WHAT MATTERS TO GOD?

This Sunday our Lord challenges us not to evaluate our lives simply by the weight of our physical treasures. Rather, Christ calls us to richness in “what matters to God.” How are we to know what matters to God? While only a seminarian assigned to this parish for the summer, I’m privileged to be able to share this reflection with you.

In his first encyclical letter to Catholic leaders and laypeople throughout the world (Lumen Fidei) released just a few weeks ago, Pope Francis exhorts all of humanity to walk in the light which faith provides. While often associated with darkness and doubt, Francis tells us that faith is a light which when placed in the heart of a human person has the ability to lead them, allowing clarity of sight. Faith then becomes something of an animating force impelling us to do the good and leading us away from that which is harmful. One of the more poignant images that Francis uses is that of the stained glass window. Viewed from the outside, these panes look dark and opaque. However, once a person steps inside the body of the Church, the windows enable us not only to see clearly, but to marvel at their extraordinary beauty. The windows here at St Louis are no exception, they cast the pews in a rainbow of vibrant colors and yet all point to the central window which surrounds the crucifix.

Perhaps these remarkable works of art can share with us some wisdom which speaks to this weekend’s gospel. To think of a window keeping its own beauty to itself is absurd. Windows exist for the very purpose of shedding light, so too with our own lights. As a seminarian here at St Louis, it has been a great joy to witness so many young children enter the Church through baptism. The ceremony features a candle, the light of Christ, which they are to keep burning all the days of their life. And so too each of us have become heirs to the greatest of all treasures, namely the Kingdom of God.

While balancing material resources is a necessary reality of daily life for all of us, I think we would all do well to meditate on what we regard to be the greatest treasures in our life – what matters. When we allow ourselves the time and the solitude to undergo a brief review of our lives, the fruit of such reflection should spur us on to greater enthusiasm in accomplishing the good in our daily lives. When we do this, and when we help our children and those around us to do the same, our lives become brighter candles, more vivid and awe-inspiring windows casting light for our friends and neighbors who may be in darkness. We come to realize that all is gift, and that the light from which we come and toward which we go is bright and priceless beyond our deepest imagining.

~ Michael Harris
**Mass Intentions for This Week**

**MONDAY - August 5**  
Nm 11:4b-15/Mt 14:13-21  
11:00 am Richard Knox - Mary Grace  
5:15 pm Dr. J. H. Growney - Family

**TUESDAY - August 6**  
Feast of the Transfiguration  
Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/2 Pt 1:16-19/  
Lk 9:28b-36  
6:45 am Paul Kircher - Kimber Family  
11:00 am Paul Spinelli - Marian Battle

**WEDNESDAY - August 7**  
Nm 13:1-2, 25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/  
Mt 15:21-28  
11:00 am Ned Cunningham - Bernie & John Eilertsen  
11:00 am Mass at the Highlands Living Center - For All Residents  
5:15 pm Nancy Kachurak - Family

**THURSDAY - August 8**  
St. Dominic  
Nm 20:1-13/Mt 16:13-23  
6:45 am Mary Ellen Harkness - Family  
11:00 am George Jabbour - Jabbour Family

**FRIDAY - August 9**  
Dt 4:32-40/Mt 16:24-28  
11:00 am For the People of Our Parish  
5:15 pm Hope Vierhile - Helen & Monica Bauer

**SATURDAY - August 10**  
Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr  
2 Cor 9:6-10/Jn 12:24-26  
9:00 am Louis Jeff - Murphy Family  
4:30 pm William H. Perham Jr. - Perham Family

**SUNDAY - August 11**  
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Wis 18:6-9/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40  
7:30 am Raymond D. Ryan - Family  
9:00 am Roberta Barringer - Serge & Barbara Hornos  
11:00 am Charlie Gribbon - St. Louis Choir  
5:00 pm Mary Moraca - Mr. & Mrs. H. Haffey

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**Saturday & Sunday, August 10 and 11**  
Thank you, faithful servants!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Lectors</th>
<th>Eucharistic Ministers</th>
<th>Liturgical Assistants</th>
<th>Cantor</th>
<th>Altar Servers</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>V. Steeley, Vic Gauvin</td>
<td>M. Stekloff, L. Aldred, C. Ray, J. Rachfal, D. Schnell, J. Aldred, R. Willison, P. O’Neil-Midgley</td>
<td>Sr. Anne &amp; Rita</td>
<td>E. Camaione</td>
<td>J. Schnell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Sunday Communion Service - August 11**  
The Highlands: Marge Mancine  
Heather Heights: Jim Haefner
Catching the Wind

The refrain ‘vanity of vanities,’ repeats over and over in Ecclesiastes. The Hebrew word is hebel. The root means vapor, fog, breath, breeze. The author’s point: everything in the world around us is impermanent, transitory, ephemeral, it can all disappear like a vapor. No matter how hard we try to cling to things, and strive to resist the changes that come in a passing world, it is wasted effort, like trying to chase the wind. Our readings today lead from what seems hopeless, when we wrongfully value things, to discovering and seeking what has true and lasting value.

Last Sunday’s Collect, or Opening Prayer at Mass put it this way: “...may we use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those things that ever endure.” Ok, so I would word it differently, but the idea is the same!

Word & Sacrament

The letter to the Colossians is filled with rich imagery, ways of meditating on our faith. Many of the images connect to the liturgy, our public prayer, and deepen our appreciation of the sacraments. Since we began listening to passages from this letter, Paul has touched on Eucharist and the paschal mystery. Images from the baptismal rite have included dying and rising with Christ, taking off the old self and putting on the new. These are not just any words, they are sacramental words. As we pray, remembering the old self we are putting aside, and looking into the grace and freedom of the new self, we actually begin to change and grow more Christ-like. Try praying Colossians with that in mind.

Bigger Barns

The rich land-holder deciding he needs a bigger barn for his harvest (instead of sharing some of the bounty God has given) is a great agricultural image. Is the parable relevant? Next time you are out and about, count the number of storage rental places you see! In case the punch line of the parable isn’t clear, namely, what it means to be rich in what matters to God rather than storing up treasures for ourselves, here are a few of those things that matter – justice, mercy, generosity, sharing our blessings, trust; distinguishing between what we want (a barn with enough for the future) and what we need (our daily bread).

That’s My Favorite

If members of your family, or a good friend were asked to name your favorite scripture passage, or Gospel story, your favorite psalm, or song, would they know what it is? Or would they have to just guess? Sharing things like particular scripture passages that move us the most, and why, is a very good thing. It helps us to get to know one another better. It can deepen our faith, and it is a way to share faith. Having a number of passages we know and love can be a resource when someone we love needs help praying, or needs encouragement, or hope – we can share a psalm, a bible prayer or a Gospel that helped us through a hard time, and it could be just what the spiritual doctor ordered. When you are feeling really grateful, are there any psalms that help you center the feeling in prayer and words? What are your favorites? If none come to mind, why not start a list in your Bible or prayer journal?

PRAYER FOR SELECTING A BISHOP

Lord, God, you are our Eternal Shepherd and Guide. In your mercy, grant to the Diocese of Rochester a shepherd who will walk in your ways and whose watchful care will bring us your blessing. Inspire our Holy Father, Pope Francis with wisdom, knowledge, discernment and right judgment. In Your love for us, give us the joy of receiving a shepherd who will be an example of goodness to your people and who will fill our hearts and minds with the truth of the gospel. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
God bless you! Are you visiting with us today? Welcome! We love to have you with us, and hope that you felt warmly welcomed, at home even. Our home is your home! We pray that your experience of liturgy here was uplifting, and helped you experience God’s presence in the Word proclaimed, the prayers prayed, the music sung, the Eucharist, offered and shared. If you were able to contribute, we are very grateful!

**Tithing**

The Bible and the practice of believers over the centuries give clear witness to the value of being intentional about how we give back a share of our blessings to the Lord. We hope that all who call St. Louis their parish home give serious thought and prayer to their ongoing support of the parish. By way of example, the parish then takes 10% of the Sunday collection and tithes to a variety of charities, locally and around the globe. Yes, each week we do reach out, and make a difference!

**EASIER THAN CHECKS AND ENVELOPES (and easier for our counters!)**

While use of envelopes for our Sunday collection is a practice that has been around a long time, we do our best to keep up with evolving technology. Many people no longer sit at the table to write checks for their monthly bills, they use electronic fund transfer. It is easy, convenient, and can also be a great way to support your church. Incidentally, it saves the parish money, and also helps with the budgeting process. You can simply fill out an “EFT Authorization Agreement” form and enclose a voided check. The form is available on our website or at the Parish Ministry Center. You can discontinue at any time or temporarily suspend, if needed. Please consider using EFT for your monthly contributions. If you already use EFT, we ask that you please update your information on the new form and evaluate your current giving level. If you have any questions, call Patty Macera at the Ministry Center, (585) 586-5675, ext. 222. May God Bless you for your generous gift of treasure.

The family of an Elizabeth Ministry care receiver is expecting a baby boy in early October. Our ministry helps provide for the baby’s practical needs along with friendship and spiritual support for the mother. A crib and a car seat are two “bigger ticket items” that, (for safety regulation reasons), should be purchased new. Would your family/prayer group/book club, etc. consider purchasing one of these items for this baby? If interested, please contact Meg Smerbeck at megsmerbeck@rochester.rr.com.

Dear Friends at St. Louis,

Thank you so very much for your generous tithing gift. We are so very grateful to you. These past two weeks, Sister Angie and I have been visiting people who are in need of some real help in their lives - some paint-up, some fix-up, some utility bills. We are so grateful to you for your help.

Last week we had a woman call who needed to get out of a situation she was in. We put her in a motel for the night. Her thank you said in part - “You saved me from a lot more than you know that night.”

In her name, Thank you,

Sr. Marge Eilerman
Holy Family Parish in Booneville, Kentucky
(in the heart of Appalachia)
COME SPEND SOME TIME AWAY IN PRAYER
Eucharistic Adoration Followed by Compline
Offered by the Sisters of St. Joseph
In their Motherhouse Chapel
150 French Road, Rochester, NY
This Sunday, August 4, 2013, 7 - 8 PM
Check the St. Louis bulletin boards at side exits for additional information about these rich traditions of our Church.

Prayer for Our Times

"Radiant Creator, Strong, Wise One,
Shine in our minds,
Enlighten our understanding of you and your ways
so we may do what is true and live in your light.
Fill us with light and courage to carry good news
into all the corners of the world and
to bring back the joy of your presence. Amen"

As a people who strive to live the process of peace and to bring Christ’s Good News into all the corners of the world, we the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Peace of Christ Parish Peace and Justice Committee, invite you, your family and friends to join us at "Prayer for Our Times" on Tuesday, August 6, 2013, the Feast of the Transfiguration. This prayer will be held in the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse chapel, at 150 French Road, Rochester, NY from 7pm to 8pm. If you are unable to join us in person, please join us in prayer wherever you might be. Any questions please call: 641-8122.
Register for Religious Education and Sacramental Preparation Programs!!

Please register now for Religious Education and Sacramental preparation programs for the 2013-2014 school year.

At this time there is no online registration.

Registration forms can be picked up at the Ministry Center, 64 So. Main St., or on the counter in the Narthex area at the back of church, or by the Vacation Bible School bulletin board.

Please read all information very carefully so your child’s registration is not delayed because of incomplete requirements.

Specific information about our programs can be found on our web site: www.stlouischurch.org

Here are some guidelines and requirements:

- Families need to be registered parishioners of St. Louis Church.
- Public school children, kindergarten through eighth grade, are required to be in a religious education program every year.
- Sacramental preparation programs of First Penance, Confirmation and First Communion are separate programs in addition to children receiving their religious education through one of St. Louis’ programs or Catholic school.
- For a child to prepare to receive a sacrament, they ideally should be in a religious education program or Catholic school for at least one year prior to the preparation program.
- Parents are asked to actively participate and help in our programs.

If you are new to our parish or have children who will be coming of age to enroll into one of our programs, please call Sue Payne at the Ministry Center, 586-5675 or email spayne@dor.org for details of what you need to do to register.

So we can plan for the coming year, please register NOW for your child’s religious education program and their sacramental preparation program.
THE LIGHT OF FAITH

DON’T BE FOOLS!

Family life helps us learn about the values of solidarity and the common good. As a family, we strive to respect the rights of each family member and make decisions that promote the common good of the family. What it would be like if the family ordered a pizza and then divided it unevenly, with some members getting as many pieces as they wanted while others got only a half slice. How do you work to make sure that everyone in the family has his or her fair share?

Your family is also a member of the human family, called to share the goods of creation fairly and justly. In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus challenges us to remember that the goods of the world are intended to be shared by all. In the parable of the rich fool, ask family members to describe what they think he did wrong. Although the man in the story doesn’t seem bad, Jesus points out that this man’s flaw was that he was thinking only about himself and his own comfort and security. When we fail to think about the needs of others, this is a sin of omission.

“Don’t be greedy! Owning a lot of things won’t make your life safe.” Jesus warns that too much focus on the things of this world distracts people from paying attention to the requirements of the next. All eyes should be trained on the kingdom of God and all hearts dedicated to preparing for it and welcoming it. Every time we give away some of our wealth to a neighbor here on earth, it is the same thing as storing up for ourselves wealth in heaven. Our earthly wealth can be our money, time, talent, possessions or simply be our love.

Baptism Beyond Infancy

Please don’t be embarrassed if life was hectic, time got away from you for whatever reason, and now your child is old enough to walk to the font. Baptism is not just for babies or adults. Between infancy and adulthood, we look at what makes most sense to initiate a person into the life of faith. For very young children, explaining what will happen, a little about Jesus and God, and teaching a prayer or two may be the best step. For elementary age children, we tailor preparation based on what the child already knows, and what level of faith would be age appropriate. Whether you have a child who wishes to be baptized, or would be interested in being a member of an RCIC team (Rite of Christian Initiation for Children), please contact Fr. Bob at ring@dor.org or 586-5675.

If you would like to remember your loved ones with the celebration of the Eucharist, stop by the Ministry Center and schedule a Mass time that is convenient for you. You may wish to have a Mass offered on the anniversary of death, a person's birthday or a significant date in the person's and your life. You can also arrange this by calling Birdie at 586-5675.

Buffalo (area) – 7, The Rest of NY State – 7

Sound like the half-time score from a game between some rival football teams? Or maybe a high-scoring baseball game between the Buffalo Bisons and another minor league team? Or even a running tally of which city has had the first snowfall during the last 14 years? How about the number of Catholic shrines located there?

Anyone who knew that answer, or anything remotely similar, deserves a special award (preferably edible ☺). A few weeks ago, some people had mentioned that they visited a very beautiful shrine near Buffalo and after a few minutes, we concluded that it was Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Youngstown (which Barb and I had visited and enjoyed a few times over the years). Since there is a website for almost everything now, a web search led to Catholicshrines.net, which lists and details the shrines in each of the states. New York has a total of 14 on their list, and, yes, half of them are surprisingly in the general Buffalo area. (Although there are other shrines in upstate, none in this list are in Rochester … yet!)

So, what are these 14 shrines in New York, what is a shrine, what do they have to do with the Year of Faith, and why would you visit one or more? Did I mention that there’s a website for almost everything now? Read about them, and consider a visit to one or more some day (or afternoon) when you are looking for something to do – I am sure you will find the trip and visit worthwhile.

If you would like further information on Catholic shrines, the Year of Faith, or (almost) anything else, see me after Mass sometime, or contact me at Ideacondave@gmail.com.

God bless,
Deacon Dave

If you would like to remember your loved ones with the celebration of the Eucharist, stop by the Ministry Center and schedule a Mass time that is convenient for you.

You may wish to have a Mass offered on the anniversary of death, a person's birthday or a significant date in the person's and your life. You can also arrange this by calling Birdie at 586-5675.
THEOLOGY ON TAP

2013 Summer Series for Catholics and friends in their twenties and thirties!!!

Good Company...Interesting Speakers...Lively Conversation

A SUMMER SERIES ON THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

Tuesday, August 6, 7:00 pm
Living and Sustaining our Witness as Disciples
With Dominic Marini, Seminarian, Diocese of Rochester and Fr. Michael Costik, Newly Ordained Priest of the Diocese @ Elmwood Inn, 1256 Mount Hope Ave, Rochester, NY 14620

Wednesday, August 14, 7:00 pm
Spirituality and the New Evangelization: Can we be Spiritual but not Religious?
With Bishop Emeritus Matthew Clark @ The Old Toad, 277 Alexander St Rochester, NY 14607

Wednesday, August 21, 7:00 pm
Stirring up the World: An Evening on Pope Francis
With Fr. Bob Kennedy, Pastor of Blessed Sacrament/St. Boniface @ The Firehouse Saloon, 814 Clinton Ave S, Rochester, NY 14620

Wednesday, August 28, 7:00 pm
Being a Christian in Everyday Life: Living the Good News in the World
With Dr. Damian Zynda, Th.D., Christian Formation Director, Church of the Transfiguration @ Johnny’s Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Rd, Rochester, NY 14609

For more information call 328-3228x1218
Theology on Tap is an opportunity for young adults to gather to discuss and reflect on issues of faith. Co-sponsored by the Diocese of Rochester, Blessed Sacrament/St. Boniface, and the Office of Vocations.
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Don’t Just Walk By!

Now is the time to follow through on your commitment and schedule yourself for a work assignment on a day of your choice. Your help is needed. You can register and schedule yourself by going to: www.habitatinterfaithpartnership.org. You can also contact one of our HIP volunteer coordinators who can assist you with registering and scheduling.

Contact:
> Kathleen Anderson: call 385-7601; email kanderson51@rochester.rr.com
> Brain McMahon: call 383-6005; email bjm@rochester.rr.com, or
> Delaina Infantino: call 586-1115.

You can make a difference and also enjoy the experience! Are you thinking about working on this 200th Rochester Habitat house? Sign-up, register and get scheduled now!

Chair Repair Needed!

Do you – or someone you know – refurbish wooden chairs with rush-seats? We have several of our “Church Chairs” that need the seats re-done … and if there’s a handyperson with a flair for that work, we’d love to enlist him/her to offer TLC to these furnishings! Contact: Sally at the Ministry Center, 586-5675 or sschrecker@dor.org.

It’s Time for School Supplies

School supplies and backpacks are needed for refugee children who arrived this summer and will start school for the first time in September. Saint’s Place supplies each school-aged refugee with a backpack filled with needed school supplies.

Items Needed for Refugee Children

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Backpacks</td>
<td>Markers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose leaf paper</td>
<td>Scissors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crayons</td>
<td>Calculator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rulers</td>
<td>Pens/pencils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folders</td>
<td>Glue sticks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pencil sharpener</td>
<td>Erasers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Composition Notebook</td>
<td>Spiral notebook</td>
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Do You Have a Pecilant for Cleaning?

Volunteers are needed to give the school a good scrubbing over the summer. This is a great opportunity for service hours by washing fingerprints off the walls, washing desks and so forth. If you are detail-oriented and thorough when cleaning, this type of work is for you! Remember, “cleanliness is next to Godliness!” If interested in helping us, please call Sally Schrecker at 586-5675, ext. 235 or email her at sschrecker@dor.org.
PARISH OFFICES - Ministry Center
64 S. Main Street, 14534
(585) 586-5675; Fax 387-9888

PASTORAL STAFF:
Rev. Robert Ring, Pastor, ext. 225
ring@dor.org
Deacon David Snyder, 586-5675
Stephanie Honz, Pastoral Associate for Liturgy and Liturgical Music, ext. 251
shonz@dor.org
Bea Hack, Liturgy Coordinator, ext. 231
bhack@dor.org
Pat Spinelli, Parish Visitor, ext. 232
pspinelli@dor.org
Susan Payne,
Director of Faith Formation, ext. 233
spayne@dor.org
Peggy Lynge, Leader of Family Ministry, ext. 230, plynge@dor.org
Dan McBrine, Youth Minister
stlouisyouthgroup@rochester.rr.com
Robin Hill, Middle School Youth Minister,
586-0598, walimu@hotmail.com

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:
Patty Macera
Director of Finance and Administration,
ext. 222, pmacera@dor.org
Sally Schrecker, Operations Manager,
ext. 235, sschrecker@dor.org
Birdie Proctor, Secretary/Bookkeeper,
ext. 227, bproctor@dor.org
Elizabeth Finn, Secretary, ext. 223
efinn@dor.org
Barbara Thomas, Bulletin Editor, ext. 236
bthomas@dor.org

Jeffrey Stid, Chair,
Parish Council, 752-8272
James Schnell, Chair,
Finance Council, 267-7295
Suzy Ward, Chair
Stewardship Council 746-5676

Stephen Ministry,
Confidential Hotline, 586-5675, ext. 324
Elizabeth Ministry, 586-5675, ext. 345
Colleen Knauf, Director, Saint’s Place
46 S. Main St.
Phone: 385-6860, Fax: 385-3963
saintlady@saintsplace.org

In Residence at the Rectory:
Fr. Ray Booth
Fr. Al Delmonte
Msgr. Gerard Krieg

Fran Barr, Interim Principal,
St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place
Phone: 586-5200 fbarr@dor.org
http://slspittsford.org/