

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**MAY 16, 2021**  
**SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION**

***THE PEACE OF EASTER***

On this Seventh Sunday of Easter, we continue to stand in the shadow of the Easter Candle as we rejoice in Our Lord's Holy Resurrection. But we are aware that soon our Beloved Easter will reach its glorious conclusion. That will be next Sunday, the Day of Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Spirit will be poured forth upon the earth. We continue to rejoice in these holy days.

Spring at St. Paul has been most fruitful. Our children made their First Holy Communion on Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>. We pray that they will always be as close to Our Lord as they are now. On Sunday May 9<sup>th</sup>, they came to the Church in their beautiful Communion dresses and suits to participate in the May crowning of the statue of our Blessed Mother and they were enrolled in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

On Saturday May 22<sup>nd</sup>, our eight graders will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. May God bless them on this most important occasion in their lives. And may God bless their parents and all who have brought them to this day. Next Sunday at the 10.30 Mass the Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to one adult. It is Pentecost Sunday.

***OUR SUNDAY PRIESTS***

As everyone knows, our parish is served by only one priests and one deacon. St. Paul's is a relatively small parish. And thus, we are assigned only one priest, the pastor. Over the years, other priests have helped our parish.

For many years, the Marianist Fathers assisted us. When they were no longer able to do so, I invited several priests whom I have known well to help us. Some may remember Father Walter Kedjierski who assisted here. Father Kedjierski left us when he received an assignment to be part of the Bishops' Conference in Washington. Father had received his doctorate from Oxford University.

Father Lee Descoteaux has been assisting us since 2016. We are most grateful for his assistance. He has been serving as the Assistant Judicial Vicar of the Diocese. As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, Father has been appointed Judicial Vicar of the Diocese. Let us all congratulate him on this most important appointment. The Office of Judicial Vicar is considered the third position in the Diocese coming after the office of Diocesan Bishop (Bishop Barres) and the Vicar General (Father Eric Fasano). We promise that we will pray for Father Descoteaux as he assumes his very great responsibility. Thanks be to God, Father will still be able to assist us here at St. Paul's.

Our other Sunday assisting priest is Father Lachlan Cameron. Father Cameron is the Director of the Office of Faith Formation of the Diocese and serves as Head of the Office of Campus ministry and Chaplain at SUNY Stony Brook. I have known Father Cameron for many years. Not surprisingly, Bishop Barres has asked Father Cameron to become his Secretary. We congratulate Father Cameron on this assignment, but we are saddened that he will no longer be able to assist us at St. Paul. May God bless Father Cameron in his new assignment.

### ***COVID RESTRICTIONS***

Many may be aware that in New York State new protocols regarding the Covid Virus will go into effect on May 19<sup>th</sup>. That will also affect our parish life and Church.

As of May 19<sup>th</sup>, the Church is permitted to 100% capacity. The blue tapes will be removed. We will ask our parishioners to be reasonable and continue to wear masks and to maintain some distance. Six feet is not a "magic number." For example, in the schools three feet is recommended and the scientific community is divided on this issue. Please maintain some distance. For those who are overwhelmed with fear, may I encourage you to remain at home.

May I ask the cooperation of all parishioners in helping us to maintain a healthy environment. When the Mass is over, please leave the Church. The Church is cleaned and sanitized after every Mass. Please do not remain in the Church visiting in groups and talking loudly. Please leave the Church and go outdoors. Currently the weather is generally favorable, so please do not remain in the Church, but leave and visit with friends in the fresh air. Those who would like to pray after Mass should indeed do so. Many times, this is impossible due to the loud volume of speech (if not shouting) in the Church.

When receiving Holy Communion, please lower your mask and consume the sacred host before moving on. Please do not walk away holding the host in your hands but consume it immediately.

*In Jesus and Mary,  
Monsignor James F. Pereda*