

The Narrow Gate

Most cities of the ancient world were surrounded by walls that had large gates in them. Jerusalem had about twelve gates that were large enough for two-way traffic. People moved through these gates to do their business, to shop and to visit their friends. These gates, however, were closed at night, in case the city came under attack by an invader. There were also smaller gates through which individual citizens could be allowed into the city by the guards without exposing the city to danger. These smaller, or narrower gates were what Jesus was talking about. These smaller gates were like turnstiles – only one person at a time could enter through them.

Jesus repeats Isaiah's image of a final banquet. He does not want his followers to presume they can just slip through to enter his Father's house. Jesus is not looking for casual acquaintance from us but for real dedication. The crowd will press for entry, but the door will be too narrow to admit all. The less alert will be forced to stay outside and appeal in vain for entry. They will say that they ought to be allowed to enter because they were acquainted with Jesus during his earthly life. The irony of Jesus' image is that the narrow gates are the proper way to enter the Kingdom precisely because they are just wide enough to receive a single person – anyone who is willing to do sacrificial service for the glory of God. In other words, entering through the narrow gate denotes a steady obedience to the Lord Jesus — overcoming all opposition and rejecting every temptation. It is the narrow way of unconditional and unremitting love. Mere faith in Jesus and membership in His Church by Baptism cannot guarantee salvation. Some of the Fathers of the Church interpreted the narrow door as that small place in the heart where one says "yes" or "no" to what one knows to be true. It is the one place through which no external force can enter to shape or coerce one's choices. This place is what Teresa of Avila calls the "center of the soul" wherein God dwells. That means that Jesus is the narrow gate, the way by which any person must enter the Heavenly city.

~Fr. Anthony Kadavil, Archdiocese of Mobile

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Thanks for all the registration forms and payments this week! For the rest of the you, you have just one more week to do so to be eligible for the Family Basket drawing. The deadline is August 31st in order to be entered into the drawing.

We still need two teachers - a 6th grade catechist for four students and a catechist for 10th grade. We are half way to our goal. Please pray for two more people to come forward.

~ **Georgi Whelan**

YELLOWSTONE ART TRAIL –FREE ART TOUR Friday & Saturday, September 6th & 7th 9am – 5pm; 32 Artists at 10 Locations – Cadott, Boyd & eastern Lake Wissota; Includes the Institute of St. Joseph – Nazareth Studio in Boyd, #10 on the tour. Brochures & maps can be viewed at www.yellowstonearttrail.blogspot.com

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,330.00
Loose	38.00
Total	1,368.00
Total from August 19, 2018	1,130.00
Building Fund	555.00
Assumption	63.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 282.00
Loose	39.00
Total	321.00
Total from August 19, 2018	388.00
Building Fund	10.00
Assumption	117.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 577.00
Loose	130.00
Total	707.00
Total from August 19, 2018	710.00
Assumption	163.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 420.00
Loose	43.00
Total	463.00
Total from August 19, 2018	329.74
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>	

Called to Become Saints Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal is underway through out the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **August 5th**, we have collected:

	Payments		
	Assessment	& Pledges	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$ 8,880.00	\$ 2,513.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$ 6,810.00	\$ 2,348.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$ 5,234.00	PAID IN FULL
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 2,789.00	PAID IN FULL

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

BROADWAY THEATRE

Hwy 64 west side of Medford

For Movies & Showtimes visit

medfordmovies.com or call 715.748.5556

CLIP THIS COUPON - Purchase any size popcorn & get matching soda for \$1

Annual Fall Harvest Dinner Sunday, September 8th in Phillips at St. Therese Social Hall Highway 13 South. Serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Menu: Cabbage Rolls, Chicken, Mashed Potatoes w/gravy, Carrots, Salads, Rolls & Rye Bread, Pie & Kolache and beverage. Adults: \$9; Children (6-12) \$6; 5 & Under FREE. **Everyone is welcome!**