

Dear Parishioners,

As you aware, last Monday, May 11, Fr. Alex celebrated his one-year anniversary of priesthood. What an eventful year he has had! His studies, as you know, have been interrupted but we are very glad to have had his time here at St. Luke. On your behalf, I wish him happy anniversary and many graces and blessings as he prepares to begin his new assignment at Notre Dame of Mt. Carmel church in Cedar Knolls next month.

Mike and Tom have been busy maintaining our church inside and out. They recently engaged with the assistance of a wonderful parishioner, Chuck Rieg, a superb power-cleaning company called Higromite Power washing and Coating LLC. The owner, Mike did a fantastic job of cleaning the exterior of the church. The back and side walls of the church had quite a bit of moss on the walls. As you drive by, come and see how spanking clean the stucco walls are. Thanks to Mike of Hydromite for not just a great job but an incredible price and to Chuck for the great recommendation.

I often mention that we are blessed by the quality of our staff, each person giving of their best talents in service to our beloved St. Luke parish. I am blessed to tell you that Nina Dorlon, who as you all know is very talented in many ways has accepted my offer to remain as our Youth minister and at the same time, devote 50% of her time to administration. Her roles will now also include the scheduling of our facilities, website development and maintenance, Flock Notes and bulletin communications. Nina has done this with a generous heart in order to help to reduce our parish expenses. I am very grateful to her and so appreciate her dedication.

The bishops of New Jersey met recently and have decided for this year only, to move the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord from Thursday, May 21st to Sunday, May 24th. They have done this so that the faithful may all more easily be able to celebrate this beautiful event through live streaming of our Sunday masses. I am very grateful to Fr. Alex, Vinnie Infinito and more recently, Jim Balsbaugh and John Hennessy who are coordinating our new broadcasting ministry. Our diocese will be in touch when we hear more from the governor with regard to our churches being reopened for masses, the sacraments and private prayer. At this time, Fr. Alex, Mike, the staff and I are working out the logistics as to how many people can safely be in church and the necessary precautions we must take. We will let you know our decision as soon as it is safe to do so. We are also awaiting a decision with regard to a day for First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The challenge here will be how many we can have in the church at any one given time. Please keep our second and tenth graders in prayer during these days.

Again, we look forward to hearing soon when our new Bishop-elect Kevin Sweeney will be ordained and installed as the new bishop of the Paterson diocese. Please keep Bishop-elect Kevin Sweeney in your prayers during this exciting time for him and for us.

Fr. Owen