

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today we reflect on Christ as King. We all could ask: "How have I let Jesus reign in my heart"? We are all told about the goal of determining our path in life ourselves, of expecting to be able to structure the world in the way that we believe is best. There is a tremendous freedom in being able to allow Jesus to take the lead - to realize that his plan for us is the thing that will most ultimately satisfy and complete us. Our world tells us that only you know the true path to happiness, and having it the way you want is the only sure way to satisfaction, but it is often those unexpected paths by which the Lord leads us - that get us to a place we did not expect or plan - that really are the things that satisfy those needs we weren't aware of.

In our most recent Pastoral Council meeting we discussed commemorations and continued plans for unification of the parish, set a committee to develop a parish survey, and looked at our most recent trends. We also completed two important tasks: (1) Since it has been one year that the council has been in existence, one set of members was ending their term (to insure an even turnover in membership, each of the initial members was randomly assigned a 1, 2, or 3 year term). Of these five members four requested and were reappointed for a three year term. Two members are leaving the Council which leaves a few places vacant. If you know of anyone who you feel would be appropriate, please contact me. (2) We approved an initial Mission Statement for the parish which appears in the bulletin and website. This is the result of much discussion and committee work. It represents where the Council, after prayerful deliberation, believed the Lord is calling us to as a parish family. Take a look and see where Jesus is calling you personally to help fulfill this larger mission in our family.

Speaking of family and friends, I hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving. I was able to spend it with my sisters and their families at the new home of my oldest niece and her husband, and also visit some friends at their home in Worcester. Before leaving for this holiday, a draft version of the yearly Financial Report to Parishioners was completed and sent to Finance Council members for their feedback. It will be finalized and voted on in the Nov. 26th meeting and distributed in the bulletin and on the website next weekend. We have had some additional students apply to the school and anticipate inching above the number we had last year - a true sign of the rebound and growth of the school. We have planned spiritual activities for Advent which you will find on sheets at the entrances of the church. If you have been feeling that your spiritual life needs a "recharge" take a look at attending some of these - you never know where God may touch you as we approach the celebration of his coming at Christmas.

There are continued areas we do need to grow as a community. The Mission Statement helps to mark out some of these, and we need to trust in the power of the Lord to help us achieve our goals. If we let Jesus be King in our hearts and King in this parish we will continue to see good things. I sometimes can lose sight of all that we have accomplished together when looking at what needs to be done, but I have been receiving messages in prayer to be courageous and to trust in the power of God - which St. Paul tells us "is able to accomplish far more than all we ask or imagine."

Peace,
Fr. Steve