

Holy Spirit Polish National Catholic Church

Father Rafal Dadello will be celebrating Holy Mass on Sunday September 23rd at 11.00 a.m. All are welcome. It is the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

The first reading is from the Book of Wisdom 2:12,17-20

The second reading is from the Letter of James: 3:16-4:3

The Holy Gospel is from St. Mark 9:30-37

Father Dadello will also be celebrating Holy Mass for the Catholic community on Saturday, September 22nd at 4.00 p.m. in St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 32 West Main Street in St. Johnsville.

Our Sunday Message

As he leads his disciples to Jerusalem for the final Passover, Jesus teaches them about the true meaning of discipleship. Today we hear the second of his three predictions of his passion in Mark's Gospel. Mark presents the disciples as being in such a state of confusion that they can't grasp what Jesus' teaching means. Perhaps they want to shut out the growing implications of the kind of Messiah Jesus is proving to be; maybe they still nurture hopes that the kingdom of David will dawn when they reach Jerusalem. And so they argue about their position in the kingdom.

In response, Jesus takes a child. We shouldn't sentimentalize his action. The child is not so much a symbol of innocence and humility as someone without legal status and therefore helpless: in first-century Palestine the child had no rights. Jesus invites his disciples to embrace this kind of selflessness and powerlessness. When he puts his arms around the child, it is a gesture of total identification with the powerless. The child can do nothing for the disciple, and so to receive a child is to do a good act for an insignificant person, without hope of earthly reward.

There's more to Jesus' teaching than the idea that each person should take the child as a model. Jesus is making a profound statement on greatness, and it's a clear rejection of the way the world organizes itself.

Throughout history power and domination have been the goal of human ambition: the disciples' argument is a demonstration of that! But according to Jesus' criteria, the least, the servants, the children, are the greatest. Those with power need to look anew at their own attitudes. And those without can learn to value themselves more, for they are of great value in God's sight.

Coffee Hour will follow the Holy Mass and be sponsored by Joannie Caska and Monika Dadello

The church is conducting a food drive to support the local food pantry. Parishioners are encouraged to bring non-perishable items to church on Sundays. Parishioners are also encouraged to donate paper products, coffee and other items needed for the church's Coffee Hour that is held every Sunday after Holy Mass.

The PNCC was organized in Scranton, PA in 1897. The denomination has over 25,000 members in North America. The church in Little Falls belongs to the Mohawk Valley Seniorate district, which also includes churches in Latham, Schenectady, New York Mills, Rome and Schenectady. More information about the PNCC can be obtained by calling Fr. Dadello at 823-0793, also by visiting WWW.PNCC.ORG or WWW.HOLYSPIRITPNCC.ORG Anyone needing a ride to Holy Mass can call Karen Filipski at (315) 823-4152 or John Rogers at (315) 429-9314.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you.