

## **From Fr. Tom Butler's Homily Library**

### **God's Yoke is Easy**

Our gospel today is a lot different than usual. To me, the gospel was very small. In fact, it is very easy for us to sum it all up in just a few words. And that is exactly what Jesus did when He said, "Take my yoke upon your shoulders...for my yoke is easy and my burden light." Now, all this makes sense as long as we know what the word "yoke" means.

Do you know what a yoke is? No, I don't think you do! After all, most of you have not spent time living or working on a farm. A "yoke" is the wooden framework that goes around the necks of farm animals that enables them to pull wagons or to plow the fields in unison.

The yoke Jesus is speaking about is aimed at keeping Jesus and us in unison as we attempt to live the Christian life. Jesus is offering us His help as we try to live the Christian life. And so, He tells us that if we join up with Him, He will make the living of that life light and easy.

Christian life is certainly not easy when we try to do it all on our own. But it is a lot easier when Christ helps us.

Let's face it. All our troubles increase and multiply whenever we try to solve our own problems, carry out all our work or face all our troubles by ourselves. Jesus tells us "No, don't do that! Let me help you!! Take my yoke upon your shoulders! Hitch yourself up to Me and my wagon. Together we can lick this old world." You will find life gentler, easier and lighter only when you work at it together with Christ. Never even think of pulling any loads all by yourself.

I hope you noticed my sermon was a lot shorter today. I attribute that to the Lord's yoke!

*\*Inspired by Matthew 22:28-30*