

From the Pastor's Desk:

The union of Marriage is much more for us than a legal contract. It is a Sacrament that helps to show the reality of God's relationship to the people, and Christ to the church. We have high standards for marriage - because Jesus had such high standards and regard for marriage (listen in the Gospel). In so many ways there is a degrading in our society of this important institution where two join into one by the power of God. Few things have caused more confusions regarding Church teaching, and few things are as sensitive and in need of a delicate and understanding ear. If you have questions about marriage, or have concerns about a marital situation, or feel that you have been misunderstood or left out - please contact Fr. Ramos, myself or Deacon Paul and Loraine (who assist in marriage prep). We would like to help you clarify any confusions and help to straighten out any situations.

Don Robinson and I met with the architect regarding the issue of handicaps access at Holy Spirit. After a site review and a few minutes with the blueprints, he offered some suggestions. He is going to work out what this would entail so that I can discuss with both Pastoral and Finance Councils. I also asked him to begin the plans for the ramps that will make the Holy Rosary Hall handicap accessible, after these are in we can look at beginning that work.

We had a good turn out for our "Guided Tour of the Mass" this past Monday (about 50 people). I am very encouraged by the response to these Educational and Faith Formation activities. We will keep working on them and offering a diverse set of options for you. Additional activities from now to the end of the year are found on the yellow sheets at the back of the church (and also electronically on the website). We will be coming out with another listing in a month or so explaining the activities that will run from January to the summer.

In terms of prayer and reflection opportunities, women are invited to explore the "Sweet Life Cafe" - which is a day of reflection at the end of this month - and/or the "Grit and Grace" Book Club (see details in bulletin and website). Also, if you have not had the opportunity to come, we continue to have a Mass with time for adoration and confessions on each first Friday of the month (6:30pm at Holy Spirit). This is a nice way to decompress from the week, and it is an hour well spent.

Fr. Ramos and I have been discussing the continued development of our parish ministries, parishioners continue to address the way the parish was singled out during political maneuvering at City Hall, and we look to continue to strengthen ourselves to do the work of Jesus Christ in our community. God calls us to hear and to respond to the challenge to minister to our neighborhood and the world, fills us with the tremendous gift of the Eucharist to strengthen and empower us for this work, and speaks God's message of love to our hearts. It is our duty to praise and serve God, and a great privilege too.

God Be with you,

Fr. Steve