

FROM THE PASTOR
JANUARY 30, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Dear Parishioners:

It has been quite some time since I have last written the Pastor's Column. This has been due to the Christmas Bulletin deadlines and circumstances beyond our control. I am happy to write to you once more.

First may I once again wish all of you a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a New Year of health and happiness. We all know that this year 2022 will be the best years of our lives. That is because whatever the Year may bring, it will be God's will for us. And as St. Paul reminds us, *...for those who love God, all things work unto good.* We must never become discouraged by events in the world or in the Church. We must never become frightened of illness and disease. We must always trust God and His Blessed Mother. We take Our Lady's hand, and we walk into the New Year, assured of her never-failing intercession.

May I express sincere gratitude to all of you who were so generous to the parish during the Christmas season. We will soon have our numbers to present to you after the complete totaling of the Christmas collection. May I thank all of you who were so generous to me with so many Christmas gifts and presents. We thank Deacon Ray for his continued and most dedicated service. We thank our choir and organist and cantor. We thank our tireless ushers, some of whom did double duty at Christmas. We thank our lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, altar servers, Knights, squires, Marian Guild and Parish outreach and our whole staff. If I have left anyone out, it is an oversight, not deliberate.

It is a busy time at St. Paul's as we continue the work on our Church, parish buildings and grounds. The kitchen in the lower hall was completely redone in the month of December. Once again, we have a stove and new appliances and, for the first time, a dishwasher)! Work has been done on the rectory kitchen. The curtain wall, which will bring the Church renovation to its glorious completion, is being prepared now. The Covid-19 delayed many of our projects. Remaining to be completed is the repaving and restriping of the parking lot. Some may recall that was our goal: Church, Rectory, Lower hall, and parking lot.

Winter is always a difficult time for everyone, but especially the elderly. Please exercise *extreme caution*. Those who have difficulty walking are dispensed from

the obligation to attend Mass on bad weather days. Remember, ours is a small parish with limited resources. Unlike other entities, we do not have a maintenance or snow removal department. We do the best we can to assure your safety, but please be aware that there are things in storms over which we have no control. Snow melts and refreezes. Please exercise charity in these circumstances and refrain from verbally abusing the clergy and staff of the parish.

The feast of the Holy Bishop and Martyr, St. Blaise is kept each year on February 3rd. Next weekend February 5th and 6th we will administer the blessing of throats in honor of St. Blaise after the weekend Masses. This blessing will also be given on Thursday February 3rd after the 9.00 AM Mass,

Here is a beautiful prayer which I would recommend for all:

AN OLD FRENCH PRAYER FOR FRIENDS

Blessed Mother of those whose names you can read in my heart, watch over them with every care. Make their ways easy and their labors fruitful. Dry their tears, if they weep; sanctify their joys; raise their courage if they weaken; restore their hope if they lose heart., their health if they be will, truth id they err, and repentance if they fail. Amen.

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda