

# Dear Padre,

## Should we send our child to a Catholic school? Luckily, we can afford it. But what are the advantages?

In a Catholic school your child will be exposed to faith development and to religious, moral, and disciplinary values that some public schools can't impart. This is in addition to a high-quality general education. A 2019 study by the National Center for Education Statistics shows that the all-important math and reading assessments for Catholic school fourth- and eighth-graders surpassed those of their public school cohorts.

A well-run Catholic school can offer your child an educational experience and life formation based on the message, values, and principles of Jesus Christ. These are the preeminent reasons to choose a Catholic school. You want your child to hear the story of Jesus, to know and admire him, to grow up as one of his devoted friends and disciples.

Children need to see the message of Jesus lived out enthusiastically by their parents, teachers, and the adult faith community, of which the school is a part. Catholic schools will teach a value system clearly rooted in Jesus' gospel message. The children will discover that God's creation is good, to

be respected and cared for. The children will sense and appreciate their own intrinsic worth as human beings and the dignity of everyone. They will develop sensitivity to the poor and less fortunate. In short, children need the faith formation that a Catholic school offers.

—Fr. Joseph Morin, CSsR  
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

How nice it is to feel that our school, or the places where we gather, are a second home....School then ends up being one big family. A family where, together with our mothers and fathers, our grandparents, our teachers and friends, we learn to help one another, to share our good qualities, to give the best of ourselves.

—OUR LADY QUEEN OF ANGELS SCHOOL, HARLEM, NY,  
SEPTEMBER 25, 2015



## Calendar

|   |   |  |  |  |   |   |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Monday</b><br>JULY 27<br>Weekday<br>Jer 13:1–11<br>Mt 13:31–35 | <b>Tuesday</b><br>JULY 28<br>Weekday<br>Jer 14:17–22<br>Mt 13:36–43 | <b>Wednesday</b><br>JULY 29<br>St. Martha<br>Jer 15:10, 16–21<br>Jn 11:19–27<br>or Lk 10:38–42 | <b>Thursday</b><br>JULY 30<br>Weekday<br>Jer 18:1–6<br>Mt 13:47–53 | <b>Friday</b><br>JULY 31<br>St. Ignatius of Loyola,<br>Priest<br>Jer 26:1–9<br>Mt 13:54–58 | <b>Saturday</b><br>AUGUST 1<br>St. Alphonsus Liguori,<br>Bishop and Doctor<br>of the Church<br>Jer 26:11–16, 24<br>Mt 14:1–12 | <b>Sunday</b><br>AUGUST 2<br>Eighteenth Sunday<br>in Ordinary Time<br>Is 55:1–3<br>Rom 8:35, 37–39<br>Mt 14:13–21 |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 26, 2020

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

1 Kgs 3:5, 7–12

Rom 8:28–30

Mt 13:44–52 or 13:44–46

## Wising Up

There are various kinds of wisdom: the kind you get by watching carefully to discover how something works, or by learning from a mistake; the wisdom in taking advice from someone and not making the mistake he made; the political, social, or religious wisdom learned by those who work in these vocations. There is also wisdom that is just beyond our reach, the kind that is found only in God.

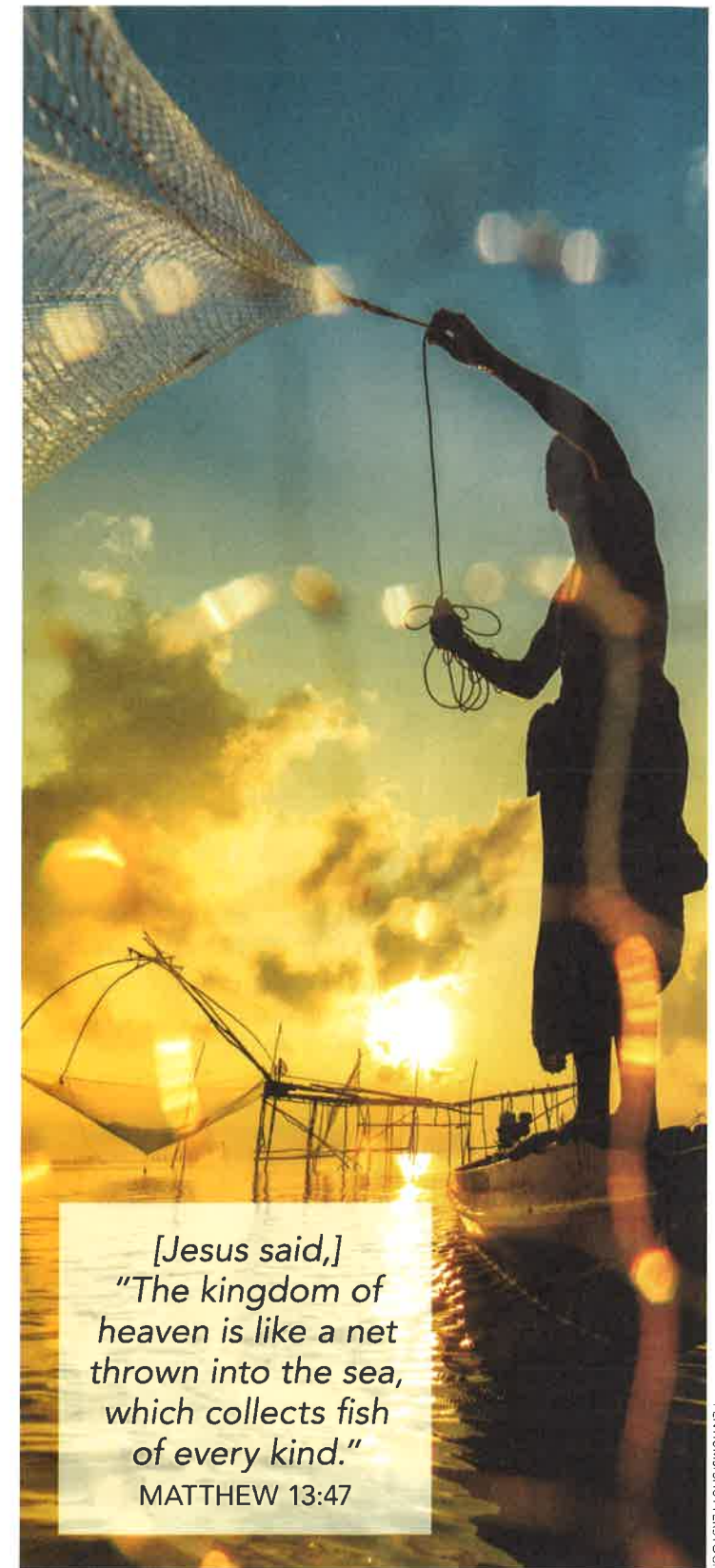
This Sunday's readings discuss various kinds of wisdom. King Solomon asks for "a listening heart" (1 Kings 3:9), the knowledge needed to rule his people wisely. He is told he can ask for anything: long life, riches, security from his enemies, all blessings that would certainly benefit him. Instead he asks for something to benefit his people. It seems he is wise enough to know he needs such wisdom. The psalm response praises the law, the religious tradition that provides instruction for living a life of holiness and thus reaping the rewards of such a life.

The parable in the Gospel describes various life situations in which decisions have to be made. In the first two instances, a question is posed: What is the kingdom of heaven worth to you? What are you willing to give up in order to attain it? The third depicts fishing with a net, a very strenuous task. A question here might be: Are you willing to work hard at this? Are you discerning in separating good actions from bad? It takes real wisdom to answer such questions.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ★ Do you recognize the true value of our religious tradition? How do you show that?
- ★ Who are the wise people in your life? How did they get their wisdom?



[Jesus said,]  
"The kingdom of  
heaven is like a net  
thrown into the sea,  
which collects fish  
of every kind."  
MATTHEW 13:47



St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese  
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

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Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The first reading tells us how the young King Solomon opted for the great treasure of accepting God to rule his life by doing God's will. That is why he requested of God for the gift of prudence, "an understanding heart to distinguish right from wrong, so that he might govern God's people properly. Yahweh was pleased with his request and granted him a wise and discerning heart which enabled him to surpass everyone in wisdom. In the second reading, Paul teaches that wisdom to perceive God's grace and use it, is essential for those who want to follow Him and to do His will, thus remaining in His Kingdom. He assures Rome's Christian community that "all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to His purpose." In the Gospel, using three mini parables and one concluding parable or simile, Jesus teaches us that God's Kingdom (the rule of God in us, accepting Jesus as our God and Savior, putting our Faith in God and doing His will), is something of extraordinary value, like a hidden treasure or a costly pearl, and that possessing it calls for a total commitment to preserve it. The Kingdom of God is God's reign in our hearts, in our lives, in our homes, in our society, and in our world. Only those who develop a searching mind and a heart willing to give up everything for the great treasure of God's Kingdom will be rewarded. Through the first and second parables of the treasure and pearl, Jesus teaches us that identifying God's will and living according to the Gospel (both with His grace), are the most precious and worthwhile things in life. Through Jesus and his Gospel, we come to know and understand the real meaning of life, the will of God for us each day.

We should live every moment in view of our precious goal. Most of the time, we are chasing false treasures such as money, social status or worldly pleasures. Thus, the really valuable "pearl" of sharing in God's life through Jesus here on earth and later in Heaven, is never found. Let us always remember that Heaven is within the reach of all of us who try to do the will of God, following the ordinary vocations of life and enjoying this world's joys and pleasures within the framework of God's Commandments. When we do this, we are already living in the Kingdom of Heaven while we are still on earth. We need to take all precautions to keep our greatest treasure safe: We will be able to keep safe the treasure of our personal relationship with Jesus by accepting him every day as our God and Savior, by allowing him to have total control over our lives through our loving obedience to his will, by asking him daily for the strengthening and guidance of his Holy Spirit, by talking to him daily in prayer, by listening to him in our meditative reading of the Bible, by getting reconciled to him and others every day, asking pardon and forgiveness for our sins, by offering Him our lives on the altar during the Holy Mass.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

| Date  | Day       | Time          | Place      | Intention      |
|-------|-----------|---------------|------------|----------------|
| 07/27 | Monday    | No Mass Today |            |                |
| 07/28 | Tuesday   | 6.00 PM       | Bridgeport | Don Loxterkamp |
| 07/29 | Wednesday | No Mass Today |            |                |
| 07/30 | Thursday  |               |            |                |
| 07/31 | Friday    | 6.00 PM       | Bayard     | Paul           |
| 08/01 | Saturday  | 5.30 PM       | Bayard     | Glen Claypoole |
| 08/02 | Sunday    | 8.00 AM       | Dalton     | Rosa Devier    |
| 08/02 | Sunday    | 10.30 AM      | Bridgeport | Oneva Lummel   |

**ALL SOULS**  
617 P STREET  
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

**MAY - AUGUST:**  
**MASS TIME**

Tuesday — 6:00 PM  
Sunday — 10.30 AM



**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| ADULTS        | \$445.00  |
| CHILDREN      |           |
| PLATE         |           |
| SUBTOTAL      | \$ 445.00 |
| MASS STIPEND  | \$100.00  |
| TOTAL         | \$ 545.00 |
| BUILDING FUND |           |
| HEAT/AC       | \$50.00   |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SACRED HEART**  
1003 AVE B  
BAYARD NE 69334

**MAY - AUGUST:**  
**MASS TIME**

Friday — 6:00 PM  
Saturday — 5.30 PM



**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| ADULTS        | \$340.00  |
| CHILDREN      |           |
| PLATE         | \$40.00   |
| SUBTOTAL      | \$380.00  |
| MASS STIPEND  |           |
| TOTAL         | \$ 380.00 |
| BUILDING FUND |           |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S**  
718 FRANCIS ST  
DALTON NE 69131

**MAY - AUGUST:**  
**MASS TIME**

Thursday — 6:00 PM  
Sunday — 8.00 AM



**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| ADULTS        | \$885.00  |
| CHILDREN      |           |
| PLATE         |           |
| SUBTOTAL      | \$ 885.00 |
| MASS STIPEND  | \$40.00   |
| TOTAL         | \$ 925.00 |
| BUILDING FUND |           |

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

