

FROM THE PASTOR

OCTOBER 1, 2023

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE HOLY ROSARY: On October 7th the Church will keep the liturgical commemoration of Our Lady of the Rosary. This is a what is called a votive feast, i.e., it commemorates a historical event in the life of the Church and in world history. The event commemorated is the great naval battle of Lepanto which occurred on Sunday, October 7th, 1571. The battle was between the Christian forces of Europe against the Moslem Turks. A great Rosary crusade had begun weeks before the battle. The Christian forces were victorious though greatly outnumbered. After the battle, the pope decreed that each year on its anniversary as a perpetual thanksgiving the Church would honor Our Lady. Churches which are named Our Lady of Victory commemorate this event. The Church in Floral Park which has Our Lady as its patron under this title has beautiful windows depicting the battle. One of the most beautiful Churches in Paris is called Notre Dame des Victoires (in Europe and Great Britain the plural is always used). It is in that Church, so near the Gare du Nord train station, that St. Therese of Lisieux prayed before her train trip to Rome. There in Rome she would ask Pope Leo XIII for a dispensation to enter Carmel at the age of 15. The kind Pope simply responded that whatever God wanted would happen.

SHRINE OF THE HOLY CROSS: Many parishioners, and even non-parishioners, have remarked about the beauty of the Shrine of the Holy Cross on the front lawn. The pavement and circle, as well as flower beds, were a gift to our parish by devoted parishioner Mr. Joe Stasi. Joe donated everything – the materials, and great labor on hot days – to St. Paul’s. May God reward him. The Holy Cross was refurbished and reset by devoted parishioner Mr. Michael Lynch. The Cross stands as a beacon to all who pass on Cedar Swamp Rd. It is a wondrous reminder to the whole community of how much God has loved us, in giving us His only Begotten Son, who died for the salvation of the world.

*May God bless you,
And may Mark keep you.
Monsignor James F. Pereda*