

Dear Parishioners,

On Wednesday, April 15, we received an announcement that the Holy Father has appointed a new bishop for our diocese. Our Bishop-elect is Kevin Sweeney. He is presently serving in the Brooklyn/Queens Diocese as the pastor of St. Michael's parish. He grew up in Queens, New York and will become the 8th bishop of the Diocese of Paterson encompassing Morris, Passaic and Sussex counties with an estimated 430,000 Catholics. Our new Bishop-elect wants to reach out to those who feel alienated from the church in any way and following in the desires of the Holy Father is looking for new ways to evangelize. He is eager to begin shepherding our diocese. His ordination to bishop and his installation will be announced as soon as it is safe to do so. Our Holy Father accepted Bishop Serratelli's resignation, who last year reached the retirement age of 75. Bishop Serratelli has now become the Apostolic Delegate of our diocese and will guide us through this transition. We thank our beloved Bishop Serratelli for his many years of hard work and fruitful service.

As you all heard last weekend at Mass, Fr. Alex has been appointed vicar (assistant priest) at the Church of Notre Dame in Cedar Knolls. His assignment begins on June 29, the Feast of St. Peter and Paul. We are very happy for Fr. Alex. Notre Dame is a large and busy parish and he will get lots of experience with weddings, baptisms and funerals. He will be living at St. Luke until his appointment takes effect. We are blessed to have had Fr. Alex here this past year. St. Luke has become his home away from home and I look forward to having him spend his days off here as it continues to be his home away from home.

This Sunday is the Feast of Divine Mercy, the second Sunday of Easter. Our beloved St. John Paul instituted this feast day. It reflects the mercy of God upon all, especially upon those who have sinned greatly. On Sunday, let us pray for all those who are estranged from the church in any way and let's invite all we are aware of who are estranged back into our community. Deacon Ray will preside at the Holy hour this Sunday from 2:15-3:15 p.m. During this holy hour, we give praise and glory to God and as we reflect on the mercy of the Lord, we strive to be merciful and loving to others as God is to us. Part of the Divine Mercy tradition involves confession. Fr. Alex and I will be available at the end of the parking lot from 3:30-5:00 p.m. this coming Saturday and every Saturday at this time until our church reopens. We encourage you to drive up in your car. We will be wearing masks and from a safe distance, we will be glad to hear your confession. For those of you who may be uncomfortable going out at this time, we will have multiple opportunities for confession when the travel restrictions have been eased. On this beautiful Sunday of grace, however, let us be ambassadors of Christ as we recognize the unconditional love that God has for all human kind. Let us strive, by personal invitation, to bring back to the church at least one person who has not been practicing their faith. Invite them to attend the virtual mass at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday and, if they are comfortable, encourage them to come to confession any Saturday or as soon as it is safe to do so or by private appointment by calling (908) 280 4311.

Fr. Alex and I have received many compliments on our chat show but as you can imagine although the show is only 15 minutes, the production of this takes a little longer. Fr. Alex's studies for the next month will take more of his time; consequently, we would like to have some help. We are looking for volunteers with video recording and editing experience (using iMovie or your own video software). If you would like to help, please email Fr. Owen at OBMoran@gmail.com.

On behalf of Fr. Alex, we wish you a peaceful Divine Mercy Sunday. May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts.

Fr. Owen