

## FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

Did you watch home movies growing up? Every now and then my dad would get the old reel to reel projector going and we would go back in time. These were those silent videos that always elicited laughter. In addition to the family productions, my parents along the way purchased some entertaining G-rated reels one of which was Abbott and Costello. At the conclusion of this reel as well as many others was always the famous phrase, "The End."



On this 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the second to the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, the Church prepares to put this phrase before us, namely, "The End." In these final two weeks, the Church encourages us to reflect on and prepare for the end of time. Implicit within this reflection is the reality of our own end.

In today's second reading Saint Paul speaks of the end of time. He refers to it as "the day of the Lord." And to illustrate the potential suddenness of this time, Saint Paul uses the literary device of a simile. Actually, St. Paul employs this device twice. For St. Paul, the end will come "like a thief at night." To further emphasize this point, St. Paul states that this moment will arrive "like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape." The simple point for our consideration is that the end will come for all of us. Will we be ready?

In 2007 there was a CMU professor by the name of Randy Pausch, who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. In his last lecture, he gave some parting advice. He said, "Have fun, dream big, dare to risk, look for the best in everybody, make time for what matters, and let kids be themselves."

When he said, "dare to risk" he was really saying "Do not be afraid." The Gospel parable today shines the spotlight on three people who were given talents. The first two did something with what was given to them. Unfortunately, the third "out of fear" buried what was given to them. The moral of the story is that we cannot live in fear. We also need to focus on what really matters and that, quite simply, is our relationship with Jesus Christ as his disciples. There is a plan for each of us that we need to embrace not in fear but in faith.

Since the Bishop is allowing Christmas Eve Mass to begin at 2:00 p.m. we have revised our Christmas Mass Schedule. Please see the revised schedule below:

### **Christmas Eve**

Saint Alexis: 2:00 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

Saint Alphonsus: 2:00 p.m. (Virtual), 4:00 p.m., and 10:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Day**

Saint Alphonsus - 9:00 a.m.

Saint Alexis - 10:00 a.m.

*All Masses will be outdoor.*

There will be NO 8:00 a.m. Mass on Saturday, December 26.



I am happy to announce the formation of the first Saint Aidan Pastoral Council whose task will be to develop a Mission Statement and Pastoral Plan for our parish. In collaboration with the Finance Council, the clergy, and staff, these individuals will lead us into the future. I am grateful to the following individuals for accepting this charge: Carl Apel, Tim Ciocco, Elizabeth Conrad, Sue Epley, Tom Lynch, and Leslie Mitros.

Have a blessed week!