

From the Pastor:

Today is the first of three Sundays in which the Gospel describes a miraculous cure of someone ill. This week, it is Simon's mother-in-law; next week, an unnamed man with leprosy; and, finally, the paralyzed man whose friends let him down to Jesus through a hole in the roof. The point of each story is not simply to present Jesus as a wonder-worker, it is to remind us that he is here for all of us in ways great and small. Drama can tell the story, but can we all think and pray about the little moments when Jesus reached out to each of us? The Responsorial Psalm (147) is careful to connect God's "binding up their wounds" to larger themes of wisdom and justice. It prepares us to understand that Jesus is not simply caring for individuals by his healing, but announcing a new chapter in God's care for creation. In the text from St. Paul (second reading), the emphasis is not at all on miracles, but only on Christ's gospel. Healing acts are important for sure, and they speak to us. But what they announce is greater: Humankind is no longer to be a prisoner to suffering, sin and death! Praise God!

The Pastoral Councils from each of our parishes and Trustees are meeting with me this week as we continue to press on in our journey. It is hard not to think of the words of Isaiah 43:19, "**See, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?**" We beg your patience and your prayers. Know we will keep you informed. I know some of you have heard "this or that," but gossip, however well intended, is not communication. Trust me – we will keep you posted! We cannot tell you what we do not know and we pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance in all we do.

This winter it is hard to know what to do about **canceling daily mass**, because school goes virtual on snow days. To that end, we will always cancel mass when school is not in physical session. The best place to find out the latest update is our parish website. If you do not have internet access, perhaps you can ask a family member or friend to look it up. And for those of you that know some computer-free people, maybe you can proactively reach out to them.

Mass will be celebrated at our churches on **Ash Wednesday** and ashes will be imposed after the homily at each mass:

at St. Joseph's at 7:30 am - walk in

at our Lady of Grace at Noon - pre-register as usual beginning one week prior

and at Immaculate Conception at 6 pm - use Sign Up Genius on the website or call the

rectory.

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers.

Fr. Jerry

OUR PRAYER: Loving God, be present to us and grant us wisdom, so that we who may feel anxious about change might trust in Your love, and rest in the Changelessness that is You.