

From the Desk Of Fr. John

Construction...is moving along very well... God willing...and the weather holds out. We all remember the great rains when we began the 'big dig' for the new gathering-entrance and fellowship hall...it was a challenge to say the least. Nevertheless, it all seems to be going smoothly.

Thank you for your patience and willingness to accommodate to different parking routines and possibly a longer journey into your favorite pew. We can see that this part of our Master Plan will bring us many more parking spaces...and greater convenience for church, school and gym.

It is exciting to see this development and growth. The Master Plan Committee has worked doubly hard and their insights and sacrifices are truly helping all of us...we join in thanking them profoundly.

Many have made pledges toward this project and are doing very well in keeping up with them. We need everyone's support to take care of the finances for this project...and fulfillment of what we have pledged. Some who have not yet given might consider joining the rest of the community and make a gift, or better yet, make a pledge to help SSPP finish the job...or as some say...'Get'er Done!' Thanks!

Corpus Christi...is the Feast of the Most Holy Eucharist, which we celebrated last Sunday.

When we listen to the lesson of the Gospel of St. Mark, we hear the account of the Last Supper. It reflects the story of the Passover...freeing the chosen people from their slavery in Egypt. They passed over to freedom.

It was such a sacred and holy celebration...the most important of the whole year. Jesus took the symbols of that feast and transformed them into something very new! Jesus took the unleavened bread used during the meal and 'transformed' it into a new covenant...it became His own body/flesh, which He gave His disciples to eat. Then He took the symbolic cup/chalice of wine, 'transformed' it into His own blood, and gave it to His disciples to drink. This was so different and yet the same. The covenant was now in His own flesh and blood...His self-sacrifice

offered for the whole human race once and for all!

We gather each Sunday and during the week to celebrate this 'New Covenant,' which Jesus began at the Last Supper. This is the gift Jesus has given us to 'do in His memory' over and over again. This is the source of our life in Christ and that which sustains it throughout the centuries.

We are called to live this gift each day...and share it generously with others. Christ is the source of our life in God. Christ is the gift of salvation for all people. Christ is to be the center of our lives!

This week we enter back into Ordinary Time (the ordered/numbered Sundays of the Year). They all unfold the mystery of God's saving love extended to all of mankind over the centuries even into our present age. These Sundays give us an insight into the earthly ministry of Jesus and help us to apply the lessons learned to our own lives.

Today we hear of the spiritual leaders questioning...challenging...doubting...the authenticity of Jesus' ministry and mission. They think that He is crazy and possessed by Satan. It is too hard for them to listen with open minds and hearts to what God is revealing to them. They have made up their minds and that is it!

So often, we hear in our political world how people have accepted 'untruths'... 'alternative facts' as being the real truth. One of the politicians even said that 'truth is relative.' Can that be true? Even Pilate asked Jesus the question...and not with much conviction... 'Truth...what is truth?'

Jesus came to reveal the 'truth'...He even said to His disciples... 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' As Christians, we cannot ignore the truth but must embrace it. We also must confront that which is not the truth. Jesus is of God who is all truth. Jesus reveals only what the Father has revealed to Him. Jesus is the source of truth and revelation of all that God wants us to know of Himself and our life in this world.