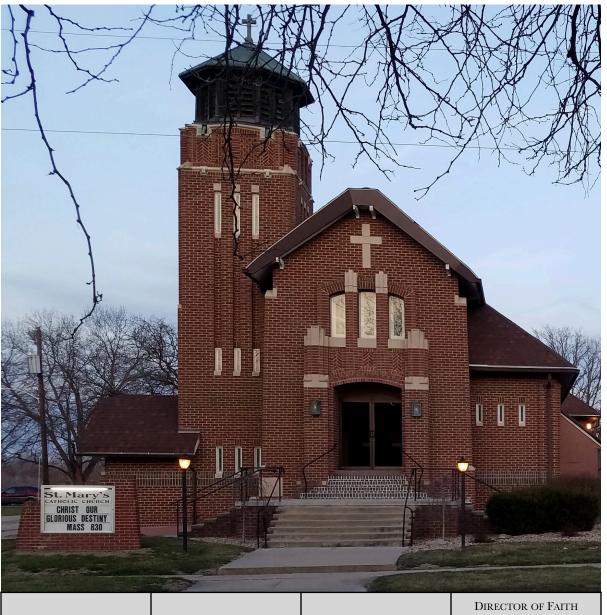
7-12—Tim & Donna Whelan

7-18—Randy & Wendy Duncan

7-26—Joe & Robbie Travis



Greg Andersen Grady Secht Reese Kemp James Dowling LeRoy Herscheid Noah Howe Mary Lou Miller **Dottie Dankof** Isacc Durr Robert & Nancy Dalton Todd Quick Verona Mitchell Joel Loggins Kenneth Russell Bill Long Henry Johnsen Lawrence DuBois Angie Witter-Childers Pat Sheldon Joe Kirk Tim Konecny Esther McCowan Shawn Collins **Drake Travis** Martha Gude Bill &Gloria Green Larry Dalton Vickie Graham Glen Whitehead Ronda Shirley Zayne Osborn Cathy Mason Anna Weber Alan Briggs



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Holy humor

A Christian guy named Bill saw an ad online for a Christian horse, so he went to check it out. The horse's owner said, "It's easy to ride him. Just say 'Praise the Lord!' to make him go and 'Amen!' to make him stop." Bill got on the horse and said, "Praise the Lord!" Sure enough, the horse started to walk. "Praise the Lord!" he said again, and the horse began to trot. "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" he yelled, and the horse broke into a gallop. Bill was enjoying his ride so much that he almost didn't notice the cliff he and the horse were about to go over. Bill shouted "AMEN!" at the top of his lungs, and the horse stopped right at the edge of the cliff. Relieved, Bill said, "Phew! Praise the Lord!"