

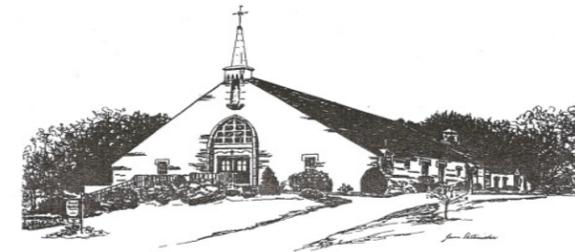


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Mark 9:37

Whoever receives one child such as this  
receives me.

Gospel of the Week  
Mark 9:30-37

September 23, 2018

Twenty-fifth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

**A Message from Father's Desk....**

CCD got off to a good start last week, thank you to all those who have registered their children into the program. I walked around the classes and saw parents who have volunteered to teach. This is great!

At the masses however I realized that many of the children who came to CCD didn't stay for the Mass. I have noted that for a while. How can I gently address this? What is the point, to bring your child for Faith formation and not stay for the Eucharist? Is there anything we can do or are not doing? Your presence as a family and community gathered around the Lord's Table is very important. We learn about Jesus firstly in prayer, in the act of gathering as one, listening and pondering the word of God, sharing of the Cup and Body ('food' and nourishment for life's journey). The example of our children seeing us 'stop' for this, among all that needs to be done, makes it sink in that it is the first priority. That you as a Parent take this seriously. I can go on and on ...I humbly ask that families really reflect on this. This is the only way we shall have a Church and community.

Jesus in the Gospel takes a child and places it in the midst of the disciples who are caught up in arguments about 'who was the greatest among them'. They are unconcerned about what Jesus is saying, that He will suffer, be killed and rise; when He asks what they are arguing about, they remain silent.

Like with the disciples, there is a lot that takes up our care, energies and concern these days. Some good and some useless. We live in a world that is highly competitive and restless for success or perfection. A lot of things keep us quiet and shocked. I have heard many people say, "I wonder what kind of world we are leaving to our children?"

What distinguishes those who follow Christ from the worldly currents and desires? It is the way they live their life. 'If anyone wishes to be first they shall be last of all, servant of all' — these are not easy words to put into practice. We ask then, what is at the center of our interests, our plans, and our future. Where do we find meaning and in what? And how can our children learn this early.

Have a Blessed Week in the Lord!



**'Everything is connected'**  
— Pope Francis

September is the  
Month of Creation

**'A Prayer for our Earth'**  
(Read inside bulletin)