

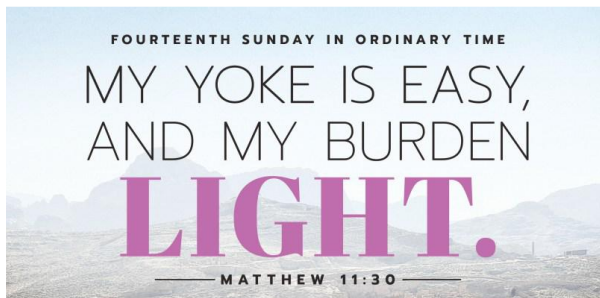


From the Desk of Father Peter

We Believe that Faith is a Gift

*As Catholics, we believe that faith is a gift that we receive at Baptism and it grows within us as we live, learn, worship, and celebrate with our Christian family—**THE***

***CHURCH.** Faith is a powerful gift and Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures speaks about it very often. Faith the size of a mustard seed would be sufficient to uproot a sycamore tree and cast it into the sea Luke 17:6. Because of her faith, the woman who suffered twelve years of hemorrhages was healed simply by touching the tassel of the cloak Jesus was wearing Matthew 9:22. Sight was restored to some who were blind because of their faith Matthew 9:29, and the faith of the men who lowered their friend through the roof brought healing and forgiveness to their paralyzed companion Mark 2:5.*



*We cannot take the gift of faith for granted. It was in his own hometown of Nazareth that Jesus was distressed by the lack of faith found in his people Mark 6:6. We may profess our faith each week in the **CREED** but we must guard against just reciting words. Jesus criticized those who performed acts of prayer, fasting or charity in order to appear holy; our actions should flow from the faith we profess right from the time of our Baptism. When we act out our faith, **we grow in faith.** This weekend, as your Pastor, I am calling on all to act out in faith as we pray and reflect on the power and presence of God in our lives.*

God continually draws us to himself and has written in our hearts

a deep desire for communion with him. Faith is our response to this desire expressed in our religious practices and values we hold in life. It is in our faith relationship with God that *In him we live and move and have our being* Acts 17:28. *Faith is a gift from God—a response from us to God.* I am thankful to God for your faith and generosity to our beloved St John's.



*Peace and love to all,
Father Peter*