



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! This week, the work continues in both our school building, creating a new kitchen area, and in our ministry planning. I am happy to say that most of our ministries will be up and operational in modified and safe ways for the Fall. This includes our Parish Religious

Education Program which will be offered in two forms this year: In Classroom Learning with all the safety requirements in place and At Home Learning with the parish assisting parents in Religious Education. Parents are able to choose which form they would like. All families with children grades K to 7 are welcome to learn more about our program of religious education which continues to adapt to our changing times.

At this point of 2020, most people are a little tired of adapting to the new norm. The times in which we live are disconcerting, disappointing and are having an effect on our bodies, minds and spirits. Energy levels are being taxed in ways that they were not before and there is a certain exhaustion that can take hold. While attentive to this, the best advice from science and religion teach us to continue on, to press forward, to put one foot in front of the other and continue on. As Christians, we do just that...we move together as His Body, together with one another and with the Lord.

This week, we note three Historic Events/Persons that highlight this Christian Movement, through difficult and trying times: The Assumption of Mary in to Heaven, The Martyrdom of Edith Stein and Maximillian Kolbe.

1) The Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary: While certainly a defined dogma of the Church, Mary's Assumption into Heaven provides us with a definite direction. And that direction is always UP. **God is always raising us up, He always makes more.** That is a very hope-filled Truth, made manifest in Mary and one day in us. The Spirit of God poured forth on the world and into us via the Sacraments raises us up! Allow this Feast of Mary's Assumption help you to rise out of bed, to raise one foot in front of the other!

2) St. Edith Stein, i.e. Theresa Benedicta of the Cross: Like Maximillian Kolbe, she was a prisoner of Auchwitz and yet a shining light in a place of profound darkness. Living in such difficult times, she wrote a beautiful prayer that I encourage you to make your own.

3) St. Maximillian Kolbe: Placed in a dark, starvation bunker of Auchwitz, St. Maximillian led his fellow prisoners so very well: Singing and praising God in the midst of their passion. In the end, being the last to survive, the soldiers grew impatient waiting for death and killed Max with a shot of carbolic acid. Today, a Paschal Candle stands in Prison Block 11. I was there.

So, be encouraged and look forward to the days that our ahead. I certainly am!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

PRAYERS OF EDITH STEIN

O Prince of Peace, to all who receive You. You bright light and peace. Help me to live in daily contact with You, listening to the words You have spoken and obeying them. O Divine Child, I place my hands in Yours; I shall follow You. Oh, let Your divine life flow into me.

I will go unto the altar of God. It is not myself and my tiny little affairs that matter here, but the great sacrifice of atonement. I surrender myself entirely to Your divine will, O Lord. Make my heart grow greater and wider, out of itself into the Divine Life.

O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage and strength to serve You.

Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me. I do not see very far ahead, but when I have arrived where the horizon now closes down, a new prospect will open before me and I shall meet with peace.

How wondrous are the marvels of your love, We are amazed, we stammer and grow dumb, for word and spirit fail us.

And when night comes, and you look back over the day and see how fragmentary everything has been, and how much you planned that has gone undone, and all the reasons you have to be embarrassed and ashamed: just take everything exactly as it is, put it in God's hands and leave it with Him.