

September 22-23, 2018
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Wisdom 2:12-20 **James 3:16-4:3** **Mark 9:30-37**

Having watched any number of ‘space’ launches, many of us are familiar with the final COUNTDOWN, starting with 10, 9, 8 and so on. With the arrival of this first weekend of Autumn, our liturgical calendar has begun its COUNTDOWN to the conclusion of the liturgical year on November 24-25, the celebration of Christ the King (Thanksgiving Weekend). How quickly another year has come and (almost) gone. These are the days in which we are encouraged to REMEMBER what our resolutions, hopes and determinations for this year WERE (back in Advent of 2017) and to discern whether and how we have progressed in attaining them? Certainly the year has been littered with ample distractions of varying intensity, each a temptation for us to turn from our efforts or to abandon our resolutions completely. Given the steady drum beat of negative news of misconduct revelations occurring around the world, have the sinful (criminal) revelations of SOME clergy caused us to doubt the Scriptural teachings proclaimed each Sunday? Have we ‘thrown the baby out with the wash’; in our disgust to rid the Church of the ugly stains of abuse...captivated by the sins of the few, do we no longer hear or focus on the words and story of Jesus? In today’s Gospel we hear Jesus CORRECTING his disciples....way back 2000 years ago....because they were, even then, caught up in issues of pride and greatness....not sexual misconduct, but still serious stuff in the eyes of Jesus. He reminds his disciples that they must be HUMBLE in order for their words and actions to have power. Perhaps Jesus is again doing within his Church of 2018 what he did 2000 years ago...allowing us to be humbled by our lusts and sins so that we can get back to the IMPORTANT stuff of becoming more like him within our daily lives? 10, 9, 8, 7.... what were the really important things ‘of faith’ you wanted to accomplish this year? If they were important back in Advent of 2017, despite the distractions competing for our attention, aren’t they still important now?

While an occasional uptick on the thermometer may occasionally be noted, Summer has come and gone with Autumn claiming the transitional stage that will consume the majority of the remaining days of 2018. Thank you for sharing this first Autumnal weekend with our San Clara community. Please take a copy of the Bulletin with you for news of what is coming in the weeks ahead, of particular note is our WOMEN’S Day-Retreat on Saturday, October 6th. As you embrace the new season, please remember that you are loved. FKB