

St. Louis Catholic Church

Thursday of the 2nd Week of Lent

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

Luke 16:19-31

Twenty-four hours for the Lord. Yours are the hands of Christ. This ongoing program or way of life began for us at St. Louis the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Many parishioners filled out commitment cards of service to help people in need. It's not too late! Fill out a card, encourage your family members. God gives us twenty-four hours each day to live, to love, to enjoy and to benefit from His graciousness and abundance. Giving a little back is hardly anything to ask. Place your card in the basket in front of the altar.

Jeremiah's reading today is timely with twenty-four hours for the Lord. The prophet reminds us that too often we trust in human beings, the flesh and our possessions, needs and wants. Cursed is that man, Jeremiah proclaims, and blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. Being mortal and immortal it is great advice and a necessary warning. We will die and as they say we can't get Lanigan Moving Service to take everything with us to eternity. Tony may try to sell you on that but pay no attention.

The Gospel of Luke speaks about a man who is very rich. He lives in an enormous home, he dresses well, he eats sumptuously each day. Nowhere does it say that he was rich by illegal, immoral or unethical means. His crime or sin is that his lifestyle was all that mattered. He too had 24 hours everyday to realize how blessed he was. God gave and blessed him with this lifestyle. All good things are from the Lord. He was blessed.

God was so good to him that he even gave him a daily opportunity and reminder to say thank you. He could have been a forerunner for this parish because "his hands could have been the hands of Christ".

We don't know his heart, background or conscience. What we do know is that he ignored the needs of a poor man named Lazarus who sat everyday at the rich man's gate. A few scraps, a conversation, a few dollars, a help with rent or getting him a job could have gone a long way in making the rich man's life of value. Instead he trusted in his life here and now. Perhaps he was too busy trying to make more money.

We are told that he ended up in eternal anguish. He may have believed in God, he may have worshiped on the Sabbath but he did not trust that God had blessed him and that he had a responsibility to his brother in need. The daily meditation from 'The Word Among Us' tells us that we can bring heaven a little closer to earth even if it's for just one person. He had that chance and it cost him a lavish life in eternity.

Lent does call us to stop and think about how we are using our time here on earth. It is a time to reflect on the blessings that have graced our existence. It is a time for humility in acknowledging

that our time, our talents and our treasures are on loan to us from God. Like the rich man, God gives us daily opportunities and reminders to use those blessings to bring heaven to people who in many ways have a "hell on earth".

Twenty-four Hours for the Lord, the Bishop's Annual Appeal, involvement in the multi and many ministries of St. Louis Church, sharing your treasures with God are easily available chances coming our way very soon.

The rich man was in eternal torment when he realized that he "blew it". He wanted a second chance. We have that chance now. Again, from 'The Word Among Us', when we alleviate someone's suffering, we are helping to make God's kingdom a reality, right here in the present. We become a sign of the way things will be in heaven.

Blessed are they who hope in the Lord. They are like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruit in due season and whose leaves never fade.

God Bless,
Msgr. John McArthur

Remember Stations of the Cross Friday 5:30 p.m.
Fish Fry 5:00-8:00 p.m. Friday
Prayer at Planned Parenthood Saturday 11:00 a.m.