

Dear Friends,

Today I'm giving my bulletin space to Brian Mizzoni, a parishioner here at All Saints and an aspirant to the permanent diaconate for our diocese. Brian is spending his summer assignment with Catholic Charities of Steuben County, and has been selected to give their annual summer appeal to our parish.

And, if you missed the opportunity to contribute to the Diocesan Mission Appeal for Migrant Workers in the second collection last week (July 21), there is still time! Simply drop your contribution into the collection basket in an envelope clearly labeled for this appeal. It can also be brought to the parish office or done online. I am always grateful for your generosity.

As a reminder, the closing ceremony for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church will be on Saturday, September 7th at 10:30am. The annual parish picnic, usually held at Craig Park in Painted Post on the Sunday after Labor Day, will serve as both the post-closing Mass reception and as the launch of a new Faith Formation year. It will be held on the grounds of St. Mary's Church.

More to follow next week....

In Christ,
Fr. Jones

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Some of you may not know me even though I am a lifelong Communicant of All Saints Parish. I am currently in the diaconate program pursuing a call to become a Permanent deacon; I have completed two years of this four-year program. Every summer term diaconal candidates are assigned a placement ministry. This summer I have been fortunate to be assigned to work with Catholic Charities of Steuben. In my short time with Catholic Charities, I have witnessed their tremendous work and I believe there is a correlation between today's Gospel reading and the work that Catholic Charities does. In today's Gospel, our Lord is carefully instructing His disciples, and all of us, on how the Father cares and provides for His children. We see this in the model prayer, the Our Father. This prayer takes a mere 15-20 seconds to say, yet it is filled with incredibly deep theological and practical meaning. The Catechism tells us that the opening petitions of this magnificent prayer carry us toward God and His kingdom. It then unfolds with the same movement that draws down upon itself the eyes of the Father of mercies (CCC 2804 & 2805). By these opening petitions, we are strengthened in faith, filled with hope, and set aflame by charity, (CCC 2806). These three theological virtues of faith hope and charity primarily come to us through the sacraments -- it is the most august Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist that is referenced with the phrase "Give us this day our daily bread." Now there are a couple different senses to this phrase. The word "daily" in Greek is *epiousios* which conveys the meaning of the coming day and subsistence. It does not occur anywhere else in the New Testament. Taken in the literal sense, it means super-essential or, as St. Jerome translated, super-substantial. So basically the phrase can be translated as 'give us this day our super-substance bread'! This last sense refers directly to the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist as the medicine for our souls. St. Peter Chrysologus beautifully proclaims that, "Christ Himself is the bread who, sown in the Virgin, raised up in the flesh, kneaded in the Passion, baked in the oven of the tomb, reserved in churches, brought to altars, furnishes the faithful each day with food from heaven."

The Gospel continues with a parable of the friend in need who is persistent with his request. Jesus says that because of his persistence, he would be given what he needs. This parable, coupled with the Lord's Prayer, reminds us of the needs of others, especially those of our own community. Catholic Charities has several programs which precisely help meet these needs. One such program is Turning Point. Turning Point works primarily with people in poverty. It heavily relies on generous donations to continue to serve those in need. More than 15% of people in Steuben County live at or below the federal poverty rate. Steuben County is very large with very limited transportation options for over 10,000 adults with no vehicles. Many in our county have chronic health conditions and need medical care which they cannot afford. Our county is also considered a food desert, meaning it has limited healthy food availability, especially for people outside of a town or city. SNAP benefits and food stamps help people stretch their dollars; however, healthy foods are expensive and harder to access for those in poverty. Turning Point works to support all this. Last year it provided over 175,000 meals through food pantries and mobile food trucks. They also provided over 16,000 trips through distribution of bus tokens and gas cards to help people get to job interviews, classes and other various appointments.

Just as we see the persistence of the friend in need, we also see the persistence of Catholic Charities to meet the needs of those around us. I ask that you please consider donating to, or even possibly volunteering with, Catholic Charities to be an instrument of God's provision. For more information, you can contact Catholic Charities of Steuben @ (607) 776-8085.

I also ask that you please keep me in your prayers as I continue in the Diaconate program. Thank you and God bless you.

Sincerely,
Brian Mizzoni