

From the Pastor's Desk:

In our difficult times, Jesus is there with us. Lent causes us to reflect on the many times that Jesus has provided comfort or saved us from a difficult situation - we may have thought it was "good luck" or someone being a "good person" - we can miss the presence of Jesus guiding situations for the good outcome, or inspiring others to be good to us. The more we think about that, the more our gratitude should cause us to want to do good back. To show our love for Jesus, and to be open to his inspiration and guidance in helping others. Lent is a good time to reflect on when we may have missed the presence of God in our lives, and then to thank that God and turn our hearts to the God who loves us deeply.

This past Wednesday we had the annual Spaghetti Supper which helps to provide a good chance to share a meal together and helps to support our school. I had my plate (and desert, of course) and got to sit and chat with a few people. Students from the school helped to serve and clean up and the dedicated team of volunteers once again put on a great meal. Thanks to all!

We continue to enroll students at Holy Family Academy and enrollment at The Caring Place is ongoing. These two fine educational options are hidden gems. Please let people know about them, and ask them to come and check them out. Holy Family Academy is set to have a higher enrollment this year than last, and with technology improvements and a new Math program, will provide a stronger academic experience. Mrs. Tavaska and I have also spoken about how we can enhance the faith development aspects of the school as well. Some good plans are being put into place.

Our weekly Fish Fries have been great times to get a good meal and have a break from cooking. So many people come by it is great, I really look forward to my Friday supper there. I have also been pleased with the response to evening Masses in Lent. There is such a prayerful feel when you can come in for a simple Mass and have that time to reflect and pray. We began our participation in the Partners in Charity Campaign last week and are off to a running start. Thanks to all who have contributed thus far. There is a link on the website to learn more about the drive and to be able to donate electronically.

I continue to speak to architects and contractors - whew! this takes so much longer than expected. We will be doing the roof on the former Regan Street convent soon and finalizing the work plan to get it open for parish use, and as I write this I am waiting to hear of the new figures for the handicap access project. We have had people approaching with interest in getting youth and young adult ministry going in a different way. I am excited with the possibilities that are being discussed. I'll update you as it goes on. Deacon Stan and his team at the hospital are providing some great care over there. More of these individuals who are sick, and worried, and alone are receiving the healing touch of Jesus at the hands of our parishioners (I see the fruits of their work each time I go to the hospital myself) - well done!

God has given to us so much, and helps us in ways we may not see. It is good to figure how we can be most faithful to God, to ask forgiveness when we stray, and to be part of his life and work among us. It is the least we can do for a God who has done so much for us.

Peace,
Fr. Steve