

From the Pastor's Desk:

Jesus talks about forgiveness at the start of the Gospel. We are not to keep score as to how many times we forgive a person - but continue to offer forgiveness. This also means that God treats us in the same way. We should not think that we can't approach God for forgiveness, or that we have used up our quota of forgivenesses. The is not to say that we should keep doing sinful things and just not worry because we can get forgiven. This is not a loving response to God and it is treating God badly. Suppose someone just took advantage of your forgiving nature and did all wrong things to you without caring how it effected you. The goal should be to grow in love of God and love of others so that we are motivated to stop sinning against both. A goal that brings deeper unity and harmony, a goal that brings us true and lasting forgiveness, a goal that does not disrespect the forgiver - but which acts in love. What a more kind, just, and peaceful world we would have if we acted more consistently like that!

Fr. Miguel was back this past week from his retreat - it is good to have him back. I will tell you more about our Pastoral Council meeting next column (I had to have this one in before the meeting). We continue to strive to build a united parish which is inviting to all despite diversities of national origin, race, economic status, or disability. The more we all work towards this, the more deeply that reality will exist, and the more we reflect the love of the God who so graciously forgives and calls us.

We did a dry run for a "Drive-in Movie Night" a couple of weeks back, and you will see information elsewhere in the bulletin about the upcoming movie. People have been asking about doing some things like this, and we have also discussed doing another drive-in Mass for those who have still not been able to come to Mass (this time communion will be able to be distributed). Stay tuned (so to speak).

We are moving to the time of our yearly parish Bazaar. we still plan to hold the event, although this year it will look a bit different. We had a meeting last week to look at the possibilities. It may look different (e.g. not all in one weekend, not all inside a hall), but many of the things that you have come to expect (especially the FOOD) will be available. Also a selection of raffles and sales will be done in a manner that fits our current situation. More information will be provided when we get a clearer picture of how things will look.

School is open and we are adjusting to some differences there as well. But was with Mass, there are some things that we must do. My prayer is that a vaccine is found soon and we are able to return to a more normal routine. Thanks to all who have been so understanding with the temporary changes we have had to make, I am sure we will look back on it years later when it all is a memory. The ventilation system for Holy Rosary is in place, and the one for Holy Spirit is in production. This way even when we have to close up the buildings in the winter, we will still have circulation and changing of air to help minimize spread risk.

God provides us with the will to go on, and the resources. It is also comforting to know that we can approach for forgiveness and see in that a way to move forward. Let us all be as willing to forgive each other as God is to forgive us. God Bless you all.

Peace,
Fr. Steve