

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK  
**22<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: SEPTEMBER 3, 2023**

Dear Parishioners,

The Labor Day weekend invites us to reflect on the relationship between ourselves and nature, the care and friendships that exists between people, and the vision that binds a nation together. Our faith in Jesus tells us all that what we have is given by God and not created by our own efforts. The Eucharist that we celebrate each Sunday confers the grace of God through the merits of Christ and through our own merits. The Eucharist should not be put into a category by itself.

Christians have priorities among the great and gratuitous mysteries of life. It means that some symbols will be more precious than others — more central to who we are as Christians. We have to be mindful of this, lest we place an over emphasis on one aspect of our lives over what is really central. Jesus cautions us that we may have to go against the family or the culture or the nation in order to be true to His message of reconciliation and peace. For example, the U.S. Flag is not what we worship but rather our life should be focused on Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Sunday Eucharist and the power of the Christian message helps us shape society for the good. In particular on this Labor Day weekend, we need to be mindful and work for a just wage that recognizes the dignity of the human person. Each worker has the responsibilities to provide a full and honest day's labor and each employer has the responsibility to give workers just remuneration.

Happy Labor Day!

Stay safe,

*Fr. Mike Meany*