

Fr. Simon Sez

Confirmation Plans: The Office of the Bishop has setup the Sacrament of Confirmation Bishop's schedule for the coming year. St. Pius X Parish needs to have Confirmation this year but will not be able to host it due to diocese policies. We are being asked to attend the regional Confirmation celebration at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Pierre Sunday, June 11, 2022 starting at 1:30 p.m.

Update on My Mother: Thank you to all of you who have been praying for my mother. She has recovered very well while my brother and I were gone to Billings, MT.

COVID-19 On the Rise: This disease is on the rise again in our area. If anybody is having serious difficulties, I am available if needed. I have complete PPE similar to nurses. I have never contracted the disease, having been tested many times by nursing homes. I have O+ blood type and have been vaccinated. I am not concerned with contracting it, but I still will be extra careful to not be exposed to it so that I do not have to quarantine and then, not be available.

Parish Council Meeting Efficiencies: We are striving to shorten our Parish Council meetings. Each parish has a Pastoral Council and Finance Council as required. Each parish has been meeting as a combined "Parish Councils" meeting. I would like to continue this, but I also would like to truly discuss and consult in these meetings which takes more time. In St. Pius X Parish meetings I am asking the committees to submit bullet point written reports similar to the way it is done in Sacred Heart Parish so that note taking can be done easier by a council member and a council member who is active in each committee can represent each committee. We will have staff or parishioners attend the first fifteen minutes or so as needed by them or us. I appreciate everyone's understanding. The alternative would be to have monthly meetings instead of bi-monthly meetings or to have separate Pastoral and Finance Council meetings.

Candle Rack Suggested Donation: St. Pius X Parish has votive candles like Sacred Heart Parish but no suggested donation posted. St. Pius X Parish Council has decided to have a sign posted with the suggested donation of \$5 each similar to Sacred Heart Parish and other parishes.

Mass Intention Suggested Donation: Back in Archbishop Robert Carlson's time as bishop of our diocese after I was ordained, the suggested donation per Mass Intention was set as \$10. This stipend helps to pay for the parish expenses of an individual Mass. It's never required.

OSV July 31 - Aug. 6: See "Healing with the help of Faith."

The Fool's Vanity: Scott Hahn Reflects on Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21–23

Psalm 90:3–4, 5–6, 12–13, 14, 17

Colossians 3:1–5, 9–11

Luke 12:13–21

Trust in God—as the Rock of our salvation, as the Lord who made us His chosen people, as our shepherd and guide. This should be the mark of our following of Jesus.

Like the Israelites we recall in this week's Psalm Response, we have made an exodus, passing through the waters of Baptism, freeing us from our bondage to sin. We too are on a pilgrimage to a promised homeland, the Lord in our midst, feeding us heavenly bread, giving us living waters to drink (see 1 Corinthians 10:1–4).

We must take care to guard against the folly that befell the Israelites, that led them to quarrel and test God's goodness at Meribah and Massah.

We can harden our hearts in ways more subtle but no less ruinous. We can put our trust in possessions, squabble over earthly inheritances, kid ourselves that what we have we deserve, store up treasures and think they'll afford us security and rest.

All this is "vanity of vanities," a false and deadly way of living, as this week's First Reading tells us.

This is the greed that Jesus warns against in this week's Gospel. The rich man's anxiety and toil expose his lack of faith in God's care and provision. That's why Paul calls greed "idolatry" in the Epistle this week. Mistaking having for being, possession for existence, we forget that God is the giver of all that we have, we exalt the things we can make or buy over our Maker (see Romans 1:25).

Jesus calls the rich man a "fool"—a word used in the Old Testament for someone who rebels against God or has forgotten Him (see Psalm 14:1).

We should treasure most the new life we have been given in Christ and seek what is above, the promised inheritance of heaven. We have to see all things in the light of eternity, mindful that He who gives us the breath of life could at any moment—this night even—demand it back from us.