

From the Pastor's Desk:

In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus calls us to examine the interior parts of our life - to realize that what we hold on the inside is often more important than what we do on the outside. As a matter of fact, if we don't work with the power of God's Grace to cleanse the "evils" within us, we will not truly act on the outside authentically. I have been reflecting on how sometimes we can be unaware of the things inside that are drawing us away from following Jesus and living the Gospel. It is something for all of us to consider.

I've also been thinking about the recent resurgence of attention to the atrocities of past years (prior to the Church implementing the stringent rules put in place in the early 2000's), where children were harmed in terrible ways. During a meeting at the Diocese this past week, I found out that as a result of these changes, there has not been a credible complaint of abuse in many years. The Bishop (getting choked up) clearly stated his determination to maintain the rules and standards that protect children, and pledged transparency in dealings with authorities. I think we all share the commitment to upholding the safeguards and caring for all God's children. Please know that I am available for anyone who may wish to privately discuss these matters.

I am pleased to report that we voted and passed next fiscal year's budget this past week. I am even more happy to report that this budget is in surplus - which is necessary to be able to cover any unforeseen expenses. We will be working soon to put together a committee to explore and develop a plan for capital expenses. These are those practical things that need to be done more quickly (painting, parking lot repairs) or will need to be done in the future (new roof). This committee will work to plan how to take the surplus we can generate and to begin to put money aside for these needed expenses so we won't be caught off guard in five years when hit with a big expense. The idea is that this planning will allow us to have the money for these expenses already in savings - that way we won't have to borrow the money. This will make us stable and self-sufficient.

I have had discussions with a few of our ministry leaders we are still working on the building of these. I think we will be entering another phase of this process of living out our mission in Christ. At Staff Meeting we set a date to do advanced planning for events up to the end of this calendar year, this more proactive approach will allow us to have things more organized, less rushed, and better coordinated. After some planning and work by our parish Religious Education office you will also be able to pick up a listing of Faith Formation activities for the next few months. We worked hard to have some variety in this offering - please attend as many as you would like to and that you are interested in.

With our school year started (and a stable enrollment in the school), ministries developing, and educational opportunities beginning to be offered - we are on the move in a positive way. Thanks be to all for your work in helping to build up our community, and thanks be to God who gives us the strength and resources to live in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless,

Fr. Steve