

## From the Pastor—January 24, 2021

**My Mom at 85** Mom celebrates her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday this week, on January 25. She was born in 1936, and she recalls that she was born in a blizzard! In fact, the Odell physician, Doc Rice, went off the road a mile south of my grandparents' home as he came to deliver Mother. Mom also recalls that 1936 was a terribly hot and dry summer. Even now, when TV stations report the daily record high temperatures, 1936 summer days often take the award these many years later. Grandma Hajek countered the heat by opening the windows of the house for air to circulate, but she also placed wet cloths in the windows to keep out the abundant dust. My mother remembers these precautions and wonders sometimes how she has lived so long and so healthfully! \*\*\* Please remember Dorothy Grell in your prayers, as she turns 85.

**Legion of Mary, First Year** Our parishes began a new apostolate called the Legion of Mary, in December 2019. We were going forward with weekly meetings and apostolic works until the Covid pandemic hit. We have been on pause since then. The Legion exists primarily for the growth in holiness of its members. Membership is in the realm of active and auxiliary status. One of our active members, Pat Ormond, passed away last year, and so we are currently composed of six members. We have three auxiliary members. Even during our time of pausing active meetings and works, I want to encourage you to consider joining the ranks of our Legion group. It could be something that the Lord is calling you to do. For active members, the weekly meeting and weekly works are preeminent. Auxiliary members promise to pray for the active works, primarily through reciting the Rosary and saying a few other prayers. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about the Legion of Mary. The official web site, based out of Legion headquarters in Dublin, Ireland, where more can be learned about the Legion is at [www.legionofmary.ie](http://www.legionofmary.ie).

**Sunday of the Word of God** A couple of years ago, Pope Francis declared that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be dedicated to reflecting more about the Word of God in the Holy Bible. I know, and am impressed, by the devotion that I see in many of you to God's Word. Every time we come to Holy Mass, we are immersed in his holy Word through the Scriptures themselves and through the many parts of Mass derived from the Scriptures. I find so often that my own praying of the Psalms or readings benefits me with just what I need in that moment. We should always pray for more grace to be able to see what God wants us to see in his Word. \*\*\* Inserted in this bulletin, I have enclosed an activity in your homes to lift up the Word of God more intentionally. It is called an Enthronement of the Bible. The handout is dated from the year 2009, but it still works.

**Year of St. Joseph** From December 8, 2020, till December 8, 2021, the Church is celebrating a Year of St. Joseph. St. Joseph is the patron of the universal Church and was declared so in 1870 by Blessed Pope Pius IX. Pope Francis recalled his predecessor's designation of the patronage of St. Joseph on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Many ways are available to celebrate St. Joseph in this year dedicated to him. Did you know that each Wednesday is a day of devotion to St. Joseph, similar to how Saturdays are dedicated to the Blessed Mother? You can gain an indulgence by reciting an approved prayer to St. Joseph on Wednesdays, such as the prayer below. Let's strive as a family of God to know Jesus' earthly father a little better during this year dedicated to him!

*The Prayer, Ad te, beate Ioseph To you, O blessed*

*Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.*

*Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities.*

*O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness.*

*As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.*

**Designated Survivor** During my last assignment, a TV program debuted on the networks which gave an insight into a catastrophic terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol. This fictional premise may not seem so farfetched with the criminal breach of our Capitol a couple of weeks ago. In the TV program, the attack happens during a State of the Union address of the fictional President. Both Houses of Congress are present, as well as most of the top Cabinet members. One of the Cabinet Secretaries is not present, as he is the designated survivor should the unthinkable happen...and the unthinkable DOES happen. This fictional Secretary of Housing and Urban Development is thrust into the Presidency after the catastrophic bombing. The actor playing this character is Kiefer Sutherland, who I enjoyed as Jack Bauer in the TV program "24" a few years ago. While the network cancelled this program, Designated Survivor, after only a season or so, I have found through streaming a way to watch its full run of three seasons. I suppose it was cancelled because of poor ratings; indeed, I can see that it is not a top of the line program. However, the premise of a designated survivor fascinates me and so I have enjoyed watching it. Just wanted to share this.

**Daily Mass to Avoid Crowds** Here's an idea. If attending Sunday Mass seems too Covid-risky even with social distancing and encouraged masking, consider coming to a daily Mass. The Bishop is maintaining the dispensation from Sunday Mass. But it may give you comfort to attend daily Mass, such as Saturday mornings. Remember, daily Confession is also available to you.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,  
and forever!

**God Bless You!!!**

**Father Grell**