

Friends and parishioners of St Peter, Prince of the Apostles:
Greetings to y'all from Fr Praveen Lakkisetti. At the outset, my heart is filled with gratitude to God, for the gift of priesthood, and the ministry that I have begun here at St Peter, Prince of the Apostles Catholic Church. Amidst these times of uncertainty with the pandemic COVID-19, we continue our journey of faith as a parish community." As a parish community, we share the mission entrusted to us, investing in our faith informed by action, and grow in our identity as missionary disciples, sent by the Spirit. In the very first sentence of the first paragraph of the Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis points, "the joy of love experience by families is also the joy of the Church." As families rooted in faith, we meet and celebrate on this holy ground, where we nurture and grow in faith, aspiring to serve God and His people.

St Peter, Prince of the Apostles Catholic Church is a vibrant community of faith, with a rich history, with an onward trajectory and a forward vision for faith formation and education. Our parish community's identity speaks to us about our families, young people, young adults growing each day closer to the realization of who we are through our Baptismal calling. In the days ahead, we will have an opportunity to meet, to plan, and to sketch a schema of our common journey of faith, contributing to the growth of our parish and school. We galvanize our time, talents and treasures, and continue to cement our bonding, and render a fitting oblation to God. To this end, we make every effort to embark into our journey of faith, which clearly informs us to tailor our mission and ministries to reflect our parish's identity. Continuing the legacy of our parish, we will grow in our sacramental life, ministry of education, and accentuate our ministries to reap abundant fruits. I am certain that my priestly ministry will truly be enriched, as I serve y'all, individuals, families and the community at large. As a community of faith, we have the mission to Catholic education through our school that continues to spread the the Light of Christ to our young people. Our school serves as a solid platform to continue the mission of our parish, as we cater to the formation and education of young people entrusted to our care.

Rooted firmly in our faith and missionary calling, we continue to grow as a community, amidst these challenging times with COVID-19. Despite the fact that we are not yet fully back to our regular celebration of sacramental life of our parish, we are aware of the 'new normal,' to promote and safeguard everyone's safety. We rely on the merciful power of God's grace, and strive to be spiritual athletes, growing in faith to appropriate the riches that God offers us in Christ our Savior. On the larger canvas of St Peter, Prince of the Apostles Catholic Church and school, all of us bring in our own unique identity, create an interface for faith and formation, and build the Body of Christ. I assure you of my prayers for your families, for peace, health and happiness, particularly in this epoch, as our world and nation battles with COVID-19. I request your prayers as I serve you, alongside the parish communities of Our Lady of Grace and Our Lady of Sorrows. May we constantly tune our hearts to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, leading us to the Truth and the joy of the Gospel. May the powerful intercession of St Peter, Prince of the Apostles, help us to remain rooted in our Master and Lord Jesus Christ.

In the joy of Christ's Priesthood,



Fr Praveen Lakkisetti