

Fr. Simon Sez

Fr. Simon Gone October 22 - 26: I am gone pheasant hunting in NE SD this weekend and back to this area hunting with a retired priest and his friend from Winona, MN probably Tuesday. I plan on being available by Tuesday evening for emergencies. I plan on being back on duty for the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Avera Oahe Manor Thursday. We welcome back this weekend Fr. Ken Lulf, a former pastor here, who is swapping with me. I have this Sunday's Masses in Eden and Grenville. Thank you Fr. Ken!

World Mission Sunday Today: We celebrate this day by remembering our baptismal call – to bring the Gospel to all! The collection today for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work and witness of the Mission Church, as it provides for priests, religious and lay leaders who offer the Lord's mercy and concrete help to the most vulnerable communities in the Pope's missions. Thank you for your generosity.

Inner Healing Prayer in Our Parishes: The Matthew Ministry will be giving an information presentation at St. Pius X Church Hall Friday evening 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., November 4, 2022, describing this simple prayer method. (Hopefully, the Chargers will win their football playoff game Thursday evening. If so, the location of the presentation on Friday, November 4 will be in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Gettysburg.) After this presentation, individuals can make an appointment with them facilitating the prayer of the individual (45 minutes each) Saturday & Sunday, November 5 - 6 in our parishes. This guided prayer will help individuals go to the source of their hurts and receive the healing Spirit of Christ and be set free. Save the date! For answers to specific questions, contact me. I have been offering this opportunity in my parishes since about fifteen years ago. For more general information go to: www.themattewministry.com.



“Set Ablaze” Needs Your Input: The “Set Ablaze” planning process for the diocese is asking for your input! The current version of the maps showing the proposed pastorate groupings are available at www.setablazesf.org. Click on the “maps” link at the top of the home page where you can gather important context for the purpose and outcomes of the new design. All Catholics are invited to provide their input on this current version of a model. Bishop DeGrood will not be making a final determination on the model until after this public consultation phase of the structural planning process. After reviewing the maps, please offer any suggestions right there on the website. We look forward to hearing from you!



No Favorites: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sirach 35:12–14, 16–18
Psalm 34:2–3, 17–19, 23
2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18
Luke 18:9–14

Jesus draws a blunt picture in today's Gospel.

The Pharisee's prayer is almost a parody of the thanksgiving psalms (see for example Psalms 30, 118). Instead of praising God for His mighty works, the Pharisee congratulates himself for his own deeds, which he presents to God in some detail.

The tax collector stands at a distance, too ashamed even to raise his eyes to God (see Ezra 9:6). He prays with a humble and contrite heart (see Psalm 51:19). He knows that before God no one is righteous, no one has cause to boast (see Roman 3:10; 4:2).

We see in the Liturgy today one of Scripture's abiding themes: that God “knows no favorites,” as today's First Reading tells us (see 2 Chronicles 19:7; Acts 10:34–35; Romans 2:11).

God cannot be bribed (see Deuteronomy 10:17). We cannot curry favor with Him or impress Him—even with our good deeds or our faithful observance of religious duties such as tithing and fasting.

If we try to exalt ourselves before the Lord, as the Pharisee does, we will be brought low (see Luke 1:52).

This should be a warning to us—not to take pride in our piety, not to slip into the self-righteousness of thinking that we're better than others, that we're “not like the rest of sinful humanity.”

If we clothe ourselves with humility (see 1 Peter 5:5–6), if we recognize that all of us are sinners in need of His mercy, we will be exalted (see Proverbs 29:33).

The prayer of the lowly, the humble, pierces the clouds. Paul testifies to this in today's Epistle as He thanks the Lord for giving him strength during his imprisonment.

Paul tells us what the Psalmist sings today—that the Lord redeems the lives of His humble servants.

We too must serve Him willingly. And He will hear us in our distress, deliver us from evil, and bring us safely to His heavenly kingdom.

ST. PAUL CENTER FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY (www.stpaulcenter.com)