

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

What is the Kingdom of Heaven worth to you? This weekend, Jesus tells us it is like a hidden treasure or a pearl of great price. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a "treasure hidden in a field" or a "pearl of great price". When a merchant finds it, he goes and sells all that he has to buy it. Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth sacrificing everything to gain.

As we look forward to our joint parish picnic on Sunday, August 16 at 11:00 AM at Transfiguration Church, we can see a beautiful parallel between this weekend's parable and our two communities. Much like the merchant who discovers a priceless treasure, we recognize the great value of our shared faith and fellowship. Come celebrate this treasure together!

Building God's Kingdom requires us to share our gifts. Just as King Solomon asked God for an "understanding heart" to lead the people (1 Kings 3:9), we, too, ask for wisdom and discernment as our two parishes come together to plan and work as one. Organizing a gathering of this scale is a wonderful opportunity to live out St. Paul's encouragement to "live in a manner worthy of the call" by bearing with one another through love (Romans 8:28).

By sharing our resources, talents, and volunteers, we are mirroring the early Christian communities who shared all things in common. This picnic is not just an afternoon of food and games; it is an active expression of our unity in Christ and an opportunity to welcome new faces. I warmly invite all representatives, volunteers, and parishioners from both Our Lady of Grace Church and Church of the Transfiguration to help make this picnic of unity a reality. Together, let's plan a joyful, faith-filled event that brings our families and communities closer in fellowship.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our church families. May God bless our collaborative efforts, and may we always recognize the treasure we have in one another.

-Fr. Luke