

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin?
Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge.
Even all the hairs of your head are counted.
So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.
Everyone who acknowledges me before others
I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.
- Matthew 10:29-32*



Sparrows are rather common birds. Bird watchers seldom go in search for the sparrow. They look for the rare bird, the more beautiful and exotic bird. It is important that when Jesus chose a bird to explain God's radical care for us, he did not point to the majestic eagle, the graceful swan, or the colorful peacock. Jesus used the sparrow. If God watches the common sparrow fall to the ground, how much more will He be aware of and care for us in the hardships and difficulties we face? Further, Jesus reassures us that the details of our lives, including the number of hairs on our head, are known to our heavenly Father.

It is common for people facing problems to think "How can God possibly know and care about my problems?" or "Why would God want to help me?" The Scriptures remind us that it is God's nature to know about all that happens within creation. Even seemingly insignificant happenings like the death of a sparrow are known to God. However, so that we might know more than just God's nature, Jesus reveals the Father's will. God not only knows about us but loves us, and because God finds us worthy of His love, we do not need to be afraid.

This week we congratulate Father Phil Horrigan for his 40 years of priestly life and service, and we thank him for the love and concern he shares with us each weekend he is here to celebrate Mass. So many people comment on how blessed we are to have three priests with different styles of presiding and preaching that complement each other so well. *Ad multos annos*, Father Phil!

The Faith Network Desk is staffed at all Masses to help parishioners find ways to deepen their understanding of faith and put their faith into action through ministries and outreach. Stop by the table to receive more information about opportunities to serve or for friendly advice about parish life and what's happening. Please note that we ask for a suggested donation for the booklets that are available in the carousel at the table. Most are only \$1, and there are envelopes to use to place donations in the collection basket. The following groups are currently looking for volunteers or new members: the Stewardship Committee, Parish Pictorial Directory, and the Faith Network. Please stop by the Faith Network Desk for more information.

The dates for this summer's neighborhood gatherings, called Pastor's Forums, have been set. The dates are in this weekend's bulletin. Next week we will list the schedule of hosting families and the forum topics for each date. Everyone should feel welcomed to attend one of the gatherings. There is one family whose name I misplaced who wanted to host a gathering, and there is still need for one additional host family. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting one of the forums.

We have just one week of collections left before the end of the fiscal year. I believe that we will come very close to having a balanced financial report this year so that we can begin next year in better shape. If you are able to assist us in an extra way to meet our financial needs, please use the blue "Balance the Budget" envelope next week. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to St. Walter Church, especially in these more challenging economic times.



This coming week over 50 young people from the parish with chaperones will be attending the Youth Leadership Convention sponsored by the diocese at Lewis University, in Romeoville. This event is looked forward to every year because it gives young people a great experience to grow in Christ and their understanding of Church and to meet over 800 teens from around the diocese. The theme of this year's convention is "We are the Church!" Please keep them all in prayer.

As we live our lives under the constant watch and care of our heavenly Father, may we strive to share His love ...

After the Heart of Jesus!
Father John