

Pastor's Letter

September 21, 2025—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

This Sunday is Catechetical Sunday. We remember the important work of catechesis, in which the faith is passed on to the next generation of believers, both children and adults. In our readings for today we see just how important this ministry is. In our first reading God calls out those who cheat in the marketplace and abuse the poor for profit. They see religion as a nuisance because it cuts into their opportunities for swindling people. Sounds kind of familiar doesn't it. If anything, it's gotten worse than in the prophet Amos' time.

Why does this happen? Why have we lost a basic sense of fairness and decency? Because we have forgotten that we all will one day answer to a higher authority, one that is above market forces. One day we will stand before the Lord and our financial statements will not make one bit of difference when we face our personal day of judgment. Compassion and justice will be the standards by which we are measured. And the material goods of this life will only help us if we use them for the good of all and not just for ourselves.

This is where catechists and their ministry come in. In his homily for the Day for Catechists in 2013 Pope Francis said, "The catechist, then, is a Christian who is mindful of God, who is guided by the memory of God in his or her entire life and who is able to awaken that memory in the hearts of others." Through the handing on of the faith we are reminded that we have our source in God and everything that is good comes from him as a gift and is given so that we can share it with others and know the joy that comes from loving as God loves. When we forget God, we forget who we are and why we are here and we become isolated and fearful and selfish. We see other people as commodities, things to use for our own benefit or pleasure, and we lose the joy of life which is only found in personal communion with God, with other human beings, and with all of creation.

As we celebrate Catechetical Sunday, we thank God for those women and men who have shared and continue to share with us the memory of the gracious working of God in the world and who inspire us to take up Christ's call to live in faith, hope, love, peace, and justice.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

