WELCOME TO ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH

YOUR GIFTS TO GOD AND PARISH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASS COLLECTION</th>
<th>LOOSE CURRENCY / COINS</th>
<th>OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS</th>
<th>TOTAL CONTRIBUTION</th>
<th>BUDGET</th>
<th>OVERAGE / SHORTAGE</th>
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<td>$13,188.00</td>
<td>$61.00</td>
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St. Patrick Parishioners, you may still mail, or please use the mail slot as well, at the rectory, for your church contributions and your candle donations.

Thank you.

St. Patrick School News:
If you would like to enroll for School or Pre-School or have any questions about St. Patrick Catholic School
Summer office hours are Monday and Wednesday - from 11am to 5pm or call: 421-0710

New to our parish! Welcome!
Please contact (or come on by) the parish office or call 421-6762 for a registration form or you may complete the online registration on the parish website @ stpatricksparsons.org

"KNIGHTLY" NEWS
Did you know?
On April 20, 1902, Council 643, Knights of Columbus, was instituted with 65 members. It was the fourth Council to be organized in the State of Kansas.

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTION
July 12, 2020

In today’s Gospel from Matthew, our Lord shares the Parable of the Sower who scatters seed on many different kinds of land. This is a wonderful analogy for the stewardship way of life, demonstrating the slow and steady, yet powerful effect this lifestyle will have on those who fully embrace it. This parable, some of the seed falls on good soil, some on good but rocky soil, some on good but sandy soil, and a few fall on the path where birds carry them off before they can begin to take root.

Other seeds fall on rocky soil with little soil. As soon as things begin to begin to heat up, they get scorched and die. Then there are seeds that land on good soil, but still with thorns which choke the seeds just as they are beginning to grow strong. This seed would not be able to grow deep and healthy life. These seeds produce abundant fruit. This is where the stewardship way of life comes in. When we give all of the time, talent and treasure to serve God and others with, we live lives filled with seed that produces much to fulfill the needs of all the world for the Church.

How does this happen? Stewardship living removes the “rocks” of mistrust from our lives as we develop an unshakable faith that God will always provide for our needs.

It clears away the “thorns” of worldly ambition that make us self-centered, fill us with needless anxiety and stifle our focus on God. Stewardship living requires a deep reliance on the Word of God and the sacraments which continuously nourish and fertilize the soil of our lives.

Let us deepen our commitment to this way of life, allowing the Sower to “do work in us,” slowly, patiently, to transform us. In this way, the Master Gardener will surely produce miraculous fruits through us.

Do You Know Someone? Good Shepherd Initiative
The full, active, and joyous participation of every Catholic is a present gift to our faith community. As long as any Catholic is inactive or alienated from the Church, the Church remains incomplete. We want all our inactive brothers and sisters to return to the Church, so we can support each other on our common journey of faith. So, I ask for your help in identifying and reaching out to our inactive brothers and sisters. On the parish website there is a link entitled, “Good Shepherd Initiative”, which will show you to a forum where you can supply the name(s) and contact information of those people that you know of who are inactive. It is with these names that we will be able to more directly connect and invite our inactive brethren back into our family of faith.

Raccoon and opossum story
Doug Murren, in Churches That Heal (1999), retells that old Native American tale of an opossum knowing a good seed. “One day an opossum visited his good friend, a raccoon, at his home near the river. The opossum marveled at his friend’s lush garden and asked if he could grow one like it. The raccoon assured the opossum he could do so, although he cautioned him, “It is hard work.” The opossum eagerly vowed to do the work necessary. The raccoon said, “Don’t be one of those seeds. He rushed home with his treasure, buried them amid much laughter and song, went inside to clean up, ate, and went to bed. The next morning, he awoke from bed to see his new garden. Nothing. The ground looked no different than it had the day before! Furious with anger and frustration, the opossum shouted at his buried seeds, “Grow, seeds, grow!” He pounded the ground and stomped his feet. But nothing happened. Soon a large crowd of forest animals gathered to see who was making all the commotion and why. The raccoon came to apologize and said, “Sorry, I’ve been negligent. ‘Wait a minute, Possum,’ he said. ‘You can’t make the seeds grow. You can only make sure they get sun and water, then watch them do their work. The life is in the seed, not in you.” As the truth sank in, the opossum ceased his yelling and began to care for the seeds as the raccoon instructed, watering them regularly and getting rid of any weeds that invaded his garden. Just a few days later, gorgeous flowers began to bloom. With uncontrollable excitement and pride, the raccoon ran to his friend, the raccoon, and asked him to witness the miracle. The raccoon took one long look at the thriving garden and said, “You see, Opossum, all you had to do was let the seeds do the work while you watched.” Yes, smiled the opossum, finally realizing the wise words of his friend many days before, “That’s just a hard job watching a seed work.” Doug Murren concludes: “There’s a lesson there for all of us. Sometimes, as Christians and Church leaders, we work too hard and take ourselves too seriously instead of simply planting people in the proper environment and letting them grow.”

Conquer Discouragement: Use of Bible Verses!
7. “Cast your cares upon the Lord because He cares for you.” (1 Peter 5:7)
Once again, just a few words—11 in total—offer us infinite consolation and strength. The Lord commands us to unload, to unpack, to release the burden of discouragement that weighs us down. Give all to the Lord Jesus and He will resolve the most intricate and complicated case scenarios.

8. “I have come to set the captives free.” (Isaiah 61:1/4:18)
If seven is one of those numbers of perfection, once upon a time we have a seven-word Biblical passage gleaned from the Shakespeare of the Bible—the Prophet Isaiah. Jesus will quote the same passage in His early preaching! In a state of desolation and discouragement we might feel as if we are bound, as if we are chained, as if we are shackled, and as if we were a real slave of our interior state of darkness. Jesus, the Savior, the Redeemer, the Liberator, came to smash and destroy our interior slavery, and often that is our discouragement. We might even pray: “Lord free me; Lord liberate me; Lord shatter the bonds that enslave me!”

More to follow next week.

1 Corinthians 24: Let no one seek his own good, but the good of his neighbor.