

From the Pastor's Desk:

We search in life for what we need, and we go through life day by day taking care of those needs. Jesus says today that he offers us something more. We have to do our daily tasks to keep alive and to be secure, but it does not end there. Jesus gives us a source of his own strength which "wells up t eternal life." He points us to the great promise of eternal life, and also tells us that he is the Christ - the Messiah - who is the fulfillment of God's promise and plan to bring us to eternal life. When we are weighed down by the tasks and burdens of the day we can draw some strength from this truth. We can know that Jesus is that well of never-ending strength that does not end after death but continues after. Really understanding this can make the things we go through easier to bear - because there is a great plan to bring us to salvation - a plan that is fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah and Savior.

I am waiting for the redrawn plans for handicaps access, and wait the results of some efforts by parishioners to move aspects of this along. One of the final things needed to get permits for the convent renovation has been authorized and we hope to have some movement on this as well. I attended a very productive meeting with our logo and sign committee. They have made some significant progress and are close to a plan for our parish signs - I think you will be pleased. Once the plan is more complete I will bring it to the Pastoral Council and we can make some final decisions.

We had a meeting of the School Board and examined our financial situation (which is stable - the school is operating "in the black"), and discussed some of the fundraising activities and plans upcoming. We reviewed the work of some of the new teachers who are doing well. The school is seeing an uptick in enrollment and in inquiries, which is a good sign. We continue to work to develop a quality school that imparts both solid academics and also the moral and spiritual formation that other school lack. I was in speaking with a couple of the classes this past week and it is great to see such a good group of kids and teachers interacting together.

As you may know, we formally implemented the Bishop's directives designed to help curb the possible spread of the virus that causes Covid-19. Until this crisis passes we will be administering communion under one species only (just the hosts of the Body of Christ), the Holy Water fonts in the church will remain empty, the priests and deacon will not shake hands after Mass, and we will be omitting the sign of peace at Mass. These measures are temporary, and hopefully we will return to the normal routine soon. As I said when I announced these things, I am encouraging everyone to replace the sign of peace with an extra level of welcomingness and smiles before, during, and after Mass. We all would do well to help our regular parishioners, and especially those who are visiting or returning to feel welcome.

We hosted the regional Confirmation retreat last weekend and were pleased to have candidates and their parents join us for Mass. As these young people prepare to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit at their confirmation maybe we too can remember our confirmation and pray that that font of the Spirit placed in us at that time will well up as the spring of living water Jesus speaks to us about today.

Peace,
Fr. Steve