Pastor's Letter

October 4, 2026 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Dear Church Family,

Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote a story in 1850 called The Great Stone Face. It's the story of a boy named Ernest who grows up in the shadow of a mountain that has a weathered outcropping that looks like a giant profile of a man's face. Local legend says that one day someone from that area will appear that looks just like the stone face and that person will be a blessing to the whole community.

Ernest spends his whole life looking at that face and thinking about the wisdom, kindness, gentleness, and goodness that the face represents and waits with eager expectation for the appearance of the person bearing that image. Over the course of his life, a number of people come to the community that some think are candidates for the fulfillment of the prophecy; a wealthy businessman, a battle tested general, a powerful politician, a renowned poet. All of them turn out to be a disappointment. None of them possesses the noble qualities that are reflected in the face which has become a model for Ernest of everything that is good and true.

The years pass and Ernest becomes an old man and something amazing happens. His contemplation of the Great Stone Face transforms him. His continual meditation on the virtues that it represents has instilled in him those very same virtues. He has himself become the one that the community has been waiting for.

What are the images in our lives that we are allowing to shape our character? What are the influences that we immerse ourselves in every day? Where are they leading us? How are they molding us? It all happens very gradually and sometimes we don't even notice. In our second reading for today, St. Paul invites us to continually hold the image of Christ in our minds and hearts and to allow the truth, goodness, and beauty of the Lord to transform us into his image and likeness. When we stay close to Jesus through prayer and the sacraments, the peace of Christ can be ours. May the loving face of our Savior fill our vision, shape our desires, and make us like him.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

"Healing" Rosary

Please join us in praying a "Healing" Rosary for all parishioners, family members and friends combating any illnesses at this time. It will be held Tuesday, October 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. Bring family members and friends. All are welcome!

