

The Importance of the Word in Parish Life

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Our Faith has been shared since the time of Jesus through The Word. The retelling of the stories in the Old Testament helped us learn about the nature of God, and then the New Testament teaches us about Jesus, and the power and action of the Holy Spirit. The teaching of The Word is how we continue to grow in our life in a Christian Community. The Word is the tool that we use to strengthen our Relationship with the three Persons of God.

Historically, the means of handing on the faith has been called catechesis; the effort to help man believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and how we can have life in that belief. The proclamation of the Gospel and the celebration of the sacraments are crucial parts of how we live in the Catholic faith. The Word teaches us how we can worship.

Understanding the reality that many of us do not take the time to read the Bible as often as we can, there are a few ways that we are taught the word. Preparation for the sacraments (RCIA, marriage, First Communion, etc.) are just a few. One of the more important ones, that we should be receiving at least weekly, is through Sunday homilies. The Priest or Deacon, after the readings, helps interpret what we have heard and how it applies to our daily lives. The parish leaders have had the training and expertise to dissect what we have heard, and how to apply the teachings to our activities when we leave Mass.

There are other ways that we, as a Parish, help in sharing the Word. Adequate funds are needed to carry out the parish mission (staff, building upkeep). Support of Catholic Education in the schools. Marriage preparation, retreats, and efforts to reach out to both the active and inactive portions of our parish community. Assistance with teaching CCD to our youth.

As a Parish Community, the efforts currently underway and being planned will be an excellent time for us to look at not just the Word, but all the other Essential Elements, and join in with the exploration of how we can apply these in our Parish, and our daily lives.