

Pastor's Letter

July 26, 2026 – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

In our first reading for today Solomon receives from God the gift that keeps on giving: wisdom. Solomon recognizes that without wisdom nothing else is going to go right for him as the new king of Israel. God said he would give to Solomon anything he wanted and Solomon chose the one thing that would bring him everything. He could have asked for wealth, power over his enemies, long life, but by following the path of God-given wisdom he would come to have everything he needed.

Another thing that led to the success of Solomon was his recognition that as the king of Israel, his life was not his own, and the gift that he received from God would only be a blessing to him if he used it for the good of the people. The wise person knows that true happiness and fulfillment comes to those who give themselves away in service. And Scripture tells us that the beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord.

In our Gospel reading Jesus tells us that the treasure of heaven, the gift of reconciliation and relationship with God is more valuable than anything the world has to offer. "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

When we have the kingdom of God everything in our lives falls into place. As St. Paul says in our second reading, "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." If you have the gift of faith, the gift of the presence of Christ in your life, you have everything. And the more we serve others by sharing the gifts of peace, hope, joy, and love, which come out of the gift of faith, the more those gifts grow in our own hearts.

May God give us the wisdom always to seek the gift that really does keep on giving, not just for ourselves, but for the whole world, the gift of new life in Christ.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

Journey of Faith begins September 28

Have you ever had questions about the teachings, history, and structure of the Catholic Church? Maybe you are thinking about becoming Catholic, have family or friends who are Catholic, or maybe you are Catholic and want to go deeper in the practice of your faith. Our parishes will once again be offering a class called, "Journey of Faith" starting in September. This is our program for the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA). Our OCIA class is for anyone interested in learning about Catholic faith and life. Classes will begin on Monday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at St. Birigd's in the parish hall. The class will be led by Fr. Scott. This is a great opportunity to go deep into the teachings and practices of the Catholic faith. Bring your questions and join us! For more info contact Fr. Scott.