



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

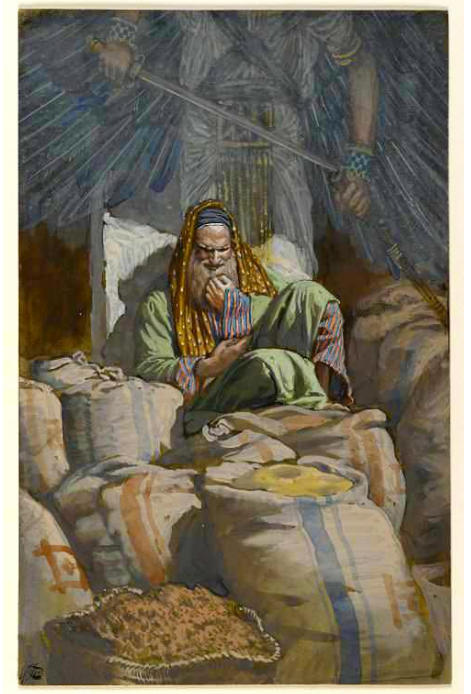
THIS SUNDAY July 31 & BEYOND

Whenever I read today's Gospel I am struck by the question that someone asks Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." (Luke 12:13) I can't imagine asking Jesus a question about inheritance or family matters. Jesus' time on earth is so special and precious to us, that it seems wrong to ask him this question. I fully understand when people ask about eternal life, one of the commandments or even question him about the Sabbath day. These are spiritual or religious questions that were important then as they are important today. But, it was common to ask a rabbi to serve as arbitrator in family disputes. As a priest, I've certainly been asked to help smooth things over between family and friends, and I've tried my best to do right in these situations. But, I'm glad no one has ever asked me this kind of question.

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth," (Colossians 3:2) The epistle today reminds us that we ought to focus on heavenly things and not earthly ones. We are to be spiritual people, who are, still grounded in earthly things. It's hard to get away from it. It has been said of a pastor, "He's so spiritual that he's no earthly good." This is not a compliment. Head in the clouds, some pastors may have lost all touch with the things that matter to their parishioners. They may be able to discuss heaven and hell, but unable to help someone deal with the matters that stand before them every day.

I am, by no means, immune to these problems. I've embarrassed myself by asking for a parking place as if I were my fervent prayer. I don't think God will make a Ford Focus disappear so that I can park in its spot, but I pray as though that might just happen. I'm grateful for the parable of the rich man who puts everything into a barn, only to find that his great storehouses will little matter to a man whose future has come to an end. "The things you have prepared, whose will they be?" (Luke 12:20). When I am gone, what lasting memory will I leave?

Jesus reminds us of the foolishness of excessive wealth and the wisdom that comes from generosity to others and to God. The Gospel leads us to reflect on what it means to be generous to God. That is a question worth considering. For when I am generous to God, I am the richer for it.



Fr. Steven Schuneman, Retired Priest in the Diocese of San Diego

Readings for this Sunday

Ecclesiastes 1:12-14, 2:18-23 Psalm 49:1-11 Colossians 3:5-17 Luke 12:13-21

Calendar

SUNDAY: 8:00a Low Mass (Church)
9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)
10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6th Avenue*—

Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.

MONDAY 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY: Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY: 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)
9:30a MASS (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings 6:30p Rainbow Bridge (Fireside Room)

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)

SATURDAY: 11:00a Rosary in St. Mary's Chapel

11:30a MASS in St. Mary's Chapel

Noon Potluck Luncheon in the Parish Hall