

# A Word From Fr. Tom Niehaus

August 4, 2019



## Treasure in Heaven

What is most important to you in life? The things of heaven or the things of earth? If we stop and take an inventory of our life, we can see what we spend most of our time doing. For people who spend lots of time managing their "stuff" they have their hearts oriented toward the things of earth. When we spend most of our time worrying about money, possessions, cars, farmland, and other material things then our hearts are not in the right place. As followers of Jesus Christ our lives need to be directed toward his praise and glory as well as to seeking to serve those who we live with. "All things are vanity (Ecclesiastes 1:2)." The Old Testament reading from this week gives us a sharp reminder that all things of the earth if they take hold of our hearts are vanity and will not lead to deep spiritual communion with God and others. When our hearts are all about the things of the earth we cannot achieve the peace and freedom of heart that we were meant to have. For a person to only think about the amount of money they have and the possessions that they want will only lead to a lack of happiness and separation from God. All of us were meant for communion with God and to be close to Him, when we strive for this way of life we will always possess great happiness. St. Paul in his letter to the Colossians encourages the early Christians in this way, "Seek the things that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (3:1)." To seek the Lord in all things is to place our vision on heaven and the gift of eternal life that is offered to those who believe in Jesus Christ. In this week's Gospel, Jesus says, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions (Luke 12:15)." Jesus warns His followers that our life is to be about striving for the kingdom of God and not for building up the kingdom of man here on earth. When we look at our life we need to be very honest about what things are consuming our hearts and to rid ourselves of those things that separate us from God and increase those virtues and habits that will help us to draw closer to Him.

## St. John Marie Vianney

On August 4 the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of St. John Marie Vianney. He was a small town parish priest in France who struggled with his seminary studies but who was unwavering in his prayer and trust in the Lord. On the way to his first assignment as pastor to the village of Ars in 1817 he met a boy along the road and said, "You show me the way to Ars and I will show you the way to heaven." St. John Marie Vianney spent many years serving the people of the village of Ars, preaching, teaching, taking care of the sick, serving the poor, visiting families, saying the Holy Mass and hearing confessions for about 10 to 16 hours a day! He loved Jesus Christ so much as a priest that his life of prayer and simplicity radiated a powerful love that attracted thousands of people to come to Ars to be healed and forgiven. St. John Marie Vianney is the patron of all priests. Pray for us!

## Daily Mass

Everyone is encouraged to attend daily Mass, especially if you are able bodied, have nothing better to do and are in good health. Come and pray at daily Mass. Currently about 16 to 28 people attend each weekday Mass in our area parishes. Every priest is required to say the Holy Mass once a day. In special circumstances such as a funeral or memorial Mass or for pastoral reasons a priest can have permission to say two or more weekday, weekend or Holy Day Masses. In order to keep my sanity and follow the teachings of the Church the Mass times in our area parishes for weekdays will be as follows: Tuesday 8:30 am St. Patrick-Shieldsville and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 8:30 am Most Holy Redeemer at Montgomery. There will no longer be two Masses on Tuesday meaning the 6 pm Mass at Most Holy Redeemer will be concluding in August and all 8:15 am Mass times will be switched to 8:30 am to create an ordered schedule. Every third Thursday there will be a 3:30 pm Mass at Traditions Care Center in Montgomery. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

God bless you!

Fr. Tom Niehaus