In my Easter sermon, I spoke briefly about anxiety and trust. Anxiety is often brought about by fear whenever we take our eyes off the vision and call of Jesus and put our trust in the things of this world. The Lord speaks clearly throughout scripture about anxiety and trust. Proverbs 12:25 says, “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down but a good word makes him glad.” The Apostle Paul also advises us in Philippians 4:6-7, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

In Matthew 6, Jesus addresses the subjects of anxiety and a trust in God that surpasses what the eye can see. He instructs us not to be anxious about the things of this world (food, clothing, the physical body, etc.) because our Heavenly Father knows we need these things. His closing words are, “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” In order to do this, we must trust that our Father God has a sovereign plan for each of us and that in His plan, He will provide all we need to survive and, even thrive, in this world in spite of circumstances that sometimes indicate otherwise.

I can personally testify that trusting God to provide our needs while things are going well is easier than trusting Him when things begin to go “south.” At the beginning of 2020, no one could foresee that in just four short months there would be 30 million jobless people in this country, or a severe plunge in the stock market, the shutdown of most businesses, and empty classrooms before the school year ended. However, the Lord has a way of drawing us back to Him in our times of need to restore our faith and trust in Him and His promises.

The scriptures do not paint for us a world without conflict or challenges. While the current COVID 19 pandemic is a crisis that has challenged everyone, most all of us have experienced personal crises that have caused us to wonder, “Where is God in all of this?” How do we pay our bills or put food on the table when finances become tight or even scarce? From personal experience, I have learned that God is bigger than our circumstances, and if we continue to seek first His kingdom and take our eyes off the world and fix them on Christ, He will guide us and provide all that we need.

“Heavenly Father, as we navigate through the uncertainties of this life, especially in today’s world, give us Your peace. Keep our eyes fixed on You and away from the negative situations we are facing and grant us confidence that you will work all things in our favor and for Your glory. We ask these things in the matchless name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN!”

Father Wes
The "Forward Day by Day" daily devotions for May/June/July 2020 are in the narthex. $1.00 each.

REMINDER
You have not received food from Serving You within the last 30 days. The groceries are placed in the trunk of the car. You are eligible for this emergency food assistance as long as you depend on us.

This transition has, of course, resulted in unexpected costs. Will you make a gift today to help us provide food to these vulnerable seniors? For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially: John Carlsto, Johnny Cole, Karen Bain, Joan Brooks, Tom & Faye Kinstler, Joan DaLee, Jean Barron, Jane Kerr, and Greg Wynn.

A MESSAGE FROM MEALS ON WHEELS:
We're so thankful that many of our Meals on Wheels volunteers are able to continue to deliver meals during the Coronavirus crisis, and others have stepped in to fill the gap for those who can't make their normal deliveries.

We pray for our Parish Family: For all who suffer in mind, body or spirit, especially: John Carlisto, Johnny Cole, Karen Bain, Joan Brooks, Tom & Faye Kinstler, Joan DaLee, Jean Barron, Jane Kerr, and Greg Wynn.

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