

# From the Pastor Sunday, April 1, 2018

## Easter Sunday

As we enter into the Easter Season, 2018, I write to thank all of you for your continued support since my assignment with you began nine months ago.

One liturgical note, March 25<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Ascension in the universal calendar of the church. However, since Palm Sunday falls on that date this year, the Ascension will be celebrated on Monday: April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is a Holy Day, but there is no attendance obligation attached.

SLKF began the New Year, 2018, with a joint venture with the Catholic Foundation of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Thanks to Cory Howat, Susie Veters, Regina Templet, and Josephine Welty of the Foundation for their help. It commenced with an Advent Prayer initiative. Gratitude to the forty-seven parishioners, and one-hundred schoolchildren who filled out prayer commitment forms.

The second phase of the initiative was the Time & Talent Survey earlier this spring. Gratitude to the fifty-eight parishioners and one school student who filled out these forms. I have contacted every person who did so, at the phone or email they put on the form. In many cases, I left messages to offer the opportunity for an individual discussion of your views on how the parish can improve. If you sent in a form, and did not receive a call or email, please let me know, or talk to me after any mass.

During Lent, SLKF collaborated with the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, to reach out those who may have recently moved into our parish, or who, for one reason or another, live in our parish but attend another. Thanks to Fr. David Caron, O.P., Vicar for Evangelization.

Special thanks to our Evangelization committee (Linda Preston, Crystal Forte, Catherine Holmes, Mary Marks, Monica Field), and Becky Villarubia, our office manager. Together, they produced invitation cards to Holy Week services which were given out at our parish fish fry's, and which have been placed on doors in the parish neighborhood.

To complement the initiative, cards will be in the pews during Holy Week, to offer the chance for those who are not registered parishioners to do so, by returning the card in the collection basket. When I was installed as pastor in July 2017, SLKF had 358 registered families. Currently, we have 371. We are moving in the right direction. I **KNOW** there are more Catholic families within our boundaries. If you know any, please invite them to join us.

Over the course of meeting and talking to many of you, a recurring theme has been the need for SLKF to reach out to the youth, and through them to young families. To that end, Kacie Hoerner has been appointed to restart a youth program for SLKF.

This is beginning with contacting former altar servers and recruiting new ones to serve at our weekend masses. Currently, we have twenty-five servers who fulfill this function for school events; and six who do so on the weekend. This is a beginning, and we look forward to growing this ministry. Both boys and girls who have received first reconciliation and first communion may serve; initial contact may start at fourth grade. Enrollment in SLKF school is not required in order to serve.

Another proposal is creating a children's choir, perhaps for the 10:30 am mass on Sunday. There is a great deal involved in this, which was raised late last year. As we plan for the summer and next school year, we are revisiting the possibility. Details to follow.

SLKF was blessed with the Sacrament of Confirmation, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2018, for over twenty confirmands, many former SLKF students. Gratitude to Archbishop Aymond for officiating, and to Mark and Kelsie Bordelon who served as catechists.

SLKF celebrated First Reconciliation on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Gratitude to Baleigh Carville, Kacie Hoerner, Melissa Brocato, Eric McCrary, and all who made the event possible. Gratitude to Father Suvakin and Patricia Hebert who prepared our CCD students, using a program recommended by Dr. Alice Hughes of the Archdiocesan Office of Religious Education. First Communion will take place on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30 am mass, and those students will celebrate a May Crowning on May 4<sup>th</sup>.

SLKF was blessed this Holy Week with an adult Catechumen, Michelle Entezari, who entered full communion with the church on Holy Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

The third phase of the Stewardship program we began during advent with the Catholic Foundation, involves material resources and financial giving. In preparation for that, I have been in meetings to assemble a realistic list of our deferred and needed maintenance, as well as securing our long-term financial stability. Details to follow.

May the Lord grant you all health and happiness during the Easter Season.

St. Louis King of France, Pray for us.