

## From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Today's readings introduce Jesus as a prophet and explain how prophets and other messengers from God inevitably suffer rejection. The readings challenge us to face rejection and hardship with prophetic courage.

The first reading, taken from the book of the prophet Ezekiel, tells us about his call from God to be a prophet. Yahweh warns Ezekiel that he is being sent to obstinate and rebellious Israelites in exile in Babylon. Hence, as God's prophet, he will have to face rejection and persecution for giving God's message. The reading gives us the warning that, as Christians who accept the call of Jesus and seek to follow him, we also may face indifference and hostility, contempt and scorn, weakness, hardship and persecution, insults and rejection. In the second reading, St. Paul gives us the same warning from his experience that not only the prophets, but the apostles and missionaries will have to encounter hardships and rejection in their preaching mission. Paul confesses that God has given him a share in Christ's suffering – a chronic illness which gives him pain, a "*thorn in the flesh*" — so that he might rely on God's grace and might glory in the power of a strengthening God. Today's Gospel passage shows us that many people of Jesus' hometown of Nazareth did not accept him as a prophet because they "knew" him and his family too well. They knew that he was a carpenter with no schooling in Mosaic Law and knew that he could not be the promised Messiah who would come from Bethlehem as a descendant of David's royal family. Besides, they were angry when Jesus not only did not work any miracles in Nazareth but chided them with prophetic courage for their lack of Faith and warned that he would go to other people to do his preaching and healing ministry.

Today's Scriptures challenge us to face rejection with prophetic courage and optimism. 1) Very often our friends, families, or childhood companions fail to listen to us and refuse to accept the words of grace, love and encouragement that we offer to them because they are too familiar with us. Hence, they are unable to see us as God's appointed instruments, the agents of God's healing and saving grace. But we have to face such rejection with prophetic courage because by our Baptism we are called to be prophets like Jesus, sharing his prophetic mission. 2) Let us also acknowledge, appreciate and encourage the prophets of our time who stand for truth and justice in our society with the wisdom of God in their heads, the power of the Holy Spirit in their words and the courage and love of Jesus in their actions.

**God Bless You!**

**Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND - HOW WONDERFUL! HOW AWESOME! I never thought that I would walk someday in the places where Jesus walked and to see the area that Jesus saw during his thirty-three years. Thank you so very much to each parish for contributing to this precious gift. I don't really know how to thank you! It is so unexpected.

+ Thank you to Fr. Lourdu and to Mark & Gloria Carpenter for initiating this gift. Thank you to Fr. Bala for the invitation to others to join him on this trip. A brochure was placed on the bulletin boards in each parish. It will take place from January 17<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 (10 days).

This is a wonderful pilgrimage at this stage in my life. Fr. Greg, a Franciscan says "When you go on pilgrimage, you are there to allow God to work in your life." I ask God to bless each and every one of you and your families for your generosity.

**Gratefully - ~ Sr. Marianna**

## OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul		
Adult Envelopes	\$	1,225.00
Loose		115.00
Total		1,340.00
Total from July 2, 2017		1,050.00
Building Fund		756.00
St. Stanislaus		
Adult Envelopes	\$	310.00
Loose		86.07
Total		396.07
Total from July 2, 2017		403.00
Building Fund		358.00
St. John		
Adult Envelopes	\$	1,367.00
Loose		107.00
Total		1,474.00
Total from July 2, 2017		1,443.00
Building Fund		334.00
St. Michael		
Adult Envelopes	\$	225.00
Loose		27.00
Total		252.00
Total from July 2, 2017		371.00
Building Fund		76.00
National Concerns		50.00

*(Totals include only the basic collection )*

## 2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal

Contributor Status Report as of 6/29/18

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 8,945.00	\$ 2,234.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 5,350.00	\$ 3,371.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,249.00	\$ 3,576.00	\$ 1,673.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,509.00	\$ 2,509.00	PAID in FULL

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## OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

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E-mail address: [nash-jackanfh@hotmail.com](mailto:nash-jackanfh@hotmail.com)

**1 (800) 470-2230**

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