

## FROM FATHER DAVE

In his Apostolic Exhortation “The Joy of the Gospel”, Pope Francis extends an invitation to all Christians. He writes, “I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day.” (No. 3)

Jesus desires to be in relationship with us. While the pandemic has presented many obstacles and limitations in our lives, hopefully it has yielded many more opportunities for us to encounter Jesus in prayer and to focus on our relationship with him.

The Gospel for this 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time really challenges us to encounter Jesus and reflect on our relationship with him. What Jesus asks of Peter, he asks of us, namely, “Who do you say that I am?” Who is Jesus for us?

One way to answer this question is to look at how we pray. Prayer can be so revealing. How do we address or imagine Jesus in our prayer with us?

Another way to address this question is to look at our lifestyle and how we live our lives. Is Jesus someone we follow or someone whom we just seek out when we are in need? To answer who Jesus, is I believe we also have to be cognizant of another question, namely, “Who am I?”

On a personal level, Jesus wants us to be His disciples. The Church exists to form disciples of Jesus Christ who live in communion with Him and love others as He loves us. Jesus also desires us to be His sheep and members of His flock. We need to know his voice and listen to it.

Since my arrival and the startup of the outdoor Masses, I have been humbled and inspired by how you, the faithful, have been answering every Sunday the question Jesus poses in the gospel today. Jesus is obviously the bread of life not to mention the way, the truth and the life. Even though the Sunday and Holy Day Obligation has been temporarily lifted, so many of you continue to come to Mass even sitting in your cars or on lawn chairs sometimes even in the midst of wind and rain. Your presence clearly shows that Jesus is a faithful friend and traveling companion. And to those who view the Holy Mass online each week, you say the same thing. To all of you I wish to thank you for your faith in Jesus Christ.

Like Peter, we too are weak and imperfect. Although we may not be given the keys of the Kingdom, God is still counting on us to do his work and let the whole world know how important Jesus is to us. The fact that we find ourselves in this pandemic is all the more reason why we need to stand up and not only let Jesus know who he is for us, but the world as well.

Don't forget that Eucharistic Adoration will take place once again this Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Alexis Church. This time slot will have to be moved for a few weeks beginning on September 8th, due to the Confirmation Masses that were previously scheduled. Stay tuned for more information.

### Harvest Home @ Home



Finally, I am happy to announce that we, Blessed Seelos Academy and Saint Aidan Parish, have been given permission by the diocese to continue a tradition that spans over 100 years. The Committee submitted a COVID-19 Plan to the Diocese that meets all of the necessary protocols and that will allow us to have the Harvest Home Dinner on **Sunday, September 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** at the Saint Alphonsus site. Due to the pandemic, there will only be curbside pickup of the meals. People can order and pay online or pay by credit card that day. Drivers will not even have to leave their car, as their order will be brought right to them. While the proceeds benefit both the school and our new parish, the event is also a great community builder. We welcome your support. Thanks to Lindsay Ries and her committee.