

FROM THE PASTOR

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

AUGUST 15, 2021

ASSUMPTION: Today we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It also marks the Sunday when the dispensation granted by Bishop Barres in March 2020 from the Obligation to attend Mass on Holydays and Sundays is rescinded. In other words, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays is now reinstated. This is a cause for happiness and not for sorrow. It marks a return to the practice before the recent unpleasantness of the pandemic. Although we are no longer dispensed by the Bishop, the law of the Church itself dispenses us when we are ill, or caring for the ill and infirm, when travelling, when health concerns make it impossible for us to come to Church. The pastor of a parish may grant individual dispensations, but he cannot grant a general dispensation.

To mark this occasion, we will process to the Church after Mass for the blessing of the new window of St. Paul at the entrance to the Lower Hall. May St. Paul, our father among the saints, pray for us this day and every day.

The Assumption of Our Lady is both the most ancient and the principle Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It celebrates the wondrous mystery that at the end of her earthly life Our Lady was taken Body and Soul into Heaven.

Many of our parishioners have visited the tombs of the saints. Here in our beloved country we may visit the tomb of Mother Cabrini in upper Manhattan. We may visit the tomb of St John Neumann at the Church of St. Peter at the corner 5th Street and Gerard Street in Philadelphia; we may visit the tomb of St. Elizabeth Anne Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland. But no matter how many times we may circle the globe we will never find the tomb of the Virgin Mary. We, who are believers, know why that is the case. It is because there is no tomb nor has there ever been a place that has claimed to have her body! She was taken body and soul to heaven. There is no tomb.

PARISH GOLF OUTING: Please save the date of Thursday, August 19th for our annual Parish Golf Outing and Awards Dinner. Our honorees this year are Thomas and Irene Principe. As many know, the Golf Outing, along with the Gala Casino Night, are the two major fundraisers for our parish. In 2020 we were unable to have either of these events, and, as a result, our parish suffered a budget deficit. This year we will only be able to have the Parish Golf Outing and Awards Dinner. The Gala Casino Night will not be held this year because it would only be separated from the Golf

Outing and Awards Dinner by only six weeks. It is our fond hope that in 2022 we will be able to have both events once again.

Since there will be no Gala Casino Night this year, I am making a special request. I would like as many parishioners as possible to attend the Golf Outing and Awards Dinner on Thursday, August 19th. Even attending the Awards Dinner only (without golfing) would be a wonderful thing for St. Paul's. The outing and dinner are at the Engineers Club in Roslyn and outdoor dining will be available. St. Paul's depends on this for our financial health.

Our annual income has three sources: Sunday collections, donations, and our two fundraisers. These are all vital for the health of our parish. As your pastor and priest, I would encourage you perhaps to consider suggesting that donations be made to St. Paul at the time of the Funerals of loved ones. Very often we may read that *in place of flowers, the family would like donations to be made to...* How nice it would be if the parish which was the center of the faith life of the beloved deceased would be remembered also.

Many of the events from the Casino Night (50/50, raffles, prizes) will be available the day of the Picnic. The parish picnic is a way to thank all parishioners. Admission is a gift, but we hope many parishioners will enjoy themselves and purchase the raffles.

ST. PAUL'S PICNIC: Our annual parish picnic will be held on **Sunday, September 12th**. It will begin at 12 noon and all parishioners are most cordially invited to attend. How nice it will be to greet our friends and fellow parishioners after we were unable to have the picnic last summer of 2020. September 12th is the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary and so we trust Our Lady to provide good weather that day.

VISIT OF BISHOP MURPHY: On Sunday, August 22, 2021, Bishop William F. Murphy, S.T.D. will celebrate the 10.30 Mass here at St. Paul the Apostle. Bishop Murphy is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and it was while he was Bishop that our beautiful renovation began. The Bishop has heard so many wonderful things about the renovation from the priests, deacons, and faithful, that he is anxious to see the Church. We welcome Bishop Murphy in the charity of Christ and I hope many will come to greet the Bishop that day.

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda