

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

The central theme of today's readings is the overflowing mercy and kindness of a loving and forgiving God for His people. The first reading tells us how a forgiving and compassionate God healed the spiritual blindness of His Chosen People by subjecting them to captivity in Babylon and then liberated them, bringing them back to their homeland. The Jerusalem journey of Jesus in the company of the lame and the blind is the connection between the first reading and today's gospel. The healing of the blind Bartimaeus in today's Gospel is seen also as the fulfillment of the joyful prophecy of Jeremiah about the return of the exiled Jews from Babylon to their homeland. Today's Gospel explains how Jesus showed the mercy and compassion of his Heavenly Father by healing Bartimaeus, a blind man. Just as *the blind and the lame* were God's concern in the first reading, Jesus was concerned with the blind beggar, Bartimaeus of Jericho. On hearing that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by, Bartimaeus loudly expressed his trusting faith in the healing power of Jesus by shouting, "*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me.*" As Jesus invited him to come near, Bartimaeus threw aside his cloak (symbolizing perhaps the baptismal divesting). His meeting with Jesus gave Bartimaeus the gift of spiritual as well as physical sight, and he became a disciple of Jesus.

Let us pray for spiritual sight: Each one of us suffers from spiritual blindness. Hence, we need the light of the Holy Spirit to enlighten us. Anger, hatred, prejudice, jealousy, evil habits, etc., make us spiritually blind and prevent us from seeing the goodness in our neighbors and God's presence in them. Hence, let us pray to have a clear vision of Christian values and priorities in our lives and to acknowledge the presence of God dwelling in ourselves and in our neighbors. A clear spiritual vision enables us to see the goodness in others, to express our appreciation for all that they have been doing for us, and to refrain from criticizing their performance.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

At this time of preparation for the celebration of All Saints Day, here is a married couple who became saints. Louis and Zelig Martin, parents of St. Therese of Lisieux, were canonized together on October 18th, 2015. They were the first married couple canonized together. Louis was a watchmaker and Zelig, his wife, was a mother and business woman with her own lace company. After marrying in 1858, the couple had nine children, five of whom survived. All five became nuns including St. Therese who was also canonized. The couple nurtures their marriage and maintained a joyful Catholic home, while balancing the demands of business and day-to-day life with their children. The healing of Carmen Perez of Spain led to the approval of the decree for canonization. Let us pray to Louis and Zelig for all families.

+ There are **no CCD Classes on Wednesday, October 31st**.

+ The **All Saints Day Celebration** with the CCD children will be Sunday, November 4th at 8:30 a.m. Mass in Gilman and the 10:30 a.m. Mass in Sheldon. Come, see them shine with the holiness of the saints!

+In an effort to eliminate the cost of postage, we are trying to communicate by email. Would you please share your email address with us? Thank you.

Blessings and Peace~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul			
Adult Envelopes	\$		909.00
Loose			83.50
Total			992.50
Total from October 22, 2017			1,047.00
Building Fund			75.00
Mission Sunday			164.00
St. Stanislaus			
Adult Envelopes	\$		345.00
Loose			98.00
Total			443.00
Total from October 22, 2017			586.00
Building Fund			10.00
Energy			10.00
Mission Sunday			67.00
St. John			
Adult Envelopes	\$		627.00
Loose			60.00
Total			687.00
Total from October 22, 2017			574.25
Mission Sunday			225.00
St. Michael			
Adult Envelopes	\$		195.00
Loose			39.00
Total			234.00
Total from October 22, 2017			298.00
Building Fund			40.00
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>			

Called to Become Saints Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of October 4th, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$1,500.00	\$9,893.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$1,150.00	\$8,008.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$1,695.00	\$3,539.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$ 325.00	\$2,464.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK



- Painting
- Wall Coverings
- Patch Plaster - Drywall
- Tape and Texture
- Wood Finishing

James Le'Houillier, President
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