

FROM THE PASTOR
MAY 21, 2023
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

Dear Parishioners:

As I look at the calendar, I can see there are many grace-filled feasts coming this week. We know the saints are our dearest friends. They provide us with example and of even greater benefit, tirelessly intercede for us. Can we imagine the joy that awaits us when, through the mercy of God, we join their company.

Thursday of last week was Ascension Thursday. Forty days after Our Lord's Holy Resurrection He ascended into Heaven From there He will judge the living and the dead. After Our Lord was taken from them, the Apostles joined Our Lady in the Upper Room (which belonged to the mother of St. Mark) and there they prayed for nine days. It was the very first Novena in the history of the Church. On the ninth day of Pentecost the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them. So then should we in these days between Ascension Thursday and Pentecost Sunday being praying very intensely for the Holy Spirit to come into our soul. He is the Father of the poor, the source of all our store. He warms the chill of our hearts and sets them aflame with love. So then this is a grace filled week indeed.

Tomorrow May 22nd, we keep the Memorial of St. Rita. She is known as the saint of the impossible. St. Rita died in 1457 in Roccaporena, Italy. She married a nobleman at a young age. As was not unusual at the time, her husband was murdered by other nobles and her two grown sons vowed to avenge their father. St. Rita prayed that neither of her sons would also commit murder. Both came down with a grave sickness before they could kill their father's murderer, and St. Rita cared for them in their sickness and death. They were converted by her good example and died forgiven and forgiving. The feast of St. Rita is celebrated like Mothers' Day in Italy, and it is the custom for sons to give their mothers roses on this day.

On Wednesday the 24th we keep the commemoration of Our Lady, Help of Christians. This is dear to us at St. Paul's because the statue of Our Lady in the Church is Our Lady, Help of Christians. This feat is called a votive feast, i.e., it stems from an historical event in the life of the Church. On May 24, 1815, the Congress of Vienna concluded its work of restoring peace to Europe after the upheavals of the Napoleonic wars. The papal states were returned to the Holy See and, as an act of Thanksgiving this feast was instituted.

On Friday the 26th we keep the feast of St. Philip Neri, the Apostle to Rome who died in 1595. He is the saint of joy and his work lives long after him in the Congregation of the Oratory which he founded.

Finally, a week from today we will celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost which will bring the glorious Easter Season to its close. We all pray that at the end of our lives, we will enter into that Easter which will have no end.

SAVE THE DATE

On Sunday June 4th St. Paul the Apostle Parish will celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Deacon Raymond P. D'Alessio' ordination to the Holy Diaconate. The actual date of Deacon Ray' ordination was May 17, 2008, We will observe it at the 10.30 Mass on Sunday June 4th followed by a reception in the Lower Hall. Deacon Ray has been such a humble servant of the Lord in our midst and has done so much for all of us to help us come closer to God and His Blessed Mother. We will give thanks for his ministry at St. Paul. Everyone is cordially invited to attend the Mass and reception.

Please remember that our Annual Golf Outing will be Monday June 5th. I am most grateful for the Committee of Don Cavanaugh, Tom Principe, Paula Maturo, and Anne Maione for all their dedicated service. Please make every effort to attend and support this endeavor. It is the principal fund raiser for the parish. Our honorees this year are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Joie Hein and their family. They have been long time and very dedicated parishioners of St. Paul.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda