

From the Desk Of Fr. John

Congratulations for a wonderful Parish-School Auction. It takes a lot of work and planning to make it a success...and you did a great job. Thank you to the whole team and all who helped...donated...participated. It was the efforts of all of you and so many more that made it a real success. Thank you again!

Thank you also to all our veterans and families who gave up their sons and daughters... fathers and brothers...to the cause of our freedom. It is so difficult to imagine the sacrifice and the pain that this involves. May the Lord keep all of our veterans safe and bring them home well!

The SSPP School Children offered their appreciation at the School Mass last Tuesday...close to the date of Veteran's Day. They offered prayers and invited those present to join them for a light snack for breakfast and a little entertainment... several songs that they presented.

Thank you to our SSPP Family who give so much of themselves in our 'Outreach' ministry. So many have given so much to offer help, support and aid to the families who are in need. Thank you to all who help, contribute and serve in this ministry. We always...and I mean always...need more help to reach out and offer assistance. If you are willing,...please call our office and let us know...345-4343.

The poor widow became the center of attention. Not that she wanted to be...but Jesus called His disciples and directed them to see what she had done. Remember...the lesson focused on her gift in the Temple. But...she only gave a very small gift...the lesson said she gave only two coins...which were valued at only a couple of cents. Jesus said to His disciples that she gave more than all the rest...with their very big monetary donations.

How is it that a few cents surpasses big gifts...we may ask. Jesus teaches us that the rich gave from their surplus wealth...while that she gave all that she had.

We might think about giving generously...as we calculate what we have...and the bills that are pending. Then we may make a decision as to what to share. However, it is good to think, plan, and pray about what God is asking us to give before we face all the things we want to do...and want to get. The Lord may be directing us in another direction. The Lord may help us to learn how to share...before we get!

The lesson does strike another note. The scribes seem to be part of an oppressive system. They preyed on the poor...the widows...etc. They seemed to make them feel guilty and pressed them to give up what they needed to live on. The scribes were a part of a corrupt system. The widows were the victims of that system. Jesus was teaching that the scribes who held so closely to the 'Law' were not living up to what God had intended. The Lord wanted a love that provided for the needs of others...all things would be shared...so that all could be cared for and provided for.

Perhaps...Jesus was reminding the disciples that the Church family was to be different from what was happening in the formal Temple culture. God's love was different. God's love was more generous and more serving.

We move now to a different scene...the final days... 'Eschatology'...the study of the 'last things.' Always at this time of year...the end of the 'Liturgical year' we look to the end times...the last things. It is a preparation for the final coming of the Lord and the fulfillment of the promise of the coming Kingdom of God...at the end of time.

Many have misused the teaching of Jesus and the early Church...often to instill fear and odd behavior to prepare for the final day. But...Mark's Gospel is giving encouragement to persecuted disciples. He wants them to remain faithful despite all the trials they may be experiencing. So we are urged by the Gospel to live each day prepared for the final coming of the Lord and the revelation of the fullness of God's Kingdom.