

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today's Scripture selections emphasize the need for Christians to abide in Christ as a condition for producing fruits of kindness, mercy, charity and holiness. The first reading, taken from the Acts of the Apostles, testifies to the abundance of spiritual fruits yielded by the apostles because of their close bond with the risen Lord. The reading tells us how the Lord pruned the former Pharisee, Saul of Tarsus, the fanatic who had persecuted the Church, to produce a fruit-bearing branch called Paul, the zealous Apostle to the Gentiles, entirely dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel. Even Paul's forced return to Tarsus for a brief period is an example of God's pruning of the vine to bring forth a greater harvest, namely, the mission to the Gentiles. In today's second reading, John, in his first letter to the Church, explains that only if we remain united to Christ by putting our Faith in him and drawing our spiritual strength from him, will we be able to obey God's commandments, especially the commandment of love. In the Gospel, taken from the Last Supper discourse, Jesus uses his favorite image of the vine and branches to help his disciples understand the closeness of their relationship with him and the necessity of their maintaining it. They are not simply rabbi and disciples. Their lives are mutually dependent - as close as a vine and its branches. In fact, in using this image, Jesus is explaining to them and to us what our relationship with him should be like.

We need to abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us: The four Gospels teach us how to become true disciples of Jesus and how to abide in him as branches abide in the main trunk of the vine, drawing their life from it. Personal and liturgical prayers, frequenting of the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation, daily, meditative reading of Scripture, and the loving forgiveness of others enable us to abide in Jesus, the true Vine, as fruit-bearing branches.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CCD - Catholic Christian Disciples

What makes someone an "expert" Christian, an expert disciple? Jesus tells us in our Gospel today. He says "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing" (John 15:1-8). People become good disciples of Jesus because of their relationship with him. We develop this relationship with Jesus through our reading of Scripture and our life of prayer. But most especially, Jesus promises us that he will remain in us and that we will be his disciples when we share in His Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

+Classes: Wednesday - May 2nd

Gilman: Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.

Grades 6 -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon: Grades K -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

+Today seven candidates from our cluster will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Mass celebrated by Bishop Powers at Our Lady of Sorrows, Ladysmith at 2:00 p.m. They are: Mykell Podolak, Trevor Schmitt, Dayne Tallier & Ryan Webster from Gilman; Sarah Olson from Jump River; Luke Geist & Zachary Kopacz from Sheldon. All are welcome to attend.

+Next Sunday, May 6th, we will have an All CCD Celebration at the Masses in Gilman and Sheldon. Flowers will be carried by CCD students to be presented to Our Blessed Mother Mary as we begin the month of May.

Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good! ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,175.00
Loose	108.00
Total	1,283.00
Total from April 23, 2017	1,343.00
Building Fund	70.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 460.00
Loose	84.00
Total	544.00
Total from April 23, 2017	539.00
Building Fund	10.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,382.00
Loose	122.50
Total	1,504.50
Total from April 23, 2017	1,119.80
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 215.00
Loose	49.00
Total	264.00
Total from April 23, 2017	175.00
Building Fund	5.00

(Totals include only the basic collection)
2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 4/3/18

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 8,685.00	\$ 2,494.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 4,840.00	\$ 3,881.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 2,790.00	\$ 2,459.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 2,302.00	\$ 207.00



"You walk with us on our life's journey..." To those of you who contributed to this year's **Rice Bowl** drive, our cluster collected over **\$5,800**. Your generosity is a testament of your faith to live and serve our human family. **THANK YOU!**

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 and get matching soda for \$1

With Mother's Day, and Father's Day and graduations around the corner, SCRIP makes a great gift idea! Purchase SCRIP gift cards after Mass every Sunday at Ss. Peter & Paul.