

MESSAGE FROM THE LAP TOP

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER!

A blessed Day to all:

Happy First Day of summer! Can you believe it; SUMMER!!! We didn't make it out of winter together and barely caught a bit of spring and here we are, summer. What will the summer hold for us???? One thing I know from my perspective; cancelled summer plans for the month of July this year. Having been without public ministry since the middle of March, I made the determination that if things would open up somewhere in June liturgies missed during the quarantine would be looking to be celebrated during July and August. And right I was. July has already begun to fill in with a baptism, a couple of burials and still more. What I will keep in place for the weekdays following the July 4 weekend will be no Mass intentions offered so that I may have some form of "staycation" of my own devise that will allow me to be "away" but back each weekend for Mass. Stay tuned.

Here is something that I thought about earlier in the week when I stopped by the Lakemans when I spied from my car that their grandson and parents were up from Philadelphia. The subject of the "church bells" came up in discussion due to an inquiry from a new member to our community who reached out via Facebook. I am sure that some of you may have the same questions as well; what do all the various bells sounding around town mean? I know that the Presbyterian Church sounds the hours with the Big Ben Chime. But, what do our bells sound for? The pealing of the bells at 7:00am, noon and 6:00pm is the traditional sounding of the Angelus, the call to stop and pray the beautiful elocution that proclaims the mystery of Mary's acceptance of the Annunciation with praying the Hail Mary between each verse. This has been a long standing tradition for centuries with the Catholic Church and it basically was a call to those out in the fields, as well as at home, to stop what they were doing and spend a moment in prayer. It also gave them a perspective as to where they were with the day. The bells have also been arranged to call us to Mass, originally for our Sunday Masses but within the past few years to our weekday Masses as well. When you hear them sound you know you have 5 minutes till Mass starts. The somber toll, usually in the morning on a given day, is the funeral call for us to pray for the faithful soul that has begun its journey unto the Lord. But, why is there a toll at 8:00 each evening? This one is on me as a memory from my days at home in Highland Falls. The Episcopal Church had installed a bell system that chimed the hours and at 9:00 each evening was the sullen toll calling an end to the day and a safe night. I just felt so comforted hearing that toll and what it stood for that I added it to our schedule. There you have it; what the tolling of the bells is between the churches of Otisville.

Speaking of bells, two items up around the bells that will be happening in the months ahead are all due to your faithful continuation to the Renew and Rebuild pledge redemptions. **The roof of HNOJ is shot as well as the steeple.** I had received a roof replacement proposal prior to covid-19 and just went ahead with it this past week. I also reconnected with the company that installed the steeple to move forward with some proposals for replacement as soon as the roof project is completed. All this could not happen without the Renew & Rebuild funds that are already in our coffers. **The one project that I am not sure that we will be able to accomplish since we did not reach or exceed our R&R goal is our parking lot. Some proposals for that exceeded \$50,000.00+. I would not be out of bounds if I didn't ask that you could join me in asking St. Jude (hopeless causes) for a little miracle with this one. We can hope.**

I reached out to a member of the parish who landscapes for some needed work on the grounds as well. I would like your thought. The hedges along Highland Ave are a mess. Keep them or get rid of them and grade and seed?

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

Fr. Mike