

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

In the midst of the Lenten Season, in this part of the world, we have a three part respite from the Lenten observances within four days. (Hopefully, we will soon also have respite from the Winter Season as well!)

As you probably know, even if we are bound to Lenten observances due to our age, we can relax our Lenten resolutions on the Sundays of Lent. Sundays are considered weekly celebrations of the Easter mysteries and so we are permitted to rejoice and celebrate without fasting, abstinence or penance on Sundays. We are surely free to continue to keep our resolutions on Sundays but we should also rejoice in God's mercy and forgiveness each Sunday.

In these days, of course, we also celebrate two popular Solemnities. This past Friday, we celebrated the Solemnity of St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland and the Archdiocese of New York, to name but two places on earth. Without a doubt everyone is a little bit Irish on St. Patrick's Day, but especially in the Archdiocese, we should all celebrate with full solemnity. Since my grammar school days, I marvel at how every Catholic in New York celebrates our Patron Saint. St. Patrick brought the faith to Ireland and he still can strengthen the faith of everyone today.

On March 19 (or March 20th this year due to the transfer from Sunday to Monday), we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph, the Husband of Mary and Foster Father of Jesus. St. Joseph is the patron of the Universal Church and a tremendous model of living our faith with dedication and integrity. Even in the face of tremendous challenges, like those faced by the Holy Family, our trust in God and perseverance can carry us through.

Hopefully, you make it a point to enjoy these Solemnities. (It's also nice when it happens to be your name day.) May our celebrations and our Lenten observances make our faith stronger and keep us close to Jesus. On March 25, we will celebrate one more Solemnity of the Annunciation, to recall the special place of our Blessed Mother in the life of our Savior. Celebrations can also help us live our faith with joy!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco