

# Fr. Simon Sez

**Confirmation:** Understandably, there has been confusion on confirmation preparation in both parishes due to recent changes in the past and needing to make changes now and in the future. I will be scheduling meetings with the parents and confirmation candidates of both parishes in separate parish meetings. The requirements (other than curriculum) will be similar now, as in the past since there has not been a change in diocese policy as decreed by the bishop. The interval used to be every two years but was changed to every three years for the last confirmation in 2021 before my arrival. The standard age for confirmation has been and still is 10<sup>th</sup> grade in our diocese. In any parish linkages, the bishop will only come every three years, and there has to be at least 15 candidates. It took considerable time to figure out our options and my recommendations and then, to arrive at consensus in both Parish Councils with a common practice.

We are having 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade confirmation preparation this year in St. Pius X Parish and planning on joining Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Pierre for their confirmation celebration Sunday, June 11, 2023 starting at 1:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Parish confirmation will not be until next school year 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. This year 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> grade youth disciples (We welcome 12<sup>th</sup> grade disciples.) are using the same curriculum called “Symbolon” which St. Pius X Parish (SPXP) is using and is used by many other parishes for confirmation preparation. I had to chose a curriculum before a final decision was made on when Sacred Heart Parish (SHP) would have confirmation. So now, and probably in the future, we will have a two-year confirmation preparation process. If our two-year candidates miss a session, they need to watch two 30 minute videos online at [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org). Just go there and enter Sacred Heart Parish, Gettysburg, SD as a parish member, not an individual, and provide your email address. They will send an email invitation to you.

**RCIA and Adult Education:** I will use “Symbolon” for the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) probably starting next fall if there is enough interest. You can go online and start watching two 30 minute videos for 20 sessions to check on your interest or get a head start.

It sounds to me like potential candidates and parishioners first need a focus on distinctively Catholic doctrines using Sacred Scripture, the Church Fathers, and Church history as a basis. I will work on that offering soon. Catholic and non-Catholic adults can let me know of their level of interest in this and “Symbolon.”

**Update on my Sister Lynette Singleton:** Lynette seems to have fully recovered from pneumonia and whatever upset her GI tract. She’s back to her “normal” self. Thank you for your prayers and thank you Avera Oahe Manor staff and hospice nurses! What a great job you all have been doing!

## Prudent Stewards: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Amos 8:4–7  
Psalm 113:1–2, 4–6, 7–8  
1 Timothy 2:1–8  
Luke 16:1–13

The steward in today’s Gospel confronts the reality that he can’t go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment. He must give account for what he has done.

The exploiters of the poor in today’s First Reading are also about to be pulled down, to be thrust from their stations (see Isaiah 22:19). Servants of mammon, or money, they’re so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects; they despise the new moons and sabbaths—the observances and holy days of God (see Leviticus 23:24; Exodus 20:8).

Their only hope is to follow the steward’s path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation—to use his last hours in charge of his master’s property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts.

He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive—to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master’s debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light (see 1 Thessalonians 5:5; Ephesians 5:8). We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So He paid it for us. He gave His life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today’s Epistle.

God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money (see Luke 16:14). But we cannot serve two Masters. By His grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today’s Psalm, “servants of the Lord.”

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours and be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father’s house (see John 14:2).

In the company of His angels and saints, we rejoice that He has wiped out our offense. We celebrate with Him that we have turned from the evil way that we might live (see Ezekiel 18:23).