

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH

“Two Churches, One Parish”

Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 27, 2020

St. Joseph of the Valley: 31151 207th Street, (Rural) Leavenworth, KS 66048
St. Lawrence: 211 West Riley, Easton, KS 66020
Parish Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Easton, KS 66020

Father Francis Bakyor, Pastor
Easton Rectory Phone: 913-773-5712
Father's cell: 913-235-6837
Father's Email: francis.bakyor@yahoo.com

Website: www.sjsparish.org
St. Joseph of the Valley Hall: 913-758-9225
St. Lawrence Hall & Fax: 913-773-8401
“LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

TUES	Sept 29	07:00 pm	STL	World Peace
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
THUR	Oct 1	07:00 pm	SJV	Parishioners of SJ-SL
SAT	Oct 3	05:00 pm	SJV	Shirley & Jamie Karczewski †
SUN	Oct 4	09:00 am	STL	Jack Rogers †

Confessions: SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 at STL

PLEASE NOTE:

Attendance for Masses - limited to 25% of the building's seating capacity— 30-75 at St. Lawrence and 30-45 at St. Joseph of the Valley. We will be offering four Masses per week. Please do not feel obligated to attend weekend Masses — weekday Masses will work just fine if it fits into your family's schedule. You may sign-up for Masses online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040A4AA9AB2AA1FA7-stjosephst>. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

Please pray for the sick, especially: Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Frank Heintzelman, Jim Heintzelman, Lydia Heintzelman, Melanie Herken, Jon Highfill, Trista Highfill, Mark Hund, Arlene Jennings, Wendi Johnston, Michael Jones, Elmer Karczewski, Phillip Leon, Kelly Long, Joyce Lowe, Mary Meinert, Jeni Mettelstedt, Don Navinsky, Kay Nocktonick, Dannie Phillips, Adam Pineau, Mike Pursel, Mary M. Ruhlman, Kim Sachse, Tanner Siebenmorgen, Julie Simonis, Jim (Poly) Sloan, Gary Stafford, Aaron Welch, Louise Wistuba and Nick Yuska.

Prayer List for Our Soldiers: ARMY: 1LT Daniel Broadus, Pvt. David Crook, Lexi (Skaggs) Hargis, Major Bryan Herken, SPC Derrick Hunt, SGT Colby Seifert, William Stradley. AIRFORCE: E-4 Robert W. Herken, TSGT Scott Loecher, E-3 Connor Schuler, A1C Noah Tattershall. NAVY: ADDA Jason P. Herken, YNS1 (SS) Kevin Lansing.

Prayer for Vocations: Brother Seelos (Tyler Lunsford).

OUR PARISH NEWS

COLLECTION: Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collections received last week will be reported next week. Last week's on-line collection was \$379.23. Thank you for your generosity.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We are soliciting volunteers who would like to serve as our Parish Director of Religious Education (DRE), leading the effort to teach our children about their Catholic faith. The DRE performs a number of crucial functions: coordinating CCD enrollment and the necessary paperwork, developing the CCD calendar, recruiting and assisting teachers and other volunteers, working with the Archdiocese and teachers in curriculum development and resource procurement, communicating with parents and the parish council, and ensuring all teachers are Virtus trained. Please prayerfully consider this incredibly fulfilling role within our parish. We are also open to co-DREs if that is an approach that works for you. The parish council does not anticipate starting CCD classes before October, allowing the new DRE time to prepare. If you are interested please contact: Jason Nichols, phone: 913-683-2661 or email: jnichols@dfamilk.com OR Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: w5cattle@aol.com.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: We are searching for a volunteer to clean the rectory twice a month. POC is Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: w5cattle@aol.com.

BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER: Betty Pierron will be celebrating her 90th Birthday on Oct. 1st. If you would like to honor her on this occasion, please send her a birthday card, letter, photos, and other good wishes, to Betty Pierron, 5150 Hughes Road, Apt #3, Leavenworth, KS 66048. Happy Birthday Mrs. Pierron!

OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE

IT'S TIME FOR A SPIRITUAL AUDIT!

In virtually every aspect of Life, corporate, athletic, education etc., there is a constant evaluation process to measure growth and improvement. Now it is a good time to assess our spiritual progress. Have we made a difference? If God were totally our "faith in action" would He be pleased with what we have done (or failed to do)? Evils plague our society, such as abortion, pornography "comprehensive sex" education, tax funding of Planned Parenthood, and other anti-God, anti-life and anti-family issues. As Christians, we know that the Bible commands us to be active in serving God. Service is an action word, so we know that we cannot serve God by sitting on the sidelines, or being a "fence sitter". Are we as Catholics influencing our world, or is today's relativism and secularism influencing us much more?

Are we setting an example to the next generation to protect marriage and to defend life, from conception until natural death, or are we just "passively" pro-life? Do we speak up when in a position to defend innocent life? Do we hold our elected representatives accountable?

Obviously, we cannot do it all, but we can certainly do something! Literally, thousands of lives are at stake each and every day. If we do nothing we collude with the pro-aborts, the purveyor of pornography and those that wish to remove God from society. By doing nothing, we reap what they sow! "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins" James 4:17

BIRTHRIGHT VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION & TRAINING Birthright Volunteers offer hope, understanding and love to women distressed by pregnancy. We help them evaluate their situation, look at resources and discover how they can give life to their babies. For 34 years Birthright of Leavenworth, Inc. has been helping women in this area carry their babies to term. If you are interested in being a Birthright Volunteer, we will be having a training wearing masks or social distancing when appropriate. We are practicing safety measures at the Birthright center. For more information or to sign up for orientation call Margaret McNamee 913-991-7660.

ST. JOSEPH "PLAN B" BAZAAR: After all Masses the weekend of **September 26 and 27**. Sept 26 4:00 pm at St. Joseph and 5:30 pm at Immaculate Conception; and Sept 27 8:00 am at St. Joseph and 10:30 am at Immaculate Conception. Purchase BBQ Sack Suppers for only \$6.00, which includes a sandwich, chips, pickle, and cookies! We will sell until they are gone. Their poster is at the end of this bulletin.

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR THE 2020 ELECTION

Election Day is Tuesday, **November 3rd 2020**. In order to be able to vote, you must be registered. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, **October 13th**. You can register at www.kdor.ks.gov/Apps/VoterReg. It is important to register especially if you recently turned 18, recently moved or had a name change, have not voted in recent elections, or if you are unsure if you have registered.

As Catholics, we are called not simply to vote, but to be well informed voters who in casting our ballots apply the moral principles and priorities of our Faith. The Catholic Church does not tell its members how to vote. At the same time, it is the responsibility of the Church to help form the consciences of her members to understand the principles and priorities that should guide their decisions as voters. Please see Archbishop Naumann's statement on the moral responsibility of voting, at www.archkck.org/prolife. The USCCB's Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/index.cfm>.

XAVIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL Are you still searching for the right school environment for the 2020-21 school year? Xavier Catholic School is operating 5 days a week in person. We have limited openings in our preschool, 1st grade, and grades 3-8. Please call 913-682-7801 to schedule a tour.

CENSUS-Make You & Your Family Count! Did you know the first Census was in 1790? Only 230 years ago! Under the U.S. Constitution, the very first responsibility of the Federal Government is a count of all persons living in the United States. Taking the census is a civic duty, and impacts support for infrastructure, transportation planning, emergency preparedness, disaster relief, education funding, health tracking and disease control, as well as a multitude of other things. Be sure your household is counted in 2020. <http://my2020census.gov/> or 844-330-2020.

The 2020 Census will soon be coming to a close, and there is concern that some communities will not be accurately counted. As the bishop who chairs the Domestic Justice and Human Development committee of the USCCB recently reminded us: "Our country conducts a Census every ten years to count the number of men, women and children residing in the United States. Census data helps direct more than \$800 billion annually to key programs designed to advance the common good, strengthen families and reduce poverty. The Catholic Church and other service providers rely on the national Census to provide an accurate count in order to effectively serve those in need." Field data collection and self-response options will close on **September 30, 2020**.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: The Catholic Church is made up of all races; families and singles, sinners and saints. In these times of disruption and uncertainty, it is good to know that through our parishes, as members of the Catholic Church, we have unity. The Office of Stewardship and Development invites you to make a grateful response to God for the gift of your parish by designating it, by name, as a beneficiary of a retirement asset, annuity, or life insurance policy. Visit CatholicPlannedGiving.com.

FAMILY PICNIC: Knights of Columbus Immaculata Council #900 is planning a family picnic on Sunday, **Oct. 11th** at the KofC Hall, 11:30 am to 4 pm. Serving burgers, shrimp, fries, beverages, Noon to 1 pm. Bring your favorite side dish to share. KC Chiefs game will be showing and there will be games/door prizes. Door prizes drawn during halftime.

PLEASE – There are a large number of other Archdiocesan announcements that could not fit in the space available. They will be posted on our church website listed above as a 2nd page to this bulletin.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email Sjsparish@gmail.com. Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well. MUST SUBMIT BY 9 pm TUES FOR INCLUSION.

WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH
“Two Churches, One Parish”
Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus
Sept. 27, 2020

PAGE 2 – bulletin
(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)

JOYFUL HOMES is a new initiative designed to carry the spirit of the Convocation into our families. As the families of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in KS, we will be getting honest about the joys and struggles in our lives and serious about making one small change each month to invite more God-- more JOY into our homes. Will you join us? Get started with September's challenge at: www.archkcks.org/intentional

OPEN GATE SERIES AT PRAIRIE STAR RANCH Did you know that Prairie Star Ranch, home of Camp Tekakwitha, is open year-round? Are you looking for opportunities to get out of the house and enjoy some COVID-friendly time together as a family? On select Saturdays in the months of September and October, the gates of Prairie Star Ranch will be open for families to enjoy some casual, open-air fun. Come fish (bring your own poles!), picnic, hike, and more! On each Open Gate day, a different staff-facilitated camp activity will be offered for a small fee. Otherwise, the experience is free, and donations are welcome. Gates will be open from 10am to 4pm, and no registration is required. Upcoming Open Gate Days include **Oct. 3rd & Oct. 10th**. For a full schedule of event dates, the staff-facilitated activity for each weekend, our COVID-19 precautions and more, visit our website at archkck.org/ranch.

PROJECT CHRYSALIS is a ministry offering hope through Sacred Scripture and community to parents or grandparents who have lost a child or grandchild. While this ministry is not a bereavement group, our mission is to offer support and hope through scripture in a time of transformation. Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday **September 28th** from 7:00-8:15p.m. both in person and online via Zoom. Fr. Dan Morris is our guest speaker. We will meet in the St. Mark room in the lower level of Church of the Ascension, 9510 W. 127th St. in Overland Park. For more information and the Zoom invitation link, contact Deacon Ken Billinger at 913-634-4210 or email kbillinger@archkck.org. The group is open to parents who have lost a child or grandparents who have lost a grandchild.

A VIRTUAL DAY OF SPIRITUAL REFRESHMENT FOR CAREGIVERS: Caregiving is a holy vocation that truly imitates the loving example of Jesus Christ. But it is not an easy activity, and it can take a toll on the very people who bring great blessings to others. Fatigue, depression, frustration – these and other effects can wear down the most conscientious caregiver, especially during the unprecedented times in which we are living. Presented by Maureen Pratt, Catholic Author and Speaker, Saturday **October 3, 2020**, from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM. Hosted by the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Special Needs Ministry. For more information and to register go to www.archkck.org/special-needs.

OCTOBER RESPECT LIFE

Each October the Church celebrates Respect Life Month, when we pray, reflect and become engaged in building a culture that cherishes every human life. This year's theme, "Live the Gospel of Life", was chosen to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Pope St. John Paul II's prophetic pro-life encyclical, *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life). As Catholics, may we always strive to "see in every human face the face of Christ" (EV81) and treat each person as we would treat Christ Himself. Please join us for a special celebration with Archbishop Naumann on Respect Life Sunday. Sunday, **October 4** at 11:00 a.m. St. Patrick Catholic Church, 1086 N. 94th St. Kansas City KS. There will be an outdoor reception after Mass, weather-permitting.

"EVERY DAY IN LOVE" "These skills were a lifesaver for our marriage during this pandemic!" These past few months have been so stressful. Do you and your spouse have the skills to continue to navigate these challenging times? Join Brad and Libby DuPont for 7 Thursday nights (live, online) **starting October 8th**. We'll discover practical ways to: * Pray together * Reconcile hurts * Deal with and share feelings * Communicate * Make decisions * Achieve deeper intimacy * Tap into the grace of our sacrament. To register, go to: www.archkck.org/everyday or email Brad at bdupont@archkck.org

2020 RED MASS

Each year the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas, the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and the Kansas City Lawyer's Guild arrange for the celebration of the Red Mass, where judges, lawyers, law students, law faculty, law enforcement, court personnel, and their families and friends gather together, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we strengthen our resolve to face the challenges of our times. Please mark your calendars for the 2020 Red Mass that will be at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, **October 11, 2020** at the Cathedral of St Peter the Apostle. Msgr. Stuart Swetland, President, Donnelly College, is the celebrant, homilist. You may attend in person or virtually via livestream link. Please see the below invitation. If you have questions, please email The Catholic Foundation of Northeast Kansas at cfnek@archkck.org or call 913-647-3062. RSVP at www.cfnek.org/redmass

AMAZING PARISH: Registration is filling fast for the upcoming Amazing Parish Conference hosted by our Archdiocese on **Oct. 19-21st** at the Overland Park Convention Center. Parish teams from around the country have already signed up to take part in this valuable training! Register Here: <https://amazingparish.org/>

What does an Amazing Parish look like? If you're ready to build an effective leadership team and improve the organizational health of your parish, we hope you'll join us. Amazing Parish gives busy pastors and their teams the tools they need to transform their parishes - moving from maintenance mode to mission communities that are truly alive! For more information: Parish Journey – A Pastor's First Steps, <https://amazingparish.org/get-started/#firststeps> or call the Office of Evangelization at 913-721-1570

 **RESOURCES** 

PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman

People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us. He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

"THE HISTORY & LEGACY OF IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL" is now available for purchase from the publisher, Lulu.com. Access the link to order from Facebook pages "Forever Raiders", "Immaculata High School Alumni" or "The History & Legacy of Immaculata High School". Direct link is: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/mary-ann-sachse-brown-and-marti-sachse-judson/the-history-legacy-of-immaculata-catholic-high-school-in-the-first-city-of-kansas/hardcover/product-24157407.html> This is a keepsake hardcover 120 page book with nearly 300 images. Available in color (best quality) or black and white.

NEW FOSTER CARE WEBSITE: You can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Kansas! Sadly, every day in Kansas, children are removed from their homes by no fault of their own for a variety of reasons. Each of these children is a precious, unique gift from God who deserves a loving and safe environment where he or she can THRIVE! Because care of the orphan and works of mercy are part of the mission for all baptized Catholics, the Church is the solution to an overwhelmed Kansas foster system which is facing increased needs due to COVID-19.

Please visit the new Archdiocesan Foster Care Ministry Website at www.archkcks.com/foster to learn how you can help vulnerable children in our community and support the families who have answered the call to love and protect these children. If you are currently fostering or have adopted your child/ren from foster care, we want to connect with you to support you on your journey! Please join the Archdiocesan Foster Family by registering here: www.archkck.org/fostercaredatabase

NEW END-OF-LIFE RESOURCE GUIDE IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Ethics Council that serves Archbishop Naumann has produced a comprehensive resource for end-of-life planning titled "Catholic Guide For-End-Of Life and Establishing of Advance Directives". The purpose of the guide is to assist the faithful in making wise decisions about complex treatments in grave illness or as life's end approaches in accordance with the teachings of our Catholic faith. It also includes two Appendices for a Durable Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive form. For a free digital copy of the Guide, visit www.archkck.org/prolife-end-of-life-care.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS)

Effective immediately in light of the current health conditions, one prudent and preventative measure we are taking is to make the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults training available Online as an option. Effective immediately, due to COVID-19, the Archdiocesan requirement for attending a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults workshop live session will be suspended and the option of the online version of the module can be offered in lieu of live training. This is a temporary safety precaution, and parishes may still offer the live training session available as an option if they prefer as long as the local county and state ordinances in effect at the time of the event are followed. Please note, the training must still be completed prior to participants working around youth, but the requirement may now temporarily be met by completing the online Protecting God's Children module. Individuals needing to attend a session will be offered the option of the online module at the time of registration. They will still need to follow the background screening and policy completion process at the time of registration. Individuals who are already currently registered for an upcoming live session, may log back into their account and change to the online module. These procedures will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed and are in place to protect you, those you work with, and your family. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We are praying for all of you and your families. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Vielhauer at svielhauer@archkck.org or Jenifer Valenti at jvalenti@archkck.org. May God bless you and keep you safe.

PLANNED GIVING BRIEF: Our Catholic Church has spanned the centuries and the globe and through all previous pandemics and disasters has been a source of charity to all through its parish priests and religious. We invite you to make a grateful response to God for these gifts by planning a deferred gift to your parish. Visit CatholicPlannedGiving.org to learn how to accept this invitation.

JOYFUL HOMES AREN'T PERFECT

They're unrepeatable.



Each of us is uniquely created by God, so it follows that our families are also unique and **unrepeatable!** When we lose sight of this fact, we can let comparison, wishful thinking or regret steal our joy and keep us from living out our mission to one another and the world. Let's ask God to heal our regrets, to use our flaws for our growth, and to see the great gifts He has given us to pour out on others!

As a family, discuss:

- What are some unique qualities about our family?
- What do you love about our family?
- What challenges have we overcome together?
- Have you ever been jealous of another family? Why?
- What gift does our family have to give the world?

Pick one practice this month!

One small, attainable goal sets us up for success.

- On birthdays, take turns affirming the unique and wonderful qualities of the person celebrating.
- Ask the parents and grandparents in your life to tell you stories from their experience.
- Parents: take one regular practice in your faith (prayer, Mass, confession, Bible study, etc.) and share with your children why it's important to you. Invite them to join you one time.
- Decide together one way you can use your family gifts to bless others and do it! It can be as simple as bringing a meal, writing letters or praying for others.

NO BACKUP PLAN



When you leave a job, school, team or club, they replace you. But not your family!

As spouses, parents, or grandparents, it's easy to feel inadequate. We are surrounded by "experts" who give conflicting advice that we can never seem to live up to.

Take comfort in this truth: God gave you each member of your family because **you** are the best person to care for them.

Grow in virtue, but be at peace. Your family doesn't need an expert. They need the gift of your love, attention and heart!

Scripture of the month: Psalm 139:14

I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

What are some practical ways that our family can live this truth?

Want more ideas and encouragement? www.archkcks.org/unrepeatable

26th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A (9/27/2020).

Texts: First Reading. Ezekiel. 18:25-28

Second Reading. Phil. 2:1-11

Third Reading. Matt. 21:23-32

Theme: "Which of these two did the father's will?"

Congregation: St. Joseph of the Valley- St. Lawrence Parish, Easton/Kansas.

My dear good people of God, once again warm greeting to you all. Still hoping that you are all keeping well and safe. This Sunday again the Lord invites us to his banquet table to listen to his word and to be fed with the spiritual food, the Eucharist, his own body and blood for our spiritual journey.

Daily life:

The Church Council were at their monthly meeting. The members, men and women, all twenty of them, listened attentively to their chairman.

- I am sure you all see how the grass and weeds are growing around our Church. It seems as though we no longer care as we use to do. What do we do?
- Let us invite volunteers to come and cut the grass and weeds around, said Veronica.
- Let us employ a person to come and do the work, said John.
- Let us begin, we here, and give the good example. Then, next Sunday others will see what we have done and will join us, said Mary

It was agreed that the last proposal was a good idea. So, the motion was proposed and passed by all the twenty of them. As many of them as possible should come the next evening to begin the work. Francis said he would not come. He gave no reason and people feared to ask him for one.

At 6.30 p.m. the next evening, only two people were there: Felicia and Francis.

- They had agreed to meet at 6.00 p.m. It ^{is} ~~sees~~ it is another example of "Big talk, no show!" said Francis.
- True, very true, answered Felicia.

God's Message:

We have a saying which goes: "Actions speak louder than words". There are talkers and there are doers. And often the talkers have the clear majority. At meetings, they come out with all kinds of ideas and suggestions. They seem to have all the answers. Some of the listeners admire and praise them. And others nod their heads. They know talk is cheap, but little will be done by those now doing all the talking.

But then, there is another kind of people. They say little, perhaps the argue against something. But then, they go away and carry out faithfully what was decided.

We see the two sons in today's gospel. Both answered their father differently. One said he would not go but, "after thought the better of it went".

The second son said he would go, but later, did not carry out what he had promised he would do. Not only did the two sons answered differently, but they behaved differently as well.

Let us remember to whom Jesus was speaking. The chief priests and the elders of the Jews who had not listened to John the Baptist, nor to Jesus himself. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes had left themselves open to what Jesus had to say. They had shown they were ready to believe in Him and accept His message. In other words, they had shown themselves more doers of the Father's will.

This parable teaches us that promises and fine words can never take place of action or deeds.

Later, St. James reminded the first Christians of this when he wrote to them:

"You must do what the word tells you, and not just listen to it and deceive yourselves". (James 1:22)

There is another point that is for us to see. We have heard that "the first boy thought better of it and went". He changed his mind. Why? We do not know but the fact is that he accepted to come back on his first decision.

At times, we refuse to change our mind or our ways. It can be because we are afraid. Or, it can also be because we are afraid to be seen by others as weak. Or again, because we are too lazy. Yet, there are times when we should change our minds and take a new direction.

One kind of change that is certainly needed for many of us is the change from being only a listener to becoming a doer. A Christian is someone who follows Jesus and tries to do as He did. We remember the words He spoke telling us that His food was to do the will of His Father (Jn. 4:34) And at the end of his life, He could say to His Father: "I have finished the work you gave me to do". (Jn.17:4).

Sunday after Sunday, we come here to give praise and thanks to the Father. Again and again, we meet Jesus and we hear Him say: "I always do what pleases Him" (the Father) (Jn.8"29).

And we know that he expects us to do the same in our own life. During our celebration, we hear God's message and the Father's will is shown to us. We come to see what it means, in our own life, to do what pleases Him. So, let us be listeners, yes, but above all let us be doers of his will.

New Life:

Today, perhaps it is a good occasion to look at myself and ask myself: If all the people in this church were told to divide themselves now into two groups- on one side, the listeners. On the other side, those who listen and do what God's message asks of them. Where would I go, where could I go in all honesty?

Perhaps I will have to admit that I cannot go with those who do what God's word asks from us. Am I ready, then, to change my way, as did the first son in Jesus' story?

Fr. Francis Bakyor.