

## REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS

By Fr. Pfeifer

A verse from the Letter to the Hebrews sums up the power of gratitude, our theme for this weekend: *What gives true strength to a man's heart, is gratitude.* Heb 13:9

Why is that?

Gratitude is like the river that feeds a huge reservoir of water. If we dam up that river, the reservoir will continue to be useful for a while but, little by little it will dry up. If we neglect the virtue of gratitude that's what happens to our souls. They dry up because they aren't being irrigated by the knowledge that we are loved. Once we dry up, we start to complain, criticize, condemn and find every little fault. But, the virtue of gratitude keeps us in tune with this most important of facts: God loves us, thinks about us, cares about us, is interested in us.

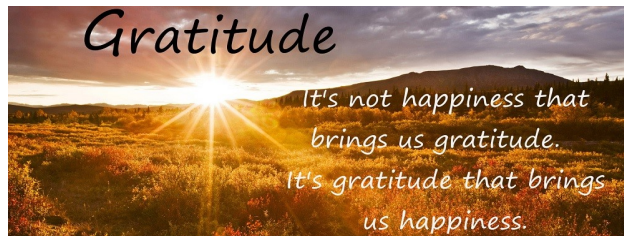
God's capacity for love is much greater than any mere human being's. It's infinite. In fact, His love is greater than all of humanity's combined.

So, knowing that we are loved by God, then, is the only way to satisfy one of the two deepest needs of the human heart: the need to know that we are loved without limit and without conditions.

Gratitude keeps our attention on God's goodness to us, on the expressions of his love for us. It makes sure we never forget that we are loved - which is the only source of lasting joy in this world full of difficulties.

When we neglect it, we start focusing on ourselves, on our own achievements, on our own desires - but none of those things can satisfy this fundamental need of our soul.

No reservoir can keep itself full - it needs to be fed by a source outside itself, higher than itself. When we find ourselves becoming habitually bitter,



angry, frustrated, stressed, or depressed, it's because our reservoir is getting low.

That's when we need to look back to God and His love, and open the floodgates of gratitude.

Gratitude can be compared to the sweetness of a taste of fine wine; it only improves over time.

We have all received a note of thanks at some time in our life, long after we had performed the favor. When that thank you note arrives, it warms our heart, because it shows that our action lasted, that someone was thinking of us long after the favor was done.

This week, let's warm someone else's heart by saying thank you. We owe a debt of gratitude to so many people:

- Our parents, first of all; for handing on the faith to us;
- Our teachers and coaches, and all those people who dedicated themselves to us in our years of education;
- Our first boss, who was patient with us and gave us a second chance;
- The relative or neighbor who inspired us with their good example;
- The soldiers who have fought to protect our freedom;
- The police, firefighters, and medical personnel who dedicate themselves to keeping our communities safe;
- The authors of those books that have given us joy and inspiration...

Jesus has reminded us today that gratitude is a Christian virtue. That his followers should spread the aroma of gratitude in this thankless world, for our own good, and for the good of those around us.

## St. Philip Neri Catholic Church A Discipleship Parish



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*"Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?"* –  
Luke 17:18


Most of us live "easy" lives. We have food, shelter and clothing. We go on vacation every year and own a car or two. Most of us take this all for granted. Did you ever notice that people with the least amount of possessions are usually the most grateful? Shouldn't this be the other way around? Take time every day to thank God for all He has given you.

October 9, 2016

Twenty-Eighth Sunday

Mon., Oct 10 ..... 8 AM <i>Health of Tam Braunberger by Willie &amp; Alvina Piatz</i>
Tue., Oct 11 ..... 7 PM <i>+Father Joseph Campbell</i>
Wed., Oct 12 ..... 8 AM <i>+George Silbernagel by Vincent &amp; Consuelo Silbernagel</i>
Thurs., Oct 13 ..... 8 AM <i>+Adam &amp; +Barbara Schmalz by The Family</i>
Fri., Oct 14 ..... 5 PM <i>+Roy Pfeifer (1yr Anni.) by Fr. Neil Pfeifer</i>
Sat., Oct 15 ..... 3 PM Marriage of Mindy Bernard & Kevin Bitz
Sat., Oct 15 ..... 5 PM <i>+Joe Weigel (Anniv.10/9) by Maggie Weigel &amp; Family</i>
Sun., Oct 16 ..... 10 AM <i>+For Our Parishioners</i>
Sunday Care Center 8:45 AM <i>+Frank Fettig by Maggie Weigel &amp; Family</i>
<i>Helper: Phyllis Johnson</i>

 Rosary 25 minutes before weekend Masses.

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

**Stewardship of Treasure**  
This Week: \$ 3,458

Parish Announcements



THE CATHOLIC FAITH. ON DEMAND.

**FORMED** is now up and running! To access the videos, movies, e-books, and talks, just go to [formed.org](http://formed.org), and enter the parish code **T2TKH2**. Call Tanya in the office to help you get set up on the computer in our library, if you don't have internet at home.

We continue to pray for the repose of the soul of **Joseph A. Fettig** and his family in this time of mourning and loss.

**Wedding** - Fr. Pfeifer has been meeting with **Keven Bitz and Mindy Bernard** who will be married at St. Philip Neri on October 15th. May the love of God prevail in their hearts in their final preparations.

**Vinyl installation** - Installation of the new commercial Mohawk vinyl selected by the finance council was installed this past week.

**Deacon Retreat Oct 13 - 16th** - Deacon Allen and Deacon Gary, along with their wives, will be gathering with all of the deacons of the Diocese of Fargo for a retreat. Let's pray for them and with them. Please join me in thanking them for all of the good things they do to help us grow closer to God at St. Philip Neri.

**Catholic Charities Collection** - On behalf of Catholic Charities ND, we would like to thank all who donated to their annual appeal last weekend. The donations will be given to Catholic Charities ND, and they will send out gift receipts to those who contributed.

**Class of 2017 Rome Senior Prep Day - Sunday, Oct 16th** from 11:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Our tour guide for the retreat will be with us that day. Parents please bring a potluck item to share and join us for a meal to start our prep day.

**Journal Found** in Holy Family Hall a few weeks ago. If you think it is yours please call or stop by the office and describe it to us. To maintain privacy we have not opened it.



Powerful new class starting **Tues., Oct. 18!**

Class consists of 8 sessions after Mass on Tuesdays. Call Jackie Weigel (471-2516) or the parish office with questions.

Announcements, Cont.

**St. Philip Neri Parish Inquiry Class - Monday nights throughout the year from 7:40 to 8:40.** All are welcome!  
**Oct. 10** - Jesus - True God and True Man, The Promise of Redemption in the Old Testament, Incarnation  
**Oct. 17** - The Life of Christ including the Nativity, the Hidden Life of Christ, the Public Life of Christ, the Passion and Death, the Resurrection and Ascension, and the Four Gospels  
**Oct. 24** - No Class. Fr. Pfeifer in the Holy Land

**Adoration** - We need another adorer Fridays at 1 pm, 2 pm, and 4 pm. Signing up for a slot means you are responsible for that time. You do not have to be there every week, but you need to call a sub if you can't make it. In order to continue having the opportunity to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist at Adoration, we need more people to sign up. Please encourage others to sign up for open slots. Contact Maria Regner or Fr Pfeifer for more information.

**KC 1st (Admission) 2nd (Formation), and 3rd Degree (Knighthood) Initiation** - Sun., Oct 23 at St. Anthony Parish in Linton. Enter on West end. Arrive at 11 AM. Contact Deputy Rick Glatt 254-5591 for details.



**40 DAYS FOR LIFE**  
 Sept. 28th to Nov. 6th - Please meet at the Grotto of Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth and pray the rosary every Wednesday at 7 PM during this national campaign.  
 Pray to end abortion!!

**St. Philip Neri Adoption Party - Wed., Oct. 12**, starting with supper at 5:30. Interested in adoption or financially supporting an adoption? Want to support a culture of life? Struggling with conception or miscarriage? Join us at this event in the parish social hall. If you plan to come to supper, please RSVP to the parish office by Oct. 9. If you can't make the meal, please join us for the speakers at 6 PM.. Come listen to a panel of speakers including couples who have had experience with adoption and ask them questions about the process. Catholic Charities reps will be present. CCND currently has 40 children on their adoption list awaiting their "forever home."



 St. Philip Neri Catholic Church

**Confessions:** 1/2 hr before every Mass, 1 hour before Saturday Mass, OR by appointment.

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

**Baptisms:** Contact Fr. Pfeifer before Godparents are chosen.

	Saturday, October 15
<b>Sacristan</b>	Phyllis Johnson
<b>Lectors</b>	Brenda Weigel, Rick Regner
<b>Ushers/Gift Bearers</b>	G. Marquart, S. Holt, R. Kerzman, T. Silbernagel
<b>Servers</b>	Sabrina Haas, McKenzie Haas, Jada Schwarzenberger
<b>EMHC</b>	David Becker, Helen Braun, Lorraine Reis, Phyllis Johnson

	Sunday, October 16
<b>Sacristan</b>	Mark Wangler
<b>Lectors</b>	Jim Bitz, Mitch Leier
<b>Ushers/Gift Bearers</b>	Willie & Alvina Piatz, Richard Gross Family
<b>Servers</b>	Jacob Leier, Dalton Feist, Logan Feist, Noah Becker, Jamison Fettig
<b>EMHC</b>	Cheri Glatt, Jackie Weigel, Dennis Weigel, Lori Gross