

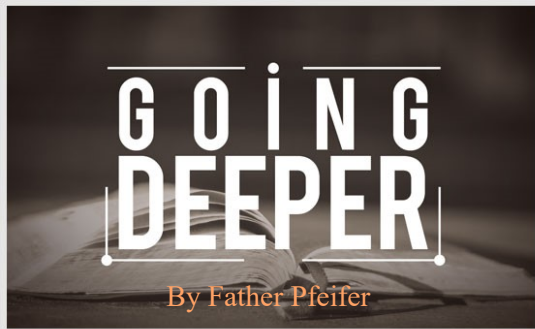
Our topic this weekend will come from our second reading, the book of Hebrews, where we hear what faith is. We will apply it to why we need to use faith and reason together.

The author of the letter of Hebrews tells us what faith is. He defines it as: "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen." "The realization of what is hoped for" means that when we have faith, we are filled with a certainty that God will fulfill his promises, even though they haven't been fulfilled yet. "Evidence of things not seen" means that when we have faith, we have a supernatural knowledge, we know with certainty that all the things God has revealed are true.

No one here in Napoleon saw with their physical eyes Jesus rise from the dead, but we know that he is risen. No one in our community sees with their physical eyes the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist, but we know He is there, underneath the appearances of bread and wine.

This is the essence of faith: accepting something as true - NOT because our own senses assure us of it, but because the person who tells it to us is trustworthy. The Church that teaches us that Christ rose from the dead, and that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, is trustworthy. The Church has weathered the storms of two thousand years, continuing to teach the same doctrine as when it started, continuing to celebrate the same sacraments, and continuing to give saints to this needy world. This faith, this evidence of things not seen with our senses, is one of God's greatest gifts to us.

Many of today's intellectuals and cultural elites consider faith to be childish. Mature people, they say, don't depend on faith; they depend on science and reason. Because of this, those of us who still value faith are sometimes embarrassed about it. We cover it up in conversations around the

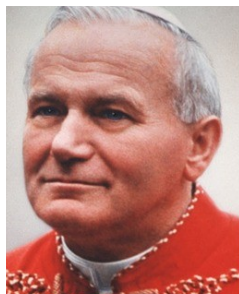


water cooler. But we shouldn't be embarrassed. Faith is a necessary part of any fully human life.

Those people who criticize us for having faith in God are making two mistakes: **First**, they are forgetting that we have very good reasons that support our faith. We were not eye witnesses to Christ's resurrection, for example, but there were eye witnesses who saw the risen Christ, and those eye witnesses founded the Church, which has endured longer than any merely human organization. We were not eye witnesses to the creation of the universe, but the order and beauty of the cosmos makes it quite reasonable to believe that there was indeed an intelligent creator. The more we study our faith, the more we get to know the good reasons that support it.

The **second** mistake these critics make is forgetting that they too live most of their lives by faith. They have faith in the engineer who designed the bridge they drive over going to work, and in their doctor who prescribes medicine they have never heard of, and in the school that educates their children.

Human society is built on faith, on trusting others, whether God or other people. Eliminating faith, which is impossible, wouldn't make us more mature, it makes us less human. St. John Paul II expressed this beautifully in an encyclical that compared faith and reason to two wings. We need them both to if we want to fly in the light of truth.

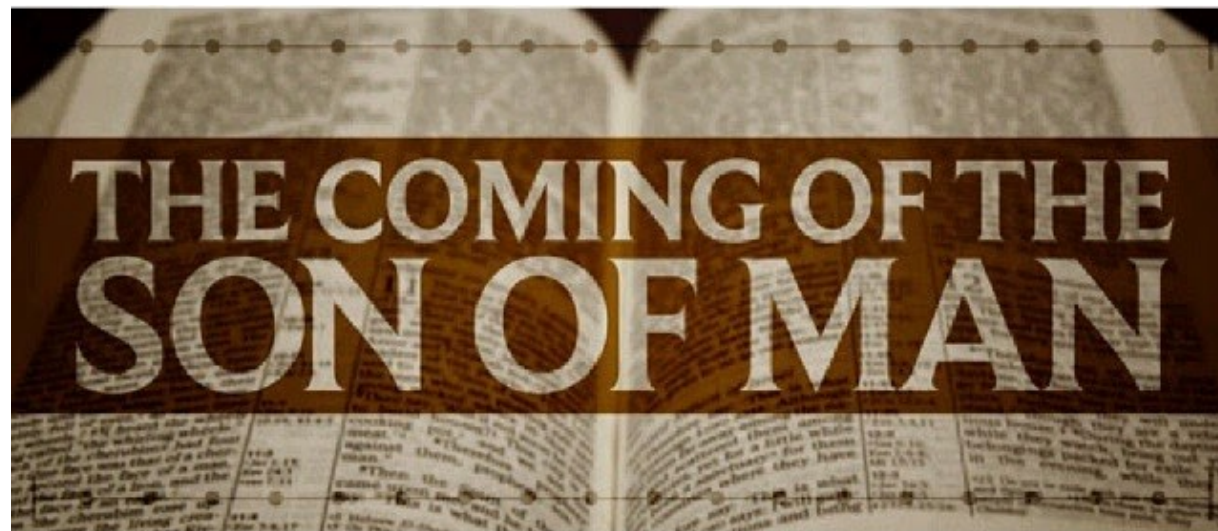


Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth- in a word, to know himself- so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.

— Pope John Paul II —

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

A Discipleship Parish



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754-2860



"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." – Luke 12:34

Jesus encourages us to build up treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more time in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.



Welcome Home Alumni of Napoleon to St. Philip Neri!

August 7, 2016

**Nineteenth Sunday
In Ordinary Time**

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| Mon., Aug 8 7 PM <i>Marty Leier by Martin & Maggie Leier</i> |
| Tue., Aug 9 7 PM <i>+Pauline Wald by Sheldon & Angela Gerhardt Family</i> |
| Wed., Aug 10 8 AM <i>+Darlene McClure by Jack & Becky Horner</i> |
| Thurs., Aug 11 8 AM <i>+Andrew Schneider by +Leo Unser</i> |
| Fri., Aug 12 8 AM <i>+Alfred Gross by +Pete & Betty Sperle</i> |
| Sat., Aug 13 8 PM <i>+Carolyn Dinius (Anni) by Willie & Tillie Piatz & Family</i> |
| Sun., Aug 14 10 AM <i>For Our Parishioners</i> |
| Sunday Care Center 8:45 AM <i>Helper: Phyllis Johnson</i> |



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place from 6 AM Thursday until midnight Friday.

Parish Announcements



Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth Grotto: Dedication will take place this **Sunday, August 7th** after the 10:00 Mass. This grotto is dedicated in loving memory of Jane Silbernagel by her husband Steve, her family, and friends. Please join us for the blessing. The grotto is by the north parking lot entrance. Also, thank you to those who have contributed their contributions in labor.

Steubenville Thank You: The youth of St. Philip Neri would like to thank the parish community for all of your prayers and support on our recent Steubenville Conference in St. Paul, MN last weekend. A great deal of thanks to Paul and Shauna Bitz who organized the events, to our chaperones, and to our parents for making the sacrifice and allowing us to grow closer to Jesus.

Assumption of Mary is August 15th - The Assumption of Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year, because it falls on a Monday. However, we would like to encourage all parishioners to come and celebrate **Fr. Pfeifer's Installation Mass as Pastor at 5:00 PM**, followed by a parish welcome in the Holy Family social hall. We will be serving pulled pork, sausage, buns, chips, pickles, condiments, lemonade and coffee. The Feast of the Assumption is a very old feast of the Church, celebrated as early as the sixth century. It commemorates the death of Mary and her bodily assumption into Heaven, before her body could begin to decay - a foretaste of our own bodily resurrection at the end of time. It signifies the Blessed Virgin's passing into eternal life.

Baptisms: St. Philip Neri parish would like to welcome the four new babies who will be baptized this weekend. They are: Letty Mae Weigel, daughter of Damon and Whitney Weigel; Jaxson Norman Kleppe, son of Benjamin and Cassandra Kleppe; Adalynn Ruth Fettig, daughter of Brady and Amber Fettig; and Leslie Ann Piatz, daughter of Ryan and Emily Piatz.

Breakfast: The Napoleon Park Board will be hosting an alumni breakfast from **8 a.m. until 1 p.m.**, this Sunday, Aug. 7th in the Holy Family social hall. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, eggs, and rolls. Adults are \$10.00 and kids 12 and under are \$7.00.

Yearly Liturgical assignments: If anyone is interested in being a lector, usher, gift bearer, EMHC or would like to be taken off the list, please contact Fr. Pfeifer or the parish office at 754-2860.

God's Gift Appeal 2016 Update: Thank you to all parishioners who donated so generously to the God's Gift Appeal. Our goal was \$39,063, pledged amount was \$59,612, and amount paid to date is \$47,592. 182 of 277 families have donated, which is 66% parish participation. If you haven't yet donated, please consider doing so. Thanks again. -Cheri Glatt, God's Gift Appeal Chairman

Area Events and News



Attention Married Couples - Have you and your spouse grown cold and distant from each other? Do you struggle to communicate or come together on common goals? Have past hurts built up walls of tension and distrust so big you wonder if they could ever come down? There is hope. September 9-11 the Diocese of Fargo will launch its Red River Retrouvaille program. Retrouvaille (from the French for "Rediscover") helps couples heal from past hurts and rediscover the love that initially drew them together. For more information on Retrouvaille visit www.HelpOurMarriage.com, or contact Brad or Jennie at (701) 356-7962.



Catechist Retreat: Fri., Aug. 26, Valley City or Sat., Aug. 27, Lake Metigoshe: A retreat for anyone who is involved in Catechesis. Mass, lunch, sharing, and reflection time with the chance to enjoy the beautiful grounds. 9:00am to 4:00pm. Deadline to register for both retreats is Wednesday, August 17. Fee of \$20 per person. Please register on-line at www.fargodiocese.org/catechistretreat.

Celebrating A Century of Catholic Education: St. Catherine School and Dacotah Bank in Valley City invite you to help celebrate their 100th Anniversary by joining them for a concert with **Tony Melendez on September 11 at 4 p.m.** at **HiLiner Activity Center**. Tony is an inspirational Catholic musician who plays guitar with his feet because he was born without arms. Tony has shared his story around the world and inspired many with his witness, including St. John Paul II. Tickets are \$5 for Kindergarten and up. Preschool tickets are free, but needed in order to keep track of available seating. Tickets are available at Dacotah Bank and Nearly Nu in Valley City, at the door, or by contacting Barb at stkates100@gmail.com or 605-692-2946. Doors open at 3 p.m.



Holy Father's prayer intentions for August: Please remember these in prayer. **Universal:** That volunteers may give themselves generously to the service of the needy. **Evangelization:** That setting aside our very selves, we may learn to be neighbors to those who find themselves on the margins of human life and society.

**St. Philip Neri
Catholic Church**

Confessions: 1/2 hr before every Mass, 1 hour before Saturday Mass, OR by appointment any time

Weddings: Contact Fr. Pfeifer at least 8 months prior.

Baptisms: Contact Fr. Pfeifer before Godparents are chosen.

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| | Saturday, Aug 13 |
| <u>Sacristan</u> | Phyllis Johnson |
| <u>Lectors</u> | Charlotte Brendel, Rick Regner |
| <u>Ushers/ Gift Bearers</u> | K. Haas Family |
| <u>Servers</u> | Charmaine Haas, Darissa Becker |
| <u>EMHC</u> | Helen Braun, Rick Regner, Phyllis Johnson |

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| | Sunday, Aug 14 |
| <u>Sacristan</u> | Mark Wangler |
| <u>Lectors</u> | Mitch Leier, Richard Gross |
| <u>Ushers/ Gift Bearers</u> | Willie & Alvina Piatz, Randy Weigel Family |
| <u>Servers</u> | Janae Weigel, Carly Bitz |
| <u>EMHC</u> | Cindy Weigel, Lori Gross, Anita Fettig |

**Stewardship of
Treasure**

This Week: \$ 2,080.32