

St Patrick's Parish Bulletin



St. Patrick's Church, Quebec City

Mission Statement

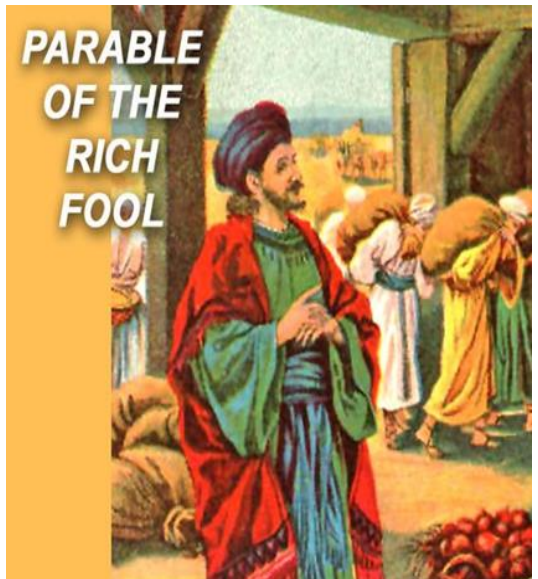
While honouring its Irish heritage, St. Patrick's Parish has a unique mission to live and share the teachings of Jesus Christ with Roman Catholics who worship in the English language in the Diocese.

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18th Sunday in Ordinary time, July 31st, 2022

"You fool" is God's response to the Rich man in the parable because that very night his life will be taken away. To whom will everything belong then, God asks. The rich man's world is small, just him and his possessions, and now he learns that he is to lose his life. This is how it will be for everyone who stores up treasure for himself but is not rich in what matters to God. St. Gregory the Great taught that when we care for the needs of the poor, we are giving them what is theirs, not ours. We are not just performing works of mercy; we are paying a debt of justice. Life does not consist in possessions but in



"But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be? So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God." (Luke 11.1-13)

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The making of a will is one of the important acts of adulthood. We can be rather reluctant to sit down and make our will. To do so is to acknowledge in a very concrete way that we are mortal, that one day we will leave our possessions to others. The author of the book of Qoheleth saw this as part of the meaninglessness of life – ‘a person who has laboured... must leave what is his own to someone who has not toiled for it at all’. Yet, there can be great meaning in the act of leaving what is our own to those who have not laboured for it. In making our will, we are deciding how our earthly possessions at the time of death will be divided and distributed. The decisions we make in regard to our will speak volumes about who and what we really value in life. We leave our possessions to the people and the causes that are most significant for us. Our will is a statement of our loves and passions, our values and interests.

When a will is not made or when it is unclear, trouble very often ensues, as family members attempt to interpret what the deceased person really intended. Non-family members can easily get drawn into the family quarrel. In the gospel reading today, someone tries to draw Jesus into a family dispute about inheritance. A man comes up to Jesus and says, ‘Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance’. Wisely, Jesus does not get involved in this family dispute. Instead, he seizes on this man’s request to warn against the dangers of greed. Within the Christian tradition, greed is listed as one of the seven deadly sins. In the list I learned at primary school, greed was referred to as ‘covetousness’, and appeared in second place on the list of seven: Pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy and sloth. Greed is the desire to acquire more than we need or is good for us. When we give in to greed we invariably do damage not only to ourselves but to others as well. Parents instinctively tell their children not to be greedy when they see them taking more than they need. However, greed is more an adult issue than a childhood one.

In the gospels, children are always portrayed in a positive way. Jesus holds up children as models of how to receive the kingdom of God. He tells his own disciples, ‘Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it’. Jesus suggests that children very often have the open hands and the open hearts that are needed to receive God’s presence and to respond to God’s call. In the gospel reading this morning, Jesus tells a story about a greedy adult who stands at the opposite end of the spectrum to the responsive child. Here is a man whose hands are not open because they have a tight grip on what he owns, and whose heart is not open because it is full of anxiety about the safe storage of all he possesses. His hands and his heart are full. You could say that he is full of himself. It is striking that he is the only person to inhabit the story that Jesus tells. There appears to be no room there for anyone else. When he speaks, he speaks to himself, and his words always have to do with himself: ‘my crops, my barns, my grain, my goods, my soul’.

You could say that the man in the parable had lost a sense of proportion. The value he placed on his possessions was out of proportion to their real value. Greed, by definition, gets things out of proportion, driving us to invest ourselves in what is of minor value and in the process making us miss what is of real value. We can all get things out of proportion. We can allow something to become supremely important for us, even though in the greater scheme of things, in God’s scheme, it is not so important. Jesus constantly points us towards what is of real value, what is ‘rich in the sight of God’, in the words of the gospel reading. His life shows us what it means to be ‘rich in the sight of God’. His was a generous life; he gave generously on behalf of others. Because of his generous love, he was supremely rich in the sight of God. When we allow the risen Jesus to live out his generosity in and through us, we too become rich in the sight of God. In the words of today’s second reading, we become renewed in the image of our creator.

The antithesis of greed is generosity. The antithesis of the man in today’s parable is the poor widow who placed everything she had into the temple treasury, ‘all she had to live on’. We can all think of generous people like her, those who give generously of themselves to others, whether it is of their time, their energy, their resources, their possessions. We know that we have been enriched by such people. Those who are rich in the sight of God truly enrich the lives of others. We pray that when the Lord calls us to himself at the end of our lives, we too will have become rich in the sight of God.

Bulletin information

Donations for Ukrainians in need

Since the invasion of their country in February 2022, many Ukrainian families, mostly women with young children, have sought refuge in Quebec.

There is now a donation box on the left side in the back of the church with the inscription "Donations for the Ukrainians in need". If you wish to contribute, special envelopes are available for this purpose in your pews. Please do not use them for the regular collection for the parish during Mass. They are only for donations for Ukrainians in need. Receipts for charitable donations can be issued for those who provide their parishioner number or their full name and address on the envelope. Your financial offering is important. Please, give generously and thank you for the donations we have already received. N.B. If you make a check, it must be made out to « St. Patrick's Parish »

Mass Intentions and Mass Schedule

Saturday Mass July 30th at **4 PM** Jean Pierre Munger from Steven Neatt

Sunday Mass July 31st at **10 AM** Monique O'Connor from Teresa Dubois

Helen Dinan from Robert Mc Garrety and family

Monday August 1st **No Mass**

Tuesday August 2nd **Mass at 11:30A m** Propulo Mass

Wednesday August 3rd **Mass at 11:30 AM** Personal intention

Thursday August 4th **No Mass**

Friday August 5th **No Mass**

Saturday Mass August 6th at **4 PM**

Sunday Mass August 7th at **10 AM** The O'Donnell and Mc Cauley Families

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