

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 27th, 2009

John said to Jesus: "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us." Jesus replied, "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea." Mark 9: 38-43, 45, 47-48

Us vs. Them

We all approach life pretty much in the same way:

There's **us** - and there's **them**.

We're all right - *they're* not.

You can trust us - but be afraid of *them*.

In admonishing John in today's Gospel, Jesus is calling for an end to the us - vs - them perspective of the world; Jesus comes to build his Father's kingdom, a community based on generosity, humility, respect and understanding for all, by all. We may not think of ourselves as perfect, but we do (however unconsciously) consider our perspective of the world and own belief and value systems to be the standards that others would be wise to embrace. To act in Jesus' name, however, means to reach out to all without condition, without prejudice, without judgment. Thomas Merton put it this way: "As soon as you begin to take yourself seriously and imagine that your virtues are important because they are yours, you become the prisoner of your own vanity, and even your best works will blind and deceive you. And the more importance you attach to yourself and your work, the more you will tend to build up your own idea of yourself by condemning other people. Sometimes virtuous people are bitter and unhappy because they unconsciously believe that their happiness depends on their being more virtuous than others."

Scripture Readings for the Week

Monday: Zec 8: 1-8; Lk 9: 46-50
Tuesday: Dn 7: 9-10, 13-14; Jn 1: 47-51
Wednesday: Neh 2: 1-8; Lk 9: 57-62
Thursday: Neh 8: 1-4, 5-6, 7-12; Lk 10: 1-12
Friday: Bar 1: 15-22; Mt 18: 1-5, 10
Saturday: Bar 4: 5-12, 27-29; Lk 10: 17-24
Sunday: Gn 2: 18-24; Heb 2: 9-11;
Mk 10: 2-16

Pot of Gold Winners

(\$25) Lois MacDonald, Duncan MacDonald, Alyssa Bir; Nancy J. Cserbak; Janette Murray, Karen Hruska



Coffee and Donuts

Join the parish family for coffee, donuts, and conversation after all Sunday Masses.



Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, September 28 - Weekday

5:15 PM Steve & Anna Klocek

Tuesday, Sept. 29 - Sts. Michael, Gabriel, Raphael

8:00 AM Intentions of the Poor Souls

Wednesday, September 30 - St. Jerome

5:15 PM

Thursday, October 1 - St. Therese of Lisieux

8:00 AM

Friday, October 2 - The Guardian Angels

5:15 PM Michael Prusak

Saturday, October 3 - Weekday

8:00 AM

5:15 PM Michael Stasko

Unexpected changes in the schedule may cause Masses to be cancelled and Mass intentions to be moved to the first available date open. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sunday, September 27th, there will be a meeting for students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation and their parents. This meeting will begin at 7:00 PM in the church hall. It is important that a parent attend with the Confirmation candidate. Please call Colleen at the rectory for further information - 226-5116.

Blessing of the Animals

Blessing of the animals will take place on Sunday, October 4th, at 12:30 PM in front of the rectory. All animals (as well as their owners) are invited to attend. A freewill offering to benefit the Lakewood Animal Shelter will be taken.



The Year of the Priest

Pope Benedict XV proclaimed, back in June, that this year is dedicated as "The Year of the Priest." He asked that all Catholics include in their prayers the priests of the Church in support of their vocations and ministries. He asked that we pray for "holy" priests to shepherd the mission of the Church to her faithful. I ask you to pray for the priests that you know and for the vast number of priests that you do not know. A prayer that you may use follows:

Dear Lord,
we pray that the blessed Mother
wrap her mantle around your priests
and through her intercession
strengthen them for their ministry.

We pray that Mary will guide your priests
to follow her own words,
"Do whatever He tells you." (Jn 2: 5)

May your priests have the heart of St. Joseph,
Mary's most chaste spouse.

May the Blessed Mother's own pierced heart
inspire them to embrace
all who suffer at the foot of the cross.

May your priests be holy,
filled with the fire of your love
seeking nothing but your greater glory
and the salvation of souls. Amen

Saint John Vianney, pray for us.

Fr. John

2009 Catholic Communication Campaign

Help Us Connect the World with God's Word!

If Jesus Christ were on earth today, how would he spread his message? The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) believes Jesus would use every means available, so it makes use of media outlets to evangelize and promote gospel values. You can truly make a difference right here in our diocese through your donation to today's collection. Half of all funds collected in our diocese are used for local communications projects such as our diocesan newspaper and televised Mass for homebound persons. Please give generously in today's collection.

Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour

All children and their families are invited to attend a special Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour on Monday October 5th at 7:00 PM at St. Clement Church. Refreshments will be served after the Holy Hour in the church hall. The event is being sponsored by the Lakewood/St. Rose Respect Life Coalition. For more information, call Diane Beargie at 228-5929.

Finance Corner:

Collection for weekend of September 20 - \$6,579.71

Envelopes used - 164

Weekly budget to meet September 2009 expenses -
\$9,096.00

Thank you for your continued support and generosity for the parish.

Faith Journey 2010 (RCIA)

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is off to a very good start. There is still time to register for the St. Clement Faith Journey which takes place every Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Call the rectory 226-5116, or Kim Elder at 221-4115.

Annual Older Adult Retreat

It's not too late to register for the 6th Annual Older Adult Retreat sponsored by the six parishes in our cluster that will take place on Thursday, October 8th from 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM at St. Clement Church hall. Our celebrant and speaker will be Most Rev. A. James Quinn. The day will include the Liturgy of Eucharist and Anointing. A catered hot lunch will follow. Please return the registration form, along with \$10, to the church office. Registration and payment are due no later than October 1st. If you need a registration form, please call the rectory office at 226-5116.

St. Hedwig's Holy Name Society Dinner

St. Hedwig's Holy Name Society is sponsoring their final Pork Chop Dinner on Sunday, October 4th, from noon until 4:00 PM. Take out is available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Paul Namitka at 228-1134 to purchase tickets.

SS. Cyril & Methodius Harvest Homecoming

SS. Cyril & Methodius Church will be holding their annual Harvest Homecoming Festival on Sunday, October 18th, from 12:30-4:30 PM. The family event includes home-made ethnic foods, music, raffles with a \$1,500 grand prize. The festival will be held at the parish hall located at 12608 Madison Avenue. For additional information contact the church rectory at 521-7288.

Kirby Manor Senior Apartments

Are you age 55 or older and on a restricted income? Are you looking for apartment living that will provide a safe environment and great services right here in the neighborhood? Consider Kirby Manor Senior Apartments. Recently renovated and with a new addition, apartments are available and affordable, and garage parking is free. For further information about special rates available, or to schedule an appointment call Kirby Manor at 216-521-5445