

From the Pastor's Desk:

Following the example of Jesus, I will be on retreat this coming week. During that time of prayer and reflection I will celebrate Mass for the parish and pray for our continued work of joining together. Many divisions between people are ones that exist in the mind and emotions, and although intense, they can be healed. In our Baptism we are joined in one body, and as St. Paul reminds us: Jesus wishes us to live in unity - divisions within that body are created by us. It is like the child saying - I am not your son/daughter anymore. Even though they say it, even though they act like it - the reality is that they are still your child - any action and thoughts of that division exist in the mind and can be healed by the power of Jesus. And only by that power.

This week Finance Council met and we looked at our current status, discussed staff pay, looked at the preliminary budget, and reviewed the payment of our debit. Plans were laid out for these things, and discussions went on regarding the way our parish ministries and units are fiscally united, and what ways we can make our accounting even tighter. A member of the Finance Council will speak at all Masses in the Fall to share more information. If you did not get a copy of the parish interim financial report there are copies at the back of the churches and it is available electronically on our website. All are encouraged to read through this at your convenience. With a few more adjustments we will have the final budget for next year that will be presented for a vote at the August Financial Council meeting.

Mrs. Tavaska and I met regarding school enrollment, school services, and faculty. Some teachers are moving on, and we are excited with some of the applicants that have applied. A letter is going out to all school families to explain about the positive changes that are going on at the school. This letter will also be available on the website soon. After you read it I think you will be pleased with where we are going and will encourage families to come and be part of this enlivening community. We are on the front edge of an encouraging comeback.

Mrs. Sweeney is in the process of registrations for Religious Education Classes for the coming year. There are materials in the back of the church for this, or she may be called at the main parish number (ext. 117). She and I also discussed the work of the Adult Faith Formation Committee and spoke about putting out an insert in the near future listing the educational opportunities that will be available this coming year. Dave Bourgeois continues to work with the Catholic Chaplain at the prison to build the ministry there, and I will be meeting with other ministry heads to see how things are progressing.

There will be more after Mass social time where coffee, juice, and snacks are provided - and don't forget the Parish Picnic / Ice Cream Social on August 19th. Check for more information in the bulletin. Taking time for these sorts of simple activities may compete with electronic entertainment and other demands. But like taking a retreat, these simple times of fellowship are positive and human ways that we can build a community with each other.

God Bless,

Fr. Steve