

Gospel Reflection ~ July 30, 2017

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel presents inanimate objects as images of the Kingdom of Heaven: a treasure, fine pearls, and a net cast into the sea. Each highlights a different dimension of the mysterious Kingdom of Heaven. In the first two parables, the hidden treasure and a fine pearl are objects of great value. In both cases, someone finds the precious item, and then sells all they have to buy it. With these common elements, we can easily see that the Kingdom is of immense worth. The differences in the two parables bring to light less obvious insights. The person who found the treasure wasn't looking for it, but found an unexpected windfall, whereas the merchant was actually out looking for fine pearls. The Kingdom breaks into the world whether people are oblivious of God's hidden grace or are actively seeking it.

Like the parable of the pearl, that of the net cast into the sea involves people who are expectation to find something of worth. An added aspect is the separation of the good and the bad fish, symbolic of the division of the righteous and the evil at the end of the age. Like the seeds and the weeds in last week's Gospel, they remain together in the present age.

The treasure, pearl, and net are not the only pictures of the Kingdom of Heaven. So too are the people involved. Their actions indicate how people are engaged in Kingdom pursuit. Hope of possessing a great treasure or fine pearls or a good catch of fish directs their actions even before they acquire anything. Seeking a way to obtain the desired object and working diligently toward obtaining it are hope filled actions. Similarly, hope for the Kingdom of Heaven directs the actions of all of us who would be Jesus' disciples.

Source: Workbook for Lectors, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word.

Baptism

In Baptism, the Holy Spirit moves us to answer Christ's call to holiness. In Baptism, we are asked to walk by the light of Christ and to trust in his wisdom. We are invited to submit our hearts to Christ with ever deeper love.

Today, we celebrate with Amia Chloe Codjo-Seignon, as her family has chosen Catholic Baptism for her. We pray blessing on Amia and her whole family.



Bans of Marriage

Please keep these couples in your prayers as they celebrate their love and begin their married life together with a wedding at St. Francis this upcoming month.

8/5 – Jillian Renda/Jake DiEugnio
8/5 – Ali Condrón/Craig Smith
8/12 – Lauren Stephens/Matthew Cooperrider
8/26 – Amanda Lanker/Taylor Vance
8/26 – Molly Jacobson/Eric Bookmyer



Saint Vincent DePaul

Today, we take up a second collection for our St. Vincent DePaul Society. Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice. The Society collaborates with other people of good will in relieving need and addressing its causes, making no distinction in those served because, in them, Vincentians see the face of Christ. Thank you for continually supporting our Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

Mission Appeal

On August 13, 2017, Reverend Lazarus Langbiir, CSSp, will visit our parish to speak at the Masses about the missionary work of the Church and in particular that of the Spiritans (Congregations of the Holy Spirit, previously known as the Holy Ghost Fathers). To learn more about the Spiritans, please visit their website at <http://spiritans.org>

This visit is part of a national program in which annually a representative of one of the missionary groups visits parishes of the Diocese to invite the parish to share in the mission work of the universal Church. The Spiritans are an international community engaged in a wide range of missionary activity in over 60 countries throughout the world. *Fr. Lazarus himself is from Ghana. He ministers in the Diocese of Pittsburgh while completing doctoral studies at Duquesne University.*

When Jesus said: "You shall witness to me in Jerusalem and in Samaria and to the ends of the earth", He made the spread of the Gospel an essential part of our Catholic Life.

We urge you to respond generously to Father Langbiir's appeal.

Around the Diocese

City Wide Prayer Gathering - Saturday, August 5 from 9 a.m.— Noon. 9:00 am Mass celebrated by Fr. Dean Mathewson, Fr. James Coleman concelebrant. Breakfast, Praise Adoration, Prayer Ministry, Confession, Fellowship, and a Teaching on "Surrendering" to be given by Dcn. Ed Shikina.

OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL (Next to Independence H. S.)
5225 Refugee Road, Columbus 43232

Please bring a dish to share. Please come and bring a friend. Sponsored by the Columbus Catholic Renewal. For information contact Cheryl at Church of Our Lady, 614-861-1242.

The annual Catholic Laymens' Fall silent retreat is at St. Therese's Retreat Center, 6:00 pm Friday, September 8 through noon Mass, Sunday, September 10. In reflection sessions, Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, will lead men to appreciate the power of the Holy Spirit by developing his theme "To Have a Relationship with the Holy Spirit, His Mercy is Everlasting." The total cost is only \$150.00. Make your reservation now and consider bringing a friend! Contact Charles Kielkopf at (614) 268-0175 or email kielkopf.1@osu.edu or Eric Lutz at 614-949-5905 or James Allan at 614-403-7831.

NNEMAP News – NNEMAP will be closed Wednesday, July 26th through Sunday, August 6th for the Ohio State Fair Parking Fundraiser.

We have added hours overall and will have a more consistent and easy to remember schedule. We will begin with the following schedule for the entire month starting Monday, August 7th.

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday 9am until 12 noon
Always Closed Thursdays!
Saturday Produce Mart will continue to be open from 11 to 1.

St. Stephen the Martyr Festival - August 4th from 6 pm – midnight, August 5th 5:00 pm – midnight and August 6th from 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm. A weekend of fun including kid games, rides, live music, a 50/50 raffle, authentic Mexican and American food and plenty of fun for all! St. Stephen's is located at 4131 Clime Road, Columbus, Ohio 43228. For more information, please call [614-272-5206](tel:614-272-5206). Hope to see you there