

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**FEBRUARY 20, 2022**  
**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY**

**LENT IS APPROACHING**

The Holy Season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday March 2, 2022. On that day we may come to the Church to receive the Blessed Ashes at 9.00a.m. Mass and at Prayer Services at 12.30p.m.; 4.30p.m. and 7p.m. Confessions will be heard after each of the times the Ashes are imposed. There will be the Stations of the Cross on each of the Fridays of Lent at 7.00p.m. The Marian Guild Lenten Evening of Prayer, to which we are all invited will be at 7.00PM on Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup>. Our own Father Lee Descoteaux, who helps us every weekend, will present the Evening of Recollection. Many thanks to the Marian Guild.

**OUR SUNDAY PRIESTS**

We are very blessed to have two priests who help us each week at St. Paul's. This assistance is most necessary and appreciated in a one priest parish such as our own. Our assistant priests are Very Reverend Lee R. Descoteaux and Reverend Brand P. O'Brien. Both these fine priests are assigned to the Diocesan Tribunal in Rockville Centre. Each holds a Licentiate in Canon Law (J.C.L) from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Santa Croce) in Rome. Holy Cross is considered as the Harvard of Pontifical universities. Bishop Barros holds both a J.C.L. and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology (S.T.D.) from Santa Croce. Father Descoteaux is presently the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese of Rockville Centre and Father O'Brien is the Adjutant (Assistant) Judicial Vicar. We are most grateful for their dedicated service. Each of them speaks beautiful Italian for those who like to confess in Italian.

**SCHEDULE**

Many are aware that two years ago we began to have a winter/summer schedule for the Saturday afternoon Mass. This was done to accommodate our parishioners who have difficulty in driving in the darkness. After trying this schedule for two years we will be returning to our former practice. **THE SATURDAY AFTERNOON MASS WILL REVERT TO 5.00PM BEGINNING SATURDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup>** The Saturday afternoon Mass will then remain at 5.00PM throughout the year as most parishioners have asked. This will eliminate any confusion about Mass times and will afford us the opportunity to be of service to our young brides and grooms. Because Covid-19 forced so many young people to postpone and reschedule their weddings, St. Paul's has had the largest number of weddings in several years. Although a schedule cannot please everyone we appreciate your cooperation. Although in the late autumn the nights grow longer, we must

remember that at Christmas the sun returns. There are merely 4 Saturdays when it would be night at 5.00PM

## **MORE HOURS FOR CONFESSION**

**More** hours for confessions will be added to our schedule. We have confessions every Saturday afternoon. In addition to that time the Sacrament of Penance will be available Sunday mornings from 7.45AM until 8.15AM and 9.45AM until 10.15AM. In addition, we will have confessions on Wednesday morning after the 9.00AM Mass. It is my fervent prayer and hope that this will afford many more of our faithful to avail themselves of the graces of the Divine Mercy in the Sacrament of Penance. This will begin on the First Sunday in Lent, March 6, 2022. Just please be aware that on Sundays the priest will have to leave the confessional to prepare for Holy Mass.

In Jesus and Mary,

*Monsignor James F. Pereda*