

PASTOR'S COLUMN—MARCH 9, 2015

Dear Parishioners:

We might wonder about the last judgment, what it will be like. In fact we may have fear about how God will judge us at the end of our lives. We need to remember that Jesus comes to reveal God's mercy for all of humanity. God's judgment is rooted in mercy flowing out of unconditional love.

Now this does not mean that we can live a free-for-all with no accountability. However, God's merciful judgment reminds us to live humbly but let go of our fear of God. Jesus the Son of God made man sets us free from fear of God so that we commune with God out of love. The end result of living in God's mercy is that we will love our neighbors with more mercy. Somehow in the mystery of God's merciful judgment, the issue of how we treat our neighbors including the least of our neighbors will come up.

Stewardship of sharing generously with the least of our neighbors is an important part of discipleship in Jesus, and sets the tone for how God will judge us. God does not want any of us to be lost in selfishness, and that is where Jesus communes with us in depths of mercy and compassion. To live Christ is to let go of selfishness and observe how Jesus is energizing us to be more loving to our neighbors, including the least. Our Holy Communion with Jesus is the way to prepare for the last judgment because mercy will already be our mainstay on earth.

In Christ's Mercy,

Fr. Terry