

From the Pastor's Desk:

Well the dust has settled from the Christmas and New Years holidays. I would like to express my thanks to all who sent cards and gifts they are very much appreciated. I have all the cards sent to me displayed on the bookshelves and other spaces in my office to remind me of all the positivity and good will that exists in our parish. As we work to come more together as a family, Christmas is a reminder of what we share in common - our common faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, our common desire for peace, and our common feeling of contentment when we are shown love. Spurred on by the feast we are continuing to celebrate, let us always work to show love to others bringing the peace of Christ and that feeling of contentment to our brothers and sisters.

This week we will have both Pastoral Council and Finance Council meetings. Since the end of the calendar year we have tied up a few financial loose ends that needed to be tied up, and have calculated the amount of scholarship that we will be able to give for the school next year. We have readjusted the rates for our preschool program at Holy Family Academy which has resulted in a LOWERING some of the rates. If you know someone in need of affordably priced preschool please direct them to call the school and look at the program and the new rates. With more students in this program we will be able to engage the plans in place for expanding the preschool curriculum.

I will be checking in with our chairpersons of our committee developing parish logo and sign designs and also the committee looking at capitol expense projects. The first will present its ideas to Pastoral Council who will examine them, the second will present its findings to Finance Council and then these will be shared with the parish. If you have any design or logo ideas please get these to Joanne in the office who is on that committee.

Contacts continue with the architect for the handicap project so that we can begin that work soon, and any comments you may have about this are welcome. As we continue to complete this project and work on our capitol projects, we make the parish facilities more functional and able to last for the long haul. This way we can pass on to the next generation strong facilities that are able to accommodate what comes in the future. Our work to do this is like the work done by those who built these buildings in the first place. Things continue to shift, and there are areas in the country where churches were merging and closing but they have recently experienced a significant growth - we may not see that kind of rebound in our time, but with foresight we we will help to pave the way for such a resurgence. In the present we should be happy for the growth we have experienced and the stability we have achieved by working together.

God is indeed great and his voice calls out to our community to come and worship and participate in the life of ministry. Let us all continue to be part of that life, and part of that voice that calls others. May God bless you and your families.

Peace,
Fr. Steve