

After the Heart of Jesus ...

“Beloved:

*Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed,
because you know from whom you learned it,
and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures,
which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.”*

2 Tim 3:14-15



A few weeks ago we heard the call to encouragement, to lift others up with messages of spiritual consolation. In today's epistle, Paul encourages Timothy to be faithful to what has been passed on to him regarding the faith, because he knows the one who passed it on. Paul also says that from Timothy's earliest times in knowing Christ he knew the Scriptures were capable of giving wisdom for salvation in Christ.

Short Bible passages can be rich in their messages for today. We need to hear often the encouragement to remain faithful to what we have learned and believed. The world can so easily lure us away from the truths of our Faith and wisdom of Scripture. These verses also point out the importance of relationship in passing on the faith – it is not just the content of faith that is important, but the context by which we share it. It is so much more powerful when we know the one we receive faith from. Let us make a commitment to not only share some truth of the faith with another person this week but also to share a part of ourselves with that person so that they will know from whom they learn it.

This has been a powerful two weeks at St. Walter Parish as people have been giving witness to the presence of God and the power of Christ's work through our parish. Thank you to **Larry and Darlene Goto, Maureen Beeter, Judy McGuire, Allen Schmalzer, and Mary Lupou** who spoke at last weekend's Masses. This weekend we welcome **Maureen Terrazas, Tom Hollatz, Patty Martucci, Chuck Dunlop, Sr.**, and two residents of Abbington House. We have been video recording the witness talks given on Sunday mornings, and I hope that we will be able to make them available online through our parish website.

Next week our Stewardship Renewal concludes with Commitment Sunday. During this coming week all parish families should receive a letter with a commitment form inside asking for a response for God's goodness to us. It stresses the three T's of Stewardship – Time, Talent, and Treasure. We have provided many resources to help us reflect on Stewardship – the Parish Annual Report, the Stewardship bulletin articles throughout the month, the witness talks sharing the Good News of God's work being done through St. Walter. This Sunday's bulletin includes a separate column that addresses our financial commitment to proportionate giving. This important article needs to be read in its entirety. During the week, please take some prayerful moments to pray this simple prayer:

Father, make giving a blessing and not a burden. As I reflect more and more on all you have given me, make me an eager and willing giver of all the gifts you have poured down on me. Give me a grateful heart. In Christ, Amen

Then sit down with the commitment form and indicate how you will give back to the Lord this coming year through your Time, Talent, and Treasure. Bring the forms with you to Mass next weekend.

Additional forms for other family members, including a special form for children and young people, will be distributed with a special gift next weekend as well. The commitment process shows the value we place in our intentions to live as faithful disciples and stewards of all that God gives us. A powerful ritual of offering our commitments will also be a part of Mass, too.

This week we take up the annual World Missions Collection to support the missionary cause of the Church around the world. Many areas of the world are in desperate need of assistance to share both the Good News of Jesus Christ as well as to provide for the basic needs of education, health care, and food and water. Please make your offering by placing the special envelope in this or next week's collections.



Please don't forget **Goodies for the Seminarians** sponsored by the St. Walter Vocations Committee. There are 32 seminarians preparing for priesthood in our diocese. We send All Saints Day care packages to remind them of our prayerful support and encouragement of their vocations. The packages include treats like Halloween candy, homemade cookies, small toiletries, and gift cards to fast food or chain restaurants, gas stations, and drug stores. Please bring any of these items to the Parish House by this Thursday, October 25. If you would like to help in packing the care packages on Thursday, October 25, at 9:00 AM, please call the Parish House.

We continue to pray the rosary by the Marian statue every day of October at 6:30 PM. Please join us for this prayer, whether there will be only a couple of people present or dozens. There is so much to pray for that we can entrust to Our Lady of the Rosary.

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John