

## July 31 Homily

“Ones life does not consist of possessions.”

These words are taken from today’s Gospel according to St. Luke

In the Name-----

Father John. Lector \_\_\_\_\_, Altar Server Darlene, fellow parishioners and guests

This Gospel brings to mind a very common happening in today’s world, and really, throughout human history. When couples get married, have children and watch them grow up, it is a joy. In today’s world, it is very common to have both parents working, with them both raising the children on a day to day basis. If the couple are very lucky like my wife and I were, there will be grandparents who share in the joy of raising these children, their grandchildren.

As we know, it is quite a job to clothe the children, keep them healthy, fed and schooled. Schooling, of course, begins at home, where the first values that these children are exposed to, and where their habits and attitudes to the world and life are first formed. We get them baptized, take them to Sunday school, get them Penance and First Communion and Confirmed when the time is right for them.. We can guide them onto the straight and narrow, and when they are young, we can correct any errors that we perceive. Fortunately, most of us are past that period in our life. This does not mean that we no longer can participate in helping raise our grandchildren, and if we are lucky enough, our great-grandchildren in becoming loving members of our families.

I was not lucky enough to have grandparents growing up, but I listened to my mother and father telling me stories about how their grandparents taught them many of the values that they held during their lifetime. Love of family, the responsibilities to their family, their bond with their brothers and sisters, and love for their church. My wife and I both tell the grandchildren about my grandparents and my wife's, and the kind of life they led in Poland. As they get a bit older, I shall be telling them about the hardships that their great grandparents went through, Russia, Austria, England and finally the United States. Your first education is from your parents, and if you are lucky enough, grandparents. Your early years are where you learn the basics of life.

In today's Gospel, we saw where the young man went to Christ and asked that Jesus tell his brother to share the brother's inheritance with him. Sadly, at this point it is evident that both the young men's home was lacking in familial love and love of God. We still see this in our times. Death occurs, and the heirs squabble over what is left to them. The matters are taken to the courts, the families are split apart and the lawyers take their part. The love that should be in the families is missing and has been replaced by greed and hate. Christ teaches us that we must love one another, that we must share what is given unto us, and that our final reward will be what we deserve.

One's life should consist of sharing love with all – family, church, country and world. This is following

Christ's words to us.

“One's life does not consist of possessions”