

Trinity 7

We have one of the Gospels accounts of the feeding of the multitudes this morning.

Jesus was always concerned for His sheep and not only for their current state of life, but even more importantly their future state.

In scripture Jesus stresses over and over the importance of / and the connection / between the present time and the future, and this reasoning is applicable to us today.

How many of you walk, or desire to walk, and exercise each day?

How many of you are careful, or try to be, of what you eat in order to be healthy in the future.

We all often do things today trying to shape and prepare for the future.

Often times we have to sacrifice one thing today for something tomorrow.

And this is a good thing.

In the Gospel this morning Jesus is concerned for His people, some of whom have been following him for three days,

he is concerned that they will “faint” if they receive not something to eat.

So, out of his concern for them, he feeds them before sending them away,

it is far better that the people be feed before being sent away for who knows which of them may have difficulty and need assistance along the way if they eat not.

Everyone here this morning would probably agree that preventive action is better than responsive action –

Even as children grow we teach and instruct them on how to drive safely (wear your seat belts and practice defensive driving...)

We do this because it is more important for them not to have a wreck than it is for them to have good insurance;

although, insurance is important when required – but it is best if it is never required.

If we can prevent, then responding is less often required.

How many of the problems / that we face today / are or were avoidable?

How many of the problems which we encounter daily / are of our own doing?

How many of our problems arise from sin and sinful desires and wants?

Think about that for a moment – some of our own problems being rooted in sin?

And for things that we **cannot** prevent,

even when things occur outside of our control (such as tripping and falling / becoming ill and bed ridden,

or even the making of poor decisions of others within your lives.

But even then, Christians are to use those events to grow closer to God and to become strengthened and to pull away from Satan (sin.)

Lending assistance and helping those in need is our duty as Christians (and I believe we at St. Michael's do this well, although we can always do better)

but **is it not** (?) just as important, and one could argue even more important,

that we provide the “preventive atmosphere” today, so that we help others avoid the need for assistance and the pitfalls of sinful problems.

Let me be simple and blunt this morning,

the best preventive medicine for whatever sickness ails us, (of body / mind / or Spirit) is Jesus Christ and His Church.

One of our goals at St. Michael’s has to be the developing of that “preventive atmosphere” which aids us in avoiding the sins and travails of this world.

Let us discuss the concern for you and your family’s future state...

During the summer, many people have been very busy trying to prepare for the upcoming year.

Many hours have been spent this summer to improve the spiritual and learning atmosphere within St. Michaels.

I pray that these efforts bear fruit...however, none of them will work

If YOU AND YOUR FAMILY are not here.

I pray that your major priority / each Sunday / is to be within His Church...

if that is not your priority, then you and God need to have a talk.

Your Clergy can preach and teach of the importance of Christ and His Church within your lives, but if you are not here –

it is for naught / if you deny God’s Will for you to be within Him / within His Church,

and for He to be in you through the Holy Sacraments, especially the Eucharist.

If this is the case, you not being within His will, that is between you and God; however, we will continue to pray for you.

On September the 10th, our new Sunday school year will begin.

We have eight adults who have volunteered to teach our Children.

This is wonderful / and I thank each and every one who has volunteered.

The NEW curriculum will follow our Calendar Year

and there is being established a fun and rewarding program

which gives incentives to the learning of bible verses,

and allows the teachers to use technologies when suited,

it incorporates music into the program,

and has clergy involvement in the classes.

Our Youth Sunday School program will be the very best we can offer.

However; It is completely up to the parents if this program will be successful.

If you skip and pick Sundays to attend church,

then your child can fall behind and become frustrated...

and if this happens, the fault will lay at the feet of the parents

who have failed to have their children in Church.

You are not giving them the chance to partake of what the Church offers.

Children all the way through High School (especially those in High School) need to be in Sunday school.

I am going to continue, and teach, the Summer Adult Chat room as we move into the Sunday school year.

These sessions have been good because they have involved everyone attending.

Discussions are held of today's problems as we use the Epistle Reading of the day as a guideline.

Even if you have never read the bible or if you are biblical scholar, these discussions will be beneficial to everyone.

We discuss ways of implementing the Holy Scripture into our lives,

And how to bring Jesus into our lives, into our problems:

whether they be marital problems,

financial,

the raising of children,

addiction,

anger issues,

or others,

by finding ways of strengthening our relationship with Jesus.

This allows us to begin to shine the light of Christ upon the darkness (whatever it may be) which lessens the darkness of sin and our problems.

But once again, these words mean nothing, if a commitment is not made by your family and yourself to be in Christ's Church each Sunday.

If you will make that commitment,

then you will be like the thousands that had followed Christ for days,
and you also will be fed.

But like them then, you have to be present.

I pray for each and every one of you to take advantage of what is offered within
the St. Michael's family –

Offered each and every day of the week:

the friendships,

the teachings,

the sacraments,

the opportunity to serve others as well as receiving care and support,

and above all: the love offered within the Body of Christ –

it is all here for you at St. Michael's,

we miss you when you and others when absent.

So, let us pray:

“Almighty Father, / who art present in thy power in every place:

Give ear / in thy loving-kindness / to the supplications which we offer unto thee /
on behalf of our brethren and friends

now absent from us;

may thy mighty hand shield and protect them from all evil;

may thy Holy Spirit guide them / in the right way

and bless their going out and their coming in; /

(bring them all back to us in safety,
and grant that, /
being united by our fellowship with thee,
we may all at the last /
be gathered in **the home** which is above,
through Jesus Chirst our Lord.”

The hour cometh and now is....