

From Your Pastor

Easter Gratitude



HAPPY EASTER
ALLELUIA!



The Easter Season began last Sunday and will continue through the Solemnity of Pentecost, the last Sunday of May. I pray that these Easter weeks will be days of grace for you and for your loved ones; and that among the blessings you receive will be a greater sense of how much God loves you, and a deeper faith. Jesus Christ came among us that we might have life and have it more abundantly (Jn 10:10).

As we celebrate these high holy days of our Catholic faith, I express my thanks to all of you for the so many ways in which you cooperate with God's grace to make this such a beautiful parish.

I am grateful to those of you who are involved in the many liturgical ministries that make our Sunday and weekday Masses the great moments of worship and prayer that they ought to be – to our altar servers and to those who care for the church and for our sacred artifacts; to our sacristan and custodian; to our lectors; to the extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion who serve at the altar and in the family and nursing homes of our elderly and infirm; to our musicians, our cantors and our choirs; to our ushers; to our Worship Commission and our Mass planners; and to the Community of San Egidio for the special care they give our seniors. I am most grateful today for the wonderful way in which all of you coordinated and served us so beautifully in the preparation and celebration of the Masses and ceremonies of Holy Week.

I am grateful to those of you engaged in religious education, in youth ministry, and in the RCIA

program who cooperate actively with parents and sponsors in their God-given responsibility of passing on the faith. I am very thankful this time of year for the way you help our children and adults to prepare well to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation. I am grateful for those of you who work with our young adults.

I am grateful to those of you who give yourselves tirelessly seeking out and helping the less fortunate among us, Special thanks goes to our St. Vincent DePaul Society and to its donors for the wonderful assistance they give to the needy among us.

I am grateful to the many groups associated with the parish that gather to build friendships and to work and to pray in our behalf – to the Catholic Daughters and to the Knights of Columbus (Council #121); to the Legion of Mary; to the Sodality; to our many parish prayer groups; to the participants in the ARISE process; and to the devotees of Our Lady's Fatima Shrine.

I am deeply grateful to the priests who serve the parish in so many different and effective ways; and I am delighted to welcome Father Jim O'Rourke home to the parish. I am grateful to the members of the pastoral and finance councils, and to our parish staff for their service to all of us and for the great example they continue to be for me. Their unflagging generosity of spirit is an abiding confirmation to me of the truth of St. Paul's exhortation, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

As I give thanks to the Lord for the abundant gifts he continues to manifest in you, I pray that you and I may continue to give generously of what we have received. The gifts we celebrate at Easter – God's forgiveness and our reconciliation with God and one another in Christ Jesus – are gifts that are meant to be given freely by those who have received them. May the grace we have received make us more and more like that, "for God loves a cheerful giver" (2Cor 9:7).

God bless each of you.



Mrs. Fay