

Bulletin Letter May 16, 2021 Seventh Easter Cycle B

From the Pastor:

People often ask me to pray for them. I always say “yes” to their request and then I immediately whisper ask Jesus to bless them! Today, Jesus is praying for the disciples, and praying for you and me. You know how good it is, especially in the middle of a terrible and difficult time in your life, to hear someone say, “I’m praying for you.” There are times when you want to pray and need to pray but you cannot find the words. You want to pray and turn to God, but you come up empty, which is how you feel. This is when you need to know that someone is praying for you. Today, Jesus prays for all of us!

It is so wonderful to see that more and more people are attending mass in person in all of our parishes. As we all get vaccinated and with the weather improving, it is no surprise – but there was no way to tell what might happen. Please know that it is a gift to see so many familiar faces and to encounter so many new ones. Thank you for your presence. For those of you who are not yet ready to return, we will continue to livestream our liturgies. I am deeply grateful for you all.

At Immaculate Conception, **we are blessed with so many parishioners**, but we are tight with space given the social distance requirements. While we wait for the state and the diocese to update the regulations, we are abiding by what is. That means mass fills up quickly and we have to use the parish hall for overflow. I know that this situation can be frustrating for many of you, but please know that we are doing the best we can. The best way to sign up for mass is online, and if you call, please call early in the week. Know that our staff and volunteers are doing the best we can under duress. If you cannot get the seat you want, I ask you to be flexible and to receive your new location with an open heart. Thank you for this!

We have had and continue to celebrate many **sacraments!** First Eucharist at Immaculate was held on May 8 and it was a joyous day for our children and their families. This Saturday, May 15, we celebrated another beautiful First Communion for the children of Our Lady of Grace and St Joseph’s. My thanks go out to all the families, catechists, and to Roberta Quinn for making it a reality. Last Tuesday we celebrated Confirmation with Bishop Scharfenberger for Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph’s. Again, my gratitude is extended to all, especially Grace Fay.

Many of you are already aware that there is no shortage of **scammers** trying to separate you from your resources – and using the name of the church to do so! Please be aware that I will never email or text you with a request for gift cards or money. So many trusting people are taken advantage of and it is maddening. Let us pray for those who do harm, and be vigilant. If you do receive a text or email, please let us know and delete it!

Our Lady of Grace sold carnations after both masses last weekend for Mother’s Day, to benefit Birthright of Ballston Spa. \$375 was raised to support this important ministry. Thank you to all who contributed.

The Knights of Columbus of Immaculate Conception will be hosting a drive through **Chicken Dinner** on Friday, May 21 from 4-7 pm (or until sold out!). The Knights do so much for the parish and for others, so I hope you will come out in support of them!

It takes a community to keep and grow a community! At Immaculate Conception, we are in need of **people to help clean after masses**, especially on the weekends. The more people that volunteer means

that it will go quickly. You are not obligated to do it weekly, but if more people pitched in we would be in good shape. Please prayerfully consider it.

Also in the cleanup department, the **IC Clean Up Day** for Spring is this coming Saturday, May 22. At 8 am we will begin with rakes, gloves, and whatever tools you have. Please join us and let's get the campus in good spring shape!

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.