

FROM THE PASTOR
SEPTEMBER 12, 2021
TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PARISH PICNIC: Thanks be to God that our Parish Picnic has returned this year. I am most grateful to Deacon Raymond P. D'Alessio, Louise Shannon, the Knights, Squires, and Marian Guild for their dedication in planning this fun-filled day for all of us. The picnic is **TODAY, Sunday, September 12, beginning after the 10.30 Mass, or at 12 Noon.** It promises to be a delicious, fun filled event, with games for the children, our usual DJ's the M&M Twins, and treats for everyone. Since we will not be having our annual Gala Casino Night this year, many of the prizes, auctions, and raffles from that night will be available at the picnic. All parishioners are cordially invited.

SEPTEMBER 11TH: Yesterday, September 11th, marked the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks upon our beloved nation. The Knights and Squires have placed 20 flags on the ellipse in front of the Church, each flag marking one year since these attacks. Last evening, we had a short prayer service and dedication. As we look upon this small field during these days, let us pray for peace and for the eternal and blessed repose of all who died that terrible day. *Give rest, O Christ, to your servants who perished on September 11, 2001, with the saints where there is no pain, sorrow, or mourning, but life everlasting. Amen.*

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: As we are all aware the Covid-19 virus seems to ebb and flow. Most of us know very little of these matters. But out of an abundance of caution, we ask our parishioners to follow our diocesan protocols which have been explained since the churches opened in June 2020. At the time of Holy Communion, those receiving on the hand may continue to come forward as usual. May we ask those who would like to receive on the tongue (which is laudatory and perfectly fine) to come to the corners of the Sanctuary where the green kneeling cushions are placed after the others have received. Please line up there and individually come forward to kneel or stand to receive on the tongue. As pastor, I am very disposed to grant a dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass for those who may be paralyzed by fear to attend. If coming to Mass will cause one a stress or anger, please simply stay home. Such should not be the fruit of the sacraments. Remember shortly before holy Communion the priest prays, *"Deliver us Lord...that we may be free from sin and safe from all distress..."* God bless you all, and remember the teaching of St. Augustine, *"in omnia caritas- in all things charity."*

FEASTS OF THE BLESSED MOTHER IN SEPTEMBER: The month of September is a month particularly dedicated to Our Lady. On Wednesday September 8th we keep the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, nine months to the day after the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The birth of Our Lady was the dawn of our salvation, for St. Ann gave birth to that One who would be the Mother of God. Today September 12th we keep the Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary.

The Feast of the Most Holy Name of Mary is an historical feast, i.e., it celebrates an historical event in the life of the Church. On September 12, 1683, the Turks were poised to invade Vienna, the very heart of Christian Europe, and to impose Islam on the Holy Roman Empire. The faithful of the City prayed for the protection of the Holy Virgin and at the great battle of Vienna, the Christian forces were victorious over the Turks. This was due in large part to the intervention of the Polish King John Sublieski, the maternal grandfather of the martyred King Lois XVI of France. In celebration of the victory the Viennese bakers baked the bread the next day in the shape of the crescent moon, the symbol of Islam, to show that the Turks were broken as bread is broken. The French name for crescent is *croissant*, and thus was born the famous breakfast bread eaten in Catholic nations. The Turks fled so quickly that they left bags of Arabica coffee beans in their camps. The coffee was discovered by the Viennese and thus began the great custom in Vienna of drinking coffee (sometimes with the wonderful chocolate cake called the *sachretort!*)

On September 15th we keep the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows as we recall Our Lady's standing at the Cross of Our Lord and on September 24th, we keep the Feast of Our Lady of Ransom or Our Lady of Mercy. Our Blessed Mother is that Inexhaustible Cup which satisfies every desire of the human heart. Go to Her on Her Feastdays and seek her never-failing protection.

VISIT OF BISHOP MURPHY: Bishop William F. Murphy is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, having served as Bishop from 2001 until 2017. It was while he was Bishop that the renovation of the Church began. The Bishop had been scheduled to visit St. Paul's on Sunday August 22nd, but due to Tropical Storm Henri, the visit was rescheduled. Bishop Murphy will be coming to St. Paul on Sunday September 26th. He will celebrate the 10.30 Mass. Please make every effort to greet the Bishop that day.

RENOVATIONS: We are most grateful to all who contributed so generously to our Capital Campaign. We will be asking those who indicated interest in being contributors if they would be interested in this great work. Due to Covid, the Narthex (vestibule) Wall has not yet been completed. The glass wall will allow the Church

to be bathed in light and allow those who wish to stand in the back to do so while being able to see and hear the Mass. The repaving of the parking lot is advancing as three companies make bids to do the work. We are trying our best to be good stewards of your offerings.

MISSALETTES: We will have missalettes again in the Church, beginning with the First Sunday in Advent. Since it had not been permitted to use missalettes. The companies did not print as many as usual. Beginning with the New Liturgical Year, they will be readily available. The Knights of Columbus donated the burgundy colored missalette covers over seven years ago and they are still in great shape. Please take care of them and put them neatly into the pew racks. As you know the pews were renovated and there are now upholstered cushions on the pews and kneelers. Please care for them. They are part of your Church. Please gently put the kneelers down by hand. Please do not allow eating on the pews or standing on the upholstered kneelers.

A COMFORTING PRAYER IN THESE DAYS: This prayer was composed in English by St. Richard of Chichester in 1249. Please pray it every day this week.

**Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for all
The blessings and benefits you have given me,
For all the insults and pains you have borne for me,
Merciful Friend, Brother, and Redeemer,
May I know you more clearly,
Follow you more nearly, and
Love you more dearly,
Day by day. Amen.**

In Jesus and Mary,
Monsignor James F. Pereda

