



Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! This week marks exactly one year since the close of our Parish Jubilee Year. What a happy time that was with our Closing Mass, Dinner and Dance at the Mendenhall Inn. Thanks be to God that was 2019 and not 2020!! My continued thanks to all who made that year such a special time. I'm happy that this week we can

have such a happy reminder of such happy days!

This week, we celebrate the happy day of the Immaculate Conception, evidence that God remembers us! This Solemnity on the Christian Calendar celebrates Mary's Conception in her mother's womb. When the world had been lost and darkened by sin, God made a promise to Adam and Eve. He spoke of a woman who would have enmity -- separation -- from the evil one. And that woman is Mary. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate the beginning of her life, the HOPE of our Salvation and the faithfulness of God. While not a day of obligation this year, we will have 4 Masses plus a Vigil Mass. This will allow for plenty of room in Church. All are encouraged to come in person. With that said, the 9AM will be livestreamed.

In light of God's goodness to us and his sending of the Immaculate One to us, I share this ancient homily full of hopeful images, worthy of our reflection in this Second Week of Advent.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

From a homily attributed to Saint Macarius, 4<sup>th</sup> Century Bishop

When God was displeased with the Jews, he delivered Jerusalem to the enemy, and they were conquered by those who hated them; there were no more sacrifices or feasts. Likewise angered at a soul who had broken his commands, God handed it over to its enemies, who corrupted and totally dishonored it. When a house has no master living in it, it becomes dark, vile and contemptible, choked with filth and disgusting refuse. So too is a soul which has lost its master, who once rejoiced there with his angels. This soul is darkened with sin, its desires are degraded, and it knows nothing but shame.

Woe to the path that is not walked on, or along which the voices of men are not heard, for then it becomes the haunt of wild animals. Woe to the soul if the Lord does not walk within it to banish with his voice the spiritual beasts of sin. Woe to the house where no master dwells, to the field where no farmer works, to the pilotless ship, storm-tossed and sinking. Woe to the soul without Christ as its true pilot; drifting in the darkness, buffeted by the waves of passion, storm-tossed at the mercy of evil spirits, its end is destruction. Woe to the soul that does not have Christ to cultivate it with care to produce the good fruit of the Holy Spirit. Left to itself, it is choked with thorns and thistles; instead of fruit it produces only what is fit for burning. Woe to the soul that does not have Christ dwelling in it; deserted and foul with the filth of the passions, it becomes a haven for all the vices.

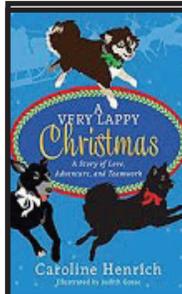
When a farmer prepares to till the soil he must put on clothing and use tools that are suitable. So Christ, our heavenly king, came to till the soil of mankind devastated by sin. He assumed a body and, using the cross as his ploughshare, cultivated the barren soul of man. He removed the thorns and thistles which are the evil spirits and pulled up the weeds of sin. Into the fire he cast the straw of wickedness. And when he had ploughed the soul with the wood of the cross, he planted in it a most lovely garden of the Spirit, that could produce for its Lord and God the sweetest and most pleasant fruit of every kind.



St. Patrick SWAG for Sale-Sunday, December 13 After All Masses & Tree Lighting on 1st Floor of School.

St. Patrick T-Shirts, Glasses, Jubilee Ornaments, Christmas Note Cards & other special items! Limited quantities available so shop early! Items will have a suggested offering or you may make a donation. All proceeds benefit St. Patrick Church. Payment by cash or

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A Very Lappy Christmas is a special holiday story that combines the magic of Christmas with self-acceptance, teamwork, and love. Meet author and fellow parishioner Caroline Henrich on Sunday, December 13 following the Parish Tree Lighting and pick up your very own copy. For more information about Caroline and her very first book, visit [www.happylappies.com](http://www.happylappies.com) or you can find more on Facebook at Happy Lappies or Instagram at Ten Happy Lappies.