

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Today is the Patronal Feast day of many places, including Ireland, this Archdiocese and of course, our parish! As I intended to convey in last week's bulletin, St. Patrick is a wonderful example of a true follower of Christ. Even many non-Catholics know of and celebrate St. Patrick's Day, yet his example as a Catholic religious leader is most relevant today. He was a shepherd after the example of Jesus. May he inspire today's shepherds of Jesus' flock, as well as all members of the Church.

Today there are refreshments offered to everyone after all the morning Masses until 2PM. While the Masses today are celebrated for the Second Sunday of Lent, we remember St. Patrick in a special way. Tomorrow, Monday March 18, we will offer the Masses using the prayers for St. Patrick.

It is interesting because we celebrate three major patronal feasts in two days this year. The Patronal Feast of the Archdiocese and this parish is today and tomorrow. On Tuesday, we celebrate the Patron of the Universal Church. March 19 is St. Joseph's Day. (My patron saint also.) Pope St. John Paul II wrote a letter (Apostolic Exhortation) in 1989 about St. Joseph, The Guardian of the Redeemer (Redemptoris Custos) in which he wrote:

“Inspired by the Gospel, the Fathers of the Church, from the earliest centuries stressed that just as St. Joseph took loving care of Mary and gladly dedicated himself to Jesus Christ's upbringing, he likewise watches over and protects Christ's Mystical Body, that is, the Church, of which the Virgin Mary is the exemplar and model.”
“Looking at the gospel texts of both Matthew and Luke, one can also say that Joseph is the first to share in the faith of the Mother of God ...”

In these days, we have the great models of faith, Joseph and Patrick, who share the same faith as Mary—faith in the Son of God.

Blessed Mother, St. Joseph and St. Patrick, pray for us!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.