

FROM THE PASTOR
SEPTEMBER 18, 2022
TENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH PICNIC: Today is the day of our annual parish picnic. This is always a very happy day as we come together as a parish family. We enjoy good food, games, music, and visiting with one another. I am most grateful to Deacon Ray, Mrs. Louise Shannon, the Knights of Columbus and Squires, the Marian Guild, and all who work so diligently for this happy event. As I write these words, I am praying that God will give us good weather on that day. We are most grateful to Mr. Joe Palumbo who each year provides the Mr. Softee truck which is such a treat for the children (and the adults too). All are welcome.

LET THERE BE LIGHT: We continue with our tour of different aspects of the Church. Today I will write about the Narthex or vestibule.

When I entered the Church of St. Paul the Apostle for the first time, the immediate impression was one of darkness. The hanging lamps at the time gave very little light and the heavy wood paneling at the vestibule let in very little light. The beautiful window of Christ in Majesty (Yesterday, Today, Forever) could not be seen from the interior of the Church. I had the impression that I was standing in a dark forest with the lamps and carpeting closing in around me.

In keeping with traditional catholic architecture, the renovation of the Church has brought in much more light and color. The glass wall that separates the nave of the Church from the Narthex allows all in the Church to see the beautiful window of Christ the King. The narthex also serves as a place where families with young children may want to stay for different parts of the Mass. Sound in the narthex cannot be heard, but the sound system of the Church is also present in the narthex allowing those who are there to see, hear, and participate in the Mass.

It is in the narthex where we meet the mortal remains of the deceased and those who are accompanying their loved one as they enter for the Funeral Mass. It is in the Narthex where the brides and bridal party wait in a large area for the wedding procession to begin.

Since the Narthex is soundproof, may I encourage our parishioners to greet one another there after Mass. In that way, the Church remains as a place of prayer in silence and peace. I am sure we would agree that, in these turbulent times, we all need a place of light, refreshment, and peace.

In Jesus and Mary,

Monsignor James F. Pereda