



My Dear Parishioners,

The first week of Lent, we reflected on the first discipline of the Season: **Prayer**. Last week, we reflected on its second discipline: **Fasting**. As we begin week three, guess what? We reflect on the third discipline: **Almsgiving, the giving to the poor**. With our Parish 40 Hours approaching next week and the theme of Beauty being highlighted, I reflect on this third discipline thru the lens of the Eucharist. **For there is no greater gift of alms than the gift of Jesus Himself to us, poor sinners.**

One of the most lasting and memorable experiences of my time here at St. Patrick's took place on Saturday, September 7, 2019 as I sat in the Confessional. Don't worry, it wasn't what happened in the confessional that I remember but what occurred outside as parishioners made their way back into our newly renovated Church for the first time. It was the sounds that I remember. From within the confessional, I could hear the "oohs and the ahhs" and then perfect silence. What was happening was an encounter with wonder and beauty. Different than mere surprise or shock, it was an encounter the divine. I will never forget that experience and I continue to praise God for it.

The Russian Novelist Dostoevsky wrote that "**beauty will save the world**". Those words have been quoted by Saints and experienced by countless souls. How does beauty save the world? By lifting it up, manifesting the divine -sharing and gift of self to the world.

In His Letter to Artists, Pope John Paul II explains by quoting Dostoevsky:

People of today and tomorrow need the enthusiasm of wonder if they are to meet and master the crucial challenges which stand before us. Thanks to this enthusiasm, every time humanity loses its way, it will be able to lift itself up and set out again on the right path. In this sense it has been said with profound insight that "beauty will save the world."

Friends, after a year of pandemic, quarantine, canceled plans, changes of life and for all of us the loss of life whether physical, spiritual, emotional or mental....WE NEED ENTHUSIASM. WE NEED GOD. And Beauty can indeed bring us to Him.

The beauty of almsgiving, generosity and the beauty of a life lived for others, brings joy.

I **strongly encourage** everyone reading this to sign up today for a holy half hour before the Lord in the coming 40 Hours Devotion. Then, come back to hear a terrific, talented and local young artist inspired by Pope St. John Paul II. Her talks will fill you with wonder, inspire your Spirit and enkindle in your heart a desire for the divine.

In the meantime, Thank God for all He has given you. For Thanksgiving is the most perfect response to God. And God lives in such a heart.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

ST. JOSEPH-March is the Month of St. Joseph and 2021 is His Year! This week, consider beginning a novena to this great saint, the foster father of Jesus and spouse of Mary. On Friday, March 19, we will celebrate His Feast Day and have a special prayer of Consecration to St. Joseph at the conclusion of that Mass.

Go to Joseph this week with your prayers, your intentions and your love. AMEN.



Parish Penance Service
Thursday, March 25, 2021
7:00PM in Church