

Sermon on June 21st

Opening Prayer: Lord! My heart is open! May your message ignite in our hearts

Sermon:

I'd like to wish all the fathers, of both humans and fur babies, a very Happy Father's Day!

I have a few questions for everyone, so please raise your hand. Who has heard the phrase: "it takes a village to raise a child?" [have people raise their hands]. How about: "it's easier said than done?" [have people raise their hands] How about: "God/ Jesus take the Wheel!"? [have people raise their hands]. That last one carries for today's readings on so many levels.

The first reading reflects on a very major event that connects everyone in the world. We hear about Ishmael, Abraham's first born, and Hagar, his mother, being driven into the wilderness. While in the wilderness, Hagar becomes scared for the survival of herself and Ishmael. God approached them to not be afraid; I have a plan. Trust in God's plan. They survived, with Ishmael growing up and making a "great nation". God's plan in this reading is a major in world history. Abraham is the father of all nations. His offsprings, through his other son Isaac, became the root and ancestry of Judeo-Christian history. Ishmael, on the other hand, became the root of Arabic lineage that would become Islam. All 3 religions, who rarely see eye to eye, all share this same story with the same meaning "Trust in God's plan".

Fast Forward thousands of years later to our gospel where Jesus, whose teachings are believed by Muslims-Jews-Christians, tells the world in a blunt way to put God first and trust in him. That's what today's Gospel is about. Yes, everyone has their own plans but that doesn't matter. Take up your cross and trust in me. In a world of conflict, we all can agree on this 1 message.

So how does that relate to you and me today? Throughout our life, we hear the message of trust in God, but we act like it's easier said than done. We'd rather follow our own plans than God's, whether it's because we are impatient, don't trust His plan, don't understand his plan, or we fear losing control. Example: Have you ever been at work or school and had to do a project that you were the lead in? It's easier for us to say "Let me just do it" rather than passing it off and trusting in others. It's the same thing we do with God's plan. "God what's your plan to help me? Oh never mind, I'll do it myself". But in reality, it's better to leave it to God because he knows the plan that we don't.

This message today is perfect for Father's Day! As a parent, we need to trust in God's plan for not only ourselves but for our children rather than our plans for both. As you know or can hear during service, I have a son named David. In his early age, it was my

responsibility to help him grown and learn. I taught him by giving him options (Do you want fruit or a juice?), teaching him the best time to sing during service (now he sings as loud as the choir), and teaching him right (“Good Job putting the toys back in the box”) from wrong (“No David! Don’t ride the cat like he is a horse”). In January, he started school at SMCC. I would have to let go of leading every second of his life and I had to trust in God to set him upon the right path in his life. Because I had to let go, I kept asking myself: are these teachers the right people to help him grow (obviously yes), have a surrounded David with a village of caring and love, whether at home, with his family, and here at St. Michael’s? Also, obviously yes. While driving him to school every day, me and him repeat the 5 rules of the day: I will do my best, I will listen, I will be nice to others, I will help my friends when they are in need, & I will trust in God’s Plan. That last one is a reminder for me too. As he grows up, he will face a lot of difficult times and choices in his life that sadly I won’t be able to be there for, but he can always turn to me. He will also face exciting times: going to a new school, graduations, moving out, living his own life. In all of this, I need to trust God will lead him towards a great life and more success than I’ve had in mine. Comedian Steve Harvey once said in an interview “The worst day of my life was when my father died. He truly the only one in my life to truly root for me to be better than him.” How did he do, by trusting in God’s plan for Steve!

We need to put our trust in God. He has a plan for us all. God will put David on the right path in his life and course correct for mine when needed. I trust God will lead us to a village like St. Michales that will help raise David in his religious life. I hope God gives me the opportunity to let go and let him take the wheel of my life. I trust that God will puts opportunities in my life that it’s not easier said than done but rather done than easily said. God Love You All!