

## PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

You may remember, or have overheard, that our diocese is in the midst of a synod. The bishop convoked this synod, or meeting of clergy and lay faithful, to address what can be so painfully obvious when scanning a congregation at mass: some people who should be there, aren't.

According to Pew Research and the Hartford Institute, only about 1 in 4 Americans attends church services weekly. Historically, the United States has been a culturally Christian society. Regrettably, this has lessened in recent years and as a result, more adults stop practicing their faith and fewer children are raised in it.

But it need not be so.

Christianity began with only twelve apostles and a handful of followers and grew to overwhelm and convert the largest of empires. And what was done once can be done again.

How? is the question, and it is the question the synod seeks to address: how can we help others know Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life? Soon the bishop will publish the synodal statutes and you can read it for yourselves.

But in the meantime, I say let's begin now by doing better what we already do well: hospitality and community.

I've noticed in my first few months here that parishioners genuinely care for one another and so check up on their neighbors and friends when they aren't at mass or haven't been for some time.

Please, invite them back. Gently and pleasantly.

As they give God another chance, he'll extend another to them as well. And who doesn't need that? Each of us need the grace and forgiveness God offers through the Church in order to be strengthened in holiness, rejecting the evil we see and hear every day.

I pray it isn't a fluke, but I've noticed the numbers at each of our parishes on the rise. And nothing is so invigorating to our faith as to think the Holy Spirit already hard at work on our prairies and in our hearts. Let's continue to offer Him, and others, a comfortable and welcoming place to dwell. You've all done such a fine job so far.

With gratitude and joy for the days ahead!

Fr. Seth

## OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### THE WEEK OF 10/8/17

St. Mary's \$2,297	Budget (\$1,900) +\$397
Sacred Heart \$985	Budget (\$900) +\$85
Visitation \$364	Budget (\$400) -\$36
St. Sebastian \$771	Budget (\$400) +\$371

## LONGITUDE

2017 Oct 15 SUN:

4:00pm, Server Appreciation Day, SkyZone, Springfield

2017 Oct 22 SUN:

Second Collection: World Mission Sunday.

2017 Oct 24 Tue:

11:00am, Annual Mission Mass, Cathedral, Springfield

2017 Oct 31 Tue: All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation

7:00pm, Sacred Heart, Franklin.

2017 Nov 1 Wed: All Saints, Holy Day of Obligation

7:00am, St. Sebastian, Waverly.

7:00pm, St. Mary's, New Berlin.

2017 Nov 8 Wed:

7:00pm, The play: Tolton: From Slave to Priest, Our Saviour, Jacksonville.

2017 Nov 12 SUN:

11:00-1:30pm, Soup, Salad and Sandwich Luncheon at Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Franklin.

## PRAY FOR THE SICK

Charles Walk, Nancy Flach, Cecelia Peters, Roseanne Hartley, Calyssa Richie, Zach Overton, Dale Fitzpatrick, Julie Bergschneider, Mary McCray, Carl Bertolotti, Heather Boudreau, Don & Margaret Laughery, Jane Ryan, Jean Knight, Tina Green, Sy & Judy Haber, Donna Reichart, Presley Kerber, Joyce Henn, Olivia Loving, Sam Haycraft, George Eck, Opal Sutera, Theresa Yates.

\*\*Call 488-3545 to submit names, which will appear with presumed consent\*\*

# Thank You

I want to thank all of our generous parishioners who have made a pledge to the *Annual Catholic Services Appeal*. If you have not yet made a pledge to the appeal, I ask you to pray about how you can help our parish family and the larger Church family, that is our diocese. Fr. Seth