

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Last Sunday at Mass, I heard with you the Christian Command, “Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” That’s a tall order, because the one who spoke those words loved unto death. So to love as He loved, well that’s demanding. It’s not rose-colored love; it’s the stuff of marriage and ordination vows. And this is the very DNA of the Christian Life —the Law is Love-- and at the eve of our lives, the quality of our love that will be judged by Love, Himself.

While I heard that command with you last Sunday, it was on Monday that I recalled how I have received that type of love at the very dawn of my life: From my mom and dad who chose to give me birth, from Doctor Terry Kane who gave me CPR, and from Fr. Daniel Murphy who baptized me in that hospital. On Monday, I celebrated my 49th Birthday. If you do the math, you’ll realize that all of that love, keeping me alive was above demands of civil law. I was born 4 months after Roe-vs-Wade which meant that none of the above needed to happen. There was no civil law ensuring that my parents choose life, in fact quite the opposite, they had a legal right, to do otherwise. But they brought me to birth and I was the recipient of love flowing not from civil law, but from the hearts of good parents. And that love provided not only for me, my parents and all involved in my birth but it still provides for me even now, that love enables me to type this message! It’s because love that I’m here and you can say the same. You have been loved. Laws are designed to assist Love and Life in a society. And to prevent the opposite. When laws do this, good things happen. It’s easier to live in and as community. When laws fail to do this, terrible things happen.

I share this with you because terrible things have happened and continue to happen in part because of the failure of law. For many, many generations now, the Law has not protected life. This is one of the reasons why our society is so sick. In fact, under the guise of freedom or choice, the taking of life has been enshrined in law. And this has done irreparable harm on our society, souls, and lives. Thankfully, that “right” is close to being cast aside. And in so doing, there will be the need and opportunity for real Love. While opportunity is always there, it will be more incumbent on us as Christians to share such love for those in need.

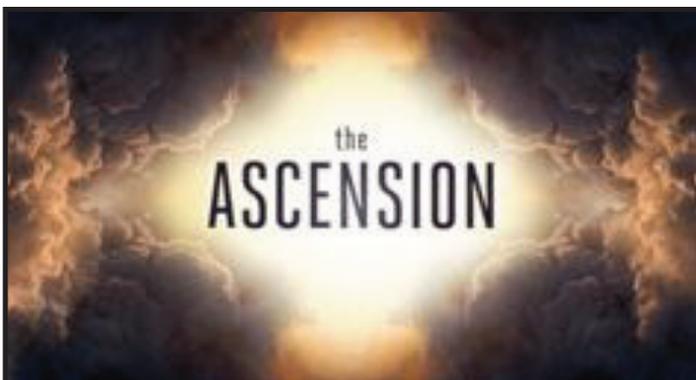
In the coming weeks, I will be highlighting various ways that we can be there for those who find themselves in need, particularly for young moms, children, families and those who find themselves in crisis pregnancies. This will include sharing and highlighting the Good News of all that is available and all that is being done already. But I know that more is needed and more would be good for us to take on.

So to that end, I will be forming a **work group** and I welcome your assistance in this matter. Questions for our consideration will be: **How might St. Patrick be, what might we do or put in place for our community in a post Roe nation? This is an exciting question, an important question.** It might be the very question Jesus asks me when I come before him: “Chris, what did you do, how did you love?” And guess what, you might hear the same question!

So let’s start thinking/working on an answer. Think about the exciting prospect of being a community that helps love and life to grow! A community that makes it possible for the alternative: the separation of life and love-never to be an option. It’s time to practice love. For upon it, we will be judged.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD MASS SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25

7:30AM & 5:00PM

THURSDAY, MAY 26

7:30AM, 9:00AM, 12:00PM, 7:00PM