

The Work of the People
The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We continue in Luke's Gospel with Jesus journeying toward Jerusalem. What we hear in the readings this Sunday is not so much about what we can't take with us but rather about our own commitment and what it is we attend to.

The Book of Ecclesiastes is part of Wisdom literature, which focuses on the meaning, and the significance of every day life, especially in those things that matter in our relationship to God and one another. The key lesson of Ecclesiastes is that life is "vanity of vanities," transitory like vapor or breath that quickly vanishes. Those who work hard at gaining possessions and wealth will soon die and leave the possessions to one who has not worked for them. Striving for material things brings with it worry, anxiety, and sleepless nights. Only attunement to God's values and path, and not our limited and often distorted values, leads to the wisdom of heart necessary to face and work through life's transitory nature.

We hear once again from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians. If in baptism we have been raised with Christ, then it must manifest itself in our manner of living and relating to God and one another. Our life is now hidden with Christ in God such that we no longer act but Christ acts in and through us. We are challenged to put away all that is "earthly," namely all that causes our hearts to harden and not be attuned to Christ's way of living and acting.

Luke's Jesus is always attuned to the obstacles that riches pose in our efforts to attune ourselves to God's voice and way of operating. The "rich fool" parable becomes a living example of one who has not learned that "one's life does not consist of possessions." Jesus teaches us that we are all called to become "rich in what matters to God" and not in storing "up treasures for ourselves." Only by responding to God's covenant love offered to us in Christ, and striving to be in right relationship with all, will we ever achieve true wisdom of heart.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Bishop Richard J. Sklba who is the retired Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee.

If we read the opening of today's Gospel carefully, we cannot be quite sure which of the brothers was really the greedy one. The outspoken brother who shouted from the crowd, namely, the

one with a heart focused on desire for more material possessions? Or the apparently absent brother whose voice we do not hear, the one who refused to share his inheritance as prescribed by law? Maybe both of them . . . and possibly each of us as well if we peer into our own hearts! Greed can wear many shoes.

Given the elegantly polished literary style of Luke's Gospel, scholars suggest that he was writing for a group of educated and fairly affluent believers. That would explain the repeated admonitions of Luke's Jesus to care for the poor and avoid greed.

The parable of the rich man and his bountiful harvest is graphically clear and pointed. Once we pause to think about it, however, we realize that greed can take many subtle shapes. Hoarding cash in a closeted carton or safe-deposit box at a bank across town, to be sure . . . but also impulsively taking the biggest slice of fresh apple pie, the most comfortable chair in the family TV room, the end of the pew at church to ensure a fast get-away during the last song at Sunday Mass, the most comfortable lawn chair at a family picnic. Greed remains one of the seven capital sins and takes many forms, some of them very down home and all too familiar. Jesus is very astute therefore in warning against "all greed (v. 15)," for the physically impoverished can be very greedy too!

If we take time to listen to this Gospel carefully, we realize that Jesus is talking about us too, even though we may not have built any big new barns recently! Come to think of it, however, I need a new bookcase . . .

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer. 28:1-17/Mt. 14:13-21
 Tuesday: Jer. 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Mt. 14:22-36
 Wednesday: Jer. 31:1-7/Mt. 15:21-28
 Thursday: Jer. 31:31-34/Mt. 16:13-23
 Friday: Na. 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Mt. 16:24-28
 Saturday: Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt. 1:16-19/Lk. 9:28b-36
 Sunday: Wis. 18:6-9/Heb. 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/
 Lk. 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

*"Father,
 I am so grateful that you love me so much!
 Keep shaping and forming me
 so that I can reflect
 your glory to the world."*

WORSHIP

Monday, August 1
8:00 am + Richard Hainer (Diane Polensky)

Tuesday, August 2
8:00 am + Josephine Haluch
(Denny & Tammy Mott & Family)

Wednesday, August 3
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, August 4
8:00 am + Sandra Christine Kling
(M/M Nelson Allen)

Friday, August 5 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak
(Dave & Cindy Mangiaracina)

Saturday, August 6
4:30 pm + Jane Olszewska
(Christine & Richard Bidwell)

Sunday, August 7
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Doris Acker (Jim & Fran Peters)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 2
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, August 6
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, August 7
At ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
At ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, August 6 - 4:30 pm
Payton Leandro

Sunday, August 7 - 9:30 am
Max Marteeny

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

M/M Frank J. Consiglio	67 yrs. 04/16/1955
M/M Walter Grove	64 yrs. 09/27/1958
M/M James Samson	62 yrs. 05/14/1960
M/M Charles Beck	50 yrs. 07/08/1972
M/M Eugene G. Woznicki	50 yrs. 09/30/1972
M/M Andrew J. Yurcak	50 yrs. 02/12/1972
M/M Lawrence Douglas	40 yrs. 06/19/1982
M/M Edward A. Thompson	40 yrs. 05/15/1982
M/M Richard Kester	25 yrs. 09/20/1997

Happy Anniversary and wishes for many years of future happiness.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus teaches us: "One's life does not consist of possessions." We spend so much time working to obtain more stuff, we don't have time for the people in our lives. What is enough? Are the words of Jesus, "You fool", meant for us?

FRENCHTOWN DINNER/FESTIVAL

The 126th annual Frenchtown ham/chicken dinner will be held today, July 31, at St. Hippolyte Church, located on Rt. 27 just seven miles east of Meadville. Dinner will be served from 12:30 - 4:30 pm (or until sold out). Cost is \$14 for adults, \$13 for senior citizens, \$8 for children 6-12 and free to those 5 and younger. An outdoor eating area and take-out meals will be available. Proceeds benefit St. Hippolyte Parish and Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

NEEDED

Is the Lord calling you to work with and teach our children? We are in need of a Third Grade Teacher. Please pray about it and if you feel the Lord speaking to you, please contact Barb Milligan, Facilitator of Religious Education, at 814 763-2410. You may also see her at Church and talk to her then. We are starting classes in September, so please give prayerful consideration of this.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$526.00
National Needs	20.00
Candles	13.00
TOTAL	\$559.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$965.00
Maintenance	433.00
National Needs	60.00
Candles	47.00
TOTAL	\$1,505.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$31,783 Paid: \$26,081	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
