

## **St Rose of Lima Church - a precious gift from GOD by Jim Giordano**

My wife and I love this parish; it has reinforced in us the strong Catholic values we have embraced from early childhood. One thing I have learned is to pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance before doing anything important, and writing this testimonial is important, because it is my way of worshipping God,

We moved to Florham Park 6 years ago to be closer to our daughter and her family. We attended mass at St Rose a number of times before we moved and felt so comfortable with some of the parishioners that we decided to register here. It was summertime and we enjoyed meeting Father Owen and Deacon Vince. They knew we were looking for a home and they gave us various leads. Another wonderful parishioner invited my wife to pray with her and we became very good friends. All of the parishioners that we subsequently met, especially those from the daily 9:00am mass, have embraced us with sincere love and comradery. They reinforce our strong love of God and our faith in our fellow man.

Father Owen remembered our names even though we attended mass only a few times. His spirituality impressed me so much, that when I mentioned it to him, he claimed it was the Holy Spirit. I firmly believe that, because he subsequently recruited me for several ministries, each of which enabled me to grow stronger in my dedication to Our Lord and Savior. It is truly a blessing to reach out to all our brothers and sisters and we do so by volunteering to embrace the many ministries that St. Rose of Lima Church offers and we so urgently need.

It was truly a moving experience to listen and accept the loving messages that Father Owen expounded on in his homilies, including his discussions with parishioners in need and the dedication he shows in his visits to the sick and homebound. Did you ever experience Fr.Owen performing the rite of Baptism? It's pure joy, not only to the parents and godparents, but to the entire congregation. In addition, he always finds time to visit the various CCD classes to show his appreciation and love for the children.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Father Matthew, our fantastic Parochial Vicar. Since coming to our parish, he has touched the hearts of all the parishioners. He is a wonderful, interesting teacher to the children, especially at mass when you never know what he will pull out of one of his bags. Additionally, Father Owen has been successful in his relationship with Bishop Serratelli by bringing to St. Rose several seminarians and Deacons, including Alex, Andrew, Michael and Kamil. Each and every one of them is the foundation upon which our church will continue to grow and thrive.

There are so many benefits that can be derived from embracing our faith in Our Lord and Savior. You will develop wonderful, loving relationships with your fellow parishioners; your prayers will be heard, and, many times, answered; doubt and fear will be replaced with love and confidence; by attending mass and receiving Holy Communion often, your faith will be strengthened. There are many more benefits, but always remember, God's love is everlasting.

And now, I can only reiterate and possibly expand on what several parishioners have already stated in their Letters about our beloved Church. It takes the combined efforts of the Father Owen, Father Matthew AND THE PARISHIONERS to keep St. Rose of Lima Church operating effectively and efficiently. We throw words like "volunteer" and "ministry" around very casually; but, in reality, they represent individuals within the

parish who MUST see that it is their duty and responsibility to perform one or more necessary functions, be they spiritual ( Extraordinary Ministers, Rosary Altar Society, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Bereavement Counseling, Choir, Lectors, Alter Servers, CCD Program, Youth Ministry ) or corporal ( Office Staff, Meals on Wheels, Food Pantry, Knights of Columbus, Church and Linens Cleaning, Counters, Maintenance Staff).

Please pray for us; we will always pray for you.