

From the Pastor's Desk:

It's easy to get a bit "drowsy" as Jesus speaks about in the Gospel. We wait for God to intervene in our lives, and when that doesn't seem to happen fast enough (sometimes because we are expecting something different than God is doing) - we can let go of that hope and faith that we once had. This is a normal part of the spiritual life, and maybe more likely to happen in these grey and wet days we have been having. I have recently been feeling the need to rejuvenate, I have begun to focus more on prayer and on waiting for God to do wonderful things in my life and in the life of the parish ... looks like I got to Advent early. This time is a wonderful time to freshen up our vision, to rely more on God, to await in patience the coming of the King. Christmas can be a special time of letting Jesus be born into our lives again.

We had a good Finance Council meeting this past week. After a little bit of discussion, the Council has approved the yearly Financial Report to parishioners. This will be placed in the bulletin and website next week and a member of the Finance Council will say a few words to help explain. I am really pleased with the wonderful working relationship that is present in the Finance Committee and their care to oversee the parish finances.

Our Mass of Remembrance on the 18th was a special time for healing and peace. There were about 100 people in attendance and the silence of night, the beautiful music, and the candle lighting ceremony all added to the experience. A spirit of peace was felt as we prayed for and honored those who have died in the last year, and others whose passing still tugs on our hearts. Several people spoke to me about the positive experience they had and how it was a step in their continued healing. Times like this are great testimonies of the power of coming together with the Lord to receive peace from God and support from one another.

Deacon Paul served as Deacon for his final weekend Masses last weekend. His move to full retirement status (which he spoke of at Masses) was something that I was sorry to hear him request, but I knew that he had prayerfully determined that this was the right time to step back in ministry. As he is approaching his 80th birthday (I know he doesn't look it), he is rightly seeking what the Lord is calling him to do after almost 30 years of dedicated service as a Deacon. I have invited him to continue in ministry with some of our homebound parishioners and he will be doing this. I have only been serving with Deacon Paul for a bit over a year, but always felt assured by his dependability and attention to detail that made serving with him so prayerful. Thank you Deacon Paul don't be a stranger! We will be in a bit of a transitional period from now until Martin is ordained a Deacon in the Summer. You will notice some shifting of Deacon responsibilities as we approach our new configuration. How good it is that these Men serve us in this way!

Each new situation is a chance for growth. Each new person entering or leaving our lives is a sign of the continually changing life of the human race and the Church. As we look forward to celebrating a birth at Christmas, and look back to those who have left us, we can be assured that God never allows us to be alone - God always provides new births to balance off the things that pass on. Thanks be to God!

Peace,
Fr. Steve