

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

Dear Friends:

Today's readings explain what true religion is. It is not simply a scrupulous, external observance of rules, laws, traditions and rituals. It is a loving, obedient relationship with God expressed in obeying His Commandments, worshipping Him, recognizing His presence in other human beings and rendering them loving and humble service. Prayers, rituals, Sacraments and religious practices only help us to practice this true religion in our daily lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes true religion as serving God and all His children with a pure and holy heart. The Gospel explains the encounter of Jesus with the Sanhedrin observers and the Pharisees who had been sent to assess his unique, controversial teachings. These experts had found Jesus' teachings an open violation of the "Traditions of the Elders" and his implied and spoken claims blasphemous. They also noticed that Jesus' disciples omitted the required ritual washing before meals. It was in the fifth century BC that the scribes started adding *oral traditions* as interpretations and practical applications of the Mosaic Law. The Pharisees observed them and insisted that all the Jews should do so. The original noble purpose was to sanctify the daily lives of the people, making them "holy as God is holy" and different in lifestyle from their pagan neighbors. Jesus uses the occasion as a teachable moment to give them the following lessons: 1) Don't teach human doctrines as dogmas of Faith. 2) Sincerity of heart, internal disposition, purity and holiness are more important than mere external ritual observances. 3) Keep your heart holy as it is the source of sins, vices and evil habits. The observance of traditions and of washing rituals does not correct the internal motivations and inclinations that really defile people. 4) External piety without internal holiness is hypocrisy.

We need to learn and keep the spirit of the Church's laws and ritual practices. Let us avoid the tendency to become *cafeteria* Christians that is, to choose certain Commandments and Church laws to follow, and to ignore the others as we choose certain food items and ignore others in a cafeteria.

**God Bless You!**

**Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju**

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS  
CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship**

Parents teach their children to know the value of the rules that they make in the home. Rules can make for good order in the home. Rules can help set boundaries for what they can and can't do. In the Gospel today, Jesus says to the pharisees "You disregard God's commandments but cling to human tradition." They were making rules for the people that did not make them better persons just by observing the rules. Our rules need to be such that they offer us ways to do God's will in our lives. Even children in the classroom need to know that the way they act there is either for God or against God. Rules in the classroom strengthen them to be good Christians, to be Christ-like as they observe them.

+ Please return the Registration Forms to the office or by mail.

+ **Classes begin Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>** at Ss. Peter & Paul and at St. John's.

+ The **Cupcake Sale** will be held on **Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** after Mass.

+ **A teacher is needed for the Grade 6 class.**

Pray for the catechists and children.

Blessings and Peace ~ Sr. Marianna

**OUR WEEKLY GIVING**

Ss. Peter & Paul	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 827.00
Loose	192.00
Total	1,019.00
Total from August 27, 2017	1,025.00
Building Fund	140.00
Lighting Donations	2,020.00
St. Stanislaus	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 640.00
Loose	143.00
Total	783.00
Total from August 27, 2017	455.00
Building Fund	50.00
St. John	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 800.00
Loose	109.00
Total	909.00
Total from August 27, 2017	1,791.37
Assumption	10.00
St. Michael	
Adult Envelopes	\$ 270.00
Loose	95.00
Total	365.00
Total from August 27, 2017	282.00

*(Totals include only the basic collection )*

**2017/2018 Catholic Services Appeal**

Contributor Status Report as of 8/2/18

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,179.00	\$ 8,945.00	\$ 2,234.00
St. John	\$ 8,721.00	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 3,171.00
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**

**BROADWAY THEATRE**  
 Hwy 64 west side of Medford  
 For movies & showtimes visit  
[medfordmovies.com](http://medfordmovies.com) or call 715.748.5556  
**CLIP THIS COUPON - Purchase any size  
 popcorn & get matching soda for \$1**

**7<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Harvest Dinner at All Saints Parish** in Stanley, WI **on Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. Dinner will be served from **10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in the Holy Family Hall: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, cranberries, rutabagas, green beans and all the trimmings. Save room for pie! Adults \$10; Children (age 5-12) \$4; Family \$30. Listen to the sweet tunes of the Young Old Timers while you enjoy games, bucket raffle and silent auction.