

**FROM THE PASTOR**  
**SEPTEMBER 26, 2021**  
**TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**VISIT OF BISHOP MURPHY:** Today it is our great joy to welcome to St. Paul Bishop William F. Murphy. Bishop Murphy is the Bishop Emeritus of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, having served as Bishop from 2001 until 2017. Bishop Murphy has been a true father to me. It was he who appointed me Judicial Vicar in 2007 and he who asked Pope Benedict XVI to appoint me a Monsignor fifteen years ago. I will never forget that since the Bishop made every effort to see that the Holy Father did this before my mother's death. Both she and my sister and family were so happy because of this kindness. 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, but due to Tropical Storm Henri, the visit was rescheduled. Bishop Murphy will come to St. Paul today Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>. He will celebrate the 10.30 Mass. And will solemnly enshrine a First-Class Relic (from the very bones) of St. Paul the Apostle in the High Alter. It had always been my fond hope to obtain this relic, but I was never able to do so. Finally, when I thought it was impossible through God' providence (there are no coincidences) one of our own parish families came forward to gift the relic of St. Paul to the parish. We will be ever grateful to Jacques, Elisabeth, and Elise Le Vaillant. And long after we are all forgotten, it will always be remembered that the relic of the Holy Apostle St. Paul is in our altar.

**ST. PADRE PIO:** On Thursday of last week, we celebrated the Liturgical memorial of St. Padre Pio who died on September 23, 1968. We call that his heavenly birthday. I had the grace to be at his canonization in June of 2002 and to see the largest crowd ever assembled to be present. The wonder worker of San Giovanni Rotondo is one of the most popular saints in the Church. How blessed we are that through a very generous parishioner we have a statue of the saint in our own Church. Look deeply into his eyes which seem to look right toward us and see into our souls. Ask his intercession today and always.

**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 here and in every parish 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 stress or anger, please simply stay home. Attending Mass should not cause a meltdown. 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...”* Please remember that per the Bishop’s instructions the clergy and staff (including the ushers) of the parishes are not enforcers of these guidelines. We are here to serve, not to be police. God bless you all, and remember the teaching of St. Augustine, *“in omnia caritas- in all things charity.”*

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