

## From the Pastor's Office

### *The 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

They tell us that human nature never changes. A crook, a liar and a cheat from a thousand years ago is directly related to the crooks and liars and cheats of today. The proof of that is found in the readings at Mass today. Listen to Amos in today's first lesson, "Hear this, you who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor of the land." That is happening in our country today. Amos goes on, "We will diminish the ephah, add to the shekel, and fix our scales for cheating." In many places there is one price for the local and an exorbitant price for the stranger. Look at the corrupt steward in the gospel reading today. He has had it good. A comfortable existence. Now the rich owner wants to get rid of his steward because of corrupt practices. The steward scrambles. Very quickly he calls in his customers and fixes the scales and the prices in favor of the customers. As a thank you the steward expects they will take care of him when he loses his job. We are inclined to think of people of our times to be the worst, the most corrupt, the unbelieving, the most selfish. I was watching a piece from "Who do you think you are?" It featured the actor/writer Stephen Fry. He travelled to Eastern Europe to find out about his Jewish ancestry. They all died in the concentration camps. Stephen remarked about our public conversations today. We say our present generations are lazy, unappreciative, not motivated, "they never had it so good." Stephen remarked that of course we have it good compared to the generations of the 1930's, '40's. Their lives were ruined. Human life had little value. At least in our society we have it good, better than them. People are valued. One of the challenges of being an honorable Christian person is to value people, we do not discriminate, we are not prejudiced. Just look at the tales of woe coming to us from Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan. Why on earth are people so mean and evil to other people? Paul makes a plea to Timothy in his letter. This is our plea as well. "May we lead a quiet and tranquil life in all devotion and dignity." That is all everyone wants.



With love,  
Fr. Pat