

Fr. Simon Sez



Salvation is open to us all, but we must go through the “narrow gate.” We have hope with confident expectation for salvation but also fear of God’s punishment. (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 2090) We avoid the sins of presumption (presuming to save ourselves and upon God’s mercy,

CCC 2092) and despair (ceasing to hope for salvation from God, for help in attaining it, or for forgiveness of sins, CCC 2091). The Catholic way is always the middle way of virtue; in this case, the theological virtue of Hope is in the middle of the sins of presumption and despair.

Steadfast is his kindness toward us, and the fidelity of the Lord endures forever. ~ Psalm 117:2

Legacy Gifting: Imagine a gift that gives forever. Your donations of cash, stock, real estate and life insurance entrusted to our parish fund through Catholic Community Foundation for Eastern South Dakota can grow to provide multiplied support for a ministry that transforms lives, now and for eternity. Thank you for your generous support of our parish through your thoughtful gifts to the CCFESD. Contact David Vetch at , 605-218-0072 or dvetch@ccfesd.org, to learn how your gift can leave a lasting legacy of faith for you and for our parish.

Diocese of Sioux Falls Website: For a full list of upcoming events and available Church ministries visit the diocese website www.sfcatholic.org. Catholic Family Services offers a full range of counseling and adoption services at many locations around the diocese. If you or someone in your family is in need of some assistance, call 1-800-700-7867.

COVID-19 On the Rise: This disease in 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. I have been tested many times since the start of this pandemic. I have O+ blood type and have been vaccinated and boosted. 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, making myself unavailable for a couple weeks.

“The Seven Social Sins are:

Wealth without work.

Knowledge without character.

Science without humanity.

Politics without principle.”

Pleasure without conscience.

Commerce without morality.

Worship without sacrifice.

Frederick Lewis Donaldson

Gateway to Life: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



Isaiah 66:18–21

Psalm 117:1, 2

Hebrews 12:5–7, 11–13

Luke 13:22–30

Jesus doesn’t answer the question put to Him in this Sunday’s Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is “the narrow gate,” the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father (see John 14:6).

In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week’s First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory.

Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah’s vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up (see John 3:14), and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

In God’s plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; Acts 3:25–26), who in the Church have come from the earth’s four corners to make up the new people of God (see Isaiah 43:5–6; Psalm 107:2–3).

Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father (see Isaiah 63:15–16).

We don’t want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees (see Isaiah 35:3). So, we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son.

As this week’s Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God’s sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

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