

A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

August 25, 2019



Who Will be Saved?

Jesus Christ came to preach the Good News about the Kingdom of Heaven.

While traveling on foot through the towns and villages of Israel, He encountered many people and fielded a variety of questions. One of those important questions was asked of Jesus in this week's Gospel, "Lord, will only a few people be saved (Luke 13:23)?" Living in the United States which is an increasingly secular culture, the common but incorrect view is voiced, "Everyone is going to heaven anyway, so it doesn't matter what you believe." Oh, by the way...this thinking is false! Jesus is not a push-over and He states, "Strive to enter the narrow gate, for many, I tell you will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough (Luke 13:24-25)." In His consistent way as a teacher of Sacred Scripture Jesus then uses a parable of the master of the house to help illustrate His main point, that not everybody will be saved. Those people who have heard the Gospel message of salvation and put their trust in the power of God revealed through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus find through Baptism the gift of eternal life. On the other hand, the people who have heard the Gospel message of salvation and freely turn away from a life with God will find at the final judgment no words of encouragement from the Just Judge Jesus Christ, rather they will hear, "Depart from me you evildoers (Luke 13:27)," and be found in eternal separation from God or Hell for their choices. Each of us this weekend has an opportunity to reflect upon the truth set before us by Jesus. Do I live my life with a desire to be with God in Heaven for eternity? Or Do I live my life for the things of this world and am headed toward eternal separation from God in Hell?

Most Holy Redeemer School

The 2019-2020 school year is almost upon us! Teachers, staff, students, families, volunteers and members of the area parishes are about to kick off a new year at Most Holy Redeemer School in Montgomery. As a priest in a parish with a school I am so excited...not only for school Mass, lunch, floor hockey, and visiting the classes throughout the year...but for the great opportunity that is possible at our school for our children to grow in their love for God while growing in their knowledge of the subjects offered in the classroom. The mission of our school is: "As a Catholic community, Most Holy Redeemer Catholic School seeks to challenge its students and staff through multi-age education. Our efforts as teachers, support staff, students, and families are focused on developing young leaders, creating closer relationships with God, learning from each other, and serving as the hands and feet of Christ." My background as a Minnesota Licensed 7-12 Social Studies Teacher and Track & Cross Country Coach has always kept me connected to the local education scene, whether it is home school, Catholic school or public school. I look forward to welcoming our families at the School Open House that will be taking place on Wednesday August 28 at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm at Most Holy Redeemer School.

Adjusting to Parish Life

Since arriving to the area on July 1, 2019 there have been numerous graces to fortify me in the journey into the new assignment as priest here at St. Patrick-Shieldsville, St. Canice-Kilkenny, and Most Holy Redeemer-Montgomery. This past week offered a great opportunity to have an All Council Meeting for Most Holy Redeemer essentially helping me to finish the initial stage of meeting and greeting the leadership of our area parishes. I have been able to have some quality time with staff at each of our sites and I have been able to have some good visits with our sick and homebound. There have been three funerals in my time here so far, and I am humbled by the love that generously pours out for the families of the deceased. I enjoy the drives around our area gravel and paved roads as well as being able to visit with different families in our area. Thank you for your generosity to me. It is a gift to serve as a priest in the name of Jesus Christ in this area. The first two months have been full of blessings, I am excited to see what God has in store from here moving forward.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus