

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

January 26, 2020



Call of Christ

Along the Sea of Galilee Jesus saw two sets of brothers casting their nets into the water. He gave a look of understanding at the hard work they were engaged in and made an invitation to a life beyond what they could fathom. Jesus grew up in nearby Nazareth and as a carpenter knew the hard work and stamina necessary to sustain a family business. As Messiah and Lord, Jesus was also in tune with the deepest desire of the human heart to do great things for God. His voice was steady and eyes casting a warm glance, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men (Matthew 4:19)." The receptive hearts of men opened immediately to the bold invitation and at once they followed Him. Leaving their livelihoods behind, Peter & Andrew and James & John would choose to follow Jesus and hear the Word's of everlasting life. They would learn from their Master Teacher the ways of preaching the Good News, curing the sick, and driving out demons. They would become very aware of the power of God's love as well as the sadness of sin and division. Not seeking to increase their own position in society these earliest followers of Jesus lived the Psalms they prayed on a regular basis, "The Lord is my light and my salvation whom should I fear? (Psalm 27:1)." With courage and strength found in the teaching and presence of Jesus Christ they went forth to baptize the nations and brought many souls to salvation. The look of confidence, the voice that encourages, the gesture to follow is still given by Jesus to people today. The call to the fishermen is still made in our current day to men and women of all ages and living in all places. As in the case of the Apostles what is needed still is a receptive heart. In prayer we quiet ourselves in His presence and as the waves helped clear the minds and hearts of the fishermen of old, He continues to say, "Follow me."

Catholic Schools Week

We are very blessed here in the St. Patrick and Most Holy Redeemer & St. Canice area to have Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School. Catholic Schools Week 2020 is a great opportunity for all area families to give thanks to God for the gift of Catholic Education and the impact that this opportunity has had on our lives. Ever since I arrived in the area in July, I have heard many people from the area say how meaningful their time at Most Holy Redeemer School was for them. The mission of any Catholic School should be to help students grow closer to Jesus Christ and to help them learn what is necessary to become the saints God has called them to become. There will be many activities throughout the week for students, staff and families. On Friday January 31, 2020 Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda will join us for 8:30 am School Mass and a reception will follow. Everyone from the area is most welcome to join us for Mass with the Archbishop and then greet him afterwards! Take some time this week to thank our dedicated teachers and staff who do such a wonderful job in helping our students and families! Glory to God!

St. Patrick Faith Formation Coordinator

The Church of St. Patrick of Shieldsville, MN is looking for a Faith Formation Coordinator for the Wednesday Faith Formation program. The coordinator would be responsible for helping facilitate the religious education of youth in the parish, working with students, families, volunteer teachers and the parish priest to establish and promote a safe, positive and faith filled environment where young people can grow closer to Christ and deepen their desire for holiness. Please contact me at fttom77@gmail.com or 507-429-7792 if you are interested in this part-time 5-10 hour a week position. More information about the position is available upon request.

Storage Area Clean-Up at St. Patrick

Help us to downsize our storage areas at St. Patrick in Shieldsville and clean out items that have been sitting there for a long time and not being used. Books from the library, lamps, knick-knacks and Christmas décor are among some of the items that need to go. Stop by and check out the coat room to pick up items for free now and until March 1, 2020.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus