

From the Pastor:

In Leo Tolstoy's short story, "The Three Hermits," a bishop pays a visit to three monks who live a life of prayer on an isolated island. The bishop labors to teach them the Our Father, as they only prayer the hermits know is "**Three are ye, three are we, have mercy on us.**" They struggle with memorizing a prayer familiar to us, and never quite make it. As the bishop sails away on a ship, he catches sight of something moving across the water. It is the three hermits, walking upon the sea, worried because they had already forgotten how to begin the prayer. The bishop is humbled by them because he realizes their holiness – not only because their faith supports them walking on water, but because of their humility. Sometimes the simplest prayer is the best, and the wisdom of the Trinity is as challenging as walking on the sea. Yet in faith we see, we hear, we live, we believe. Sometimes we must just pray as best we can and always remember to let God be God.



It is a gift to announce that we are welcoming **Deacon Craig Demspey** to Immaculate Conception! Craig is a parishioner at St. Edward the Confessor in Clifton Park and has just been ordained to the diaconate. We are grateful to receive him to our midst!

Thank you to all who participated in the Immaculate Conception **Spring Clean Up** on Saturday. We are grateful for the helping hands that keep the parish beautiful. Thanks also go to **Bob Vielkind** for refinishing the presider chair in the Sanctuary.

Grace Fay and **Patty Neumann** shared their time and talents with our communities again last Tuesday in providing an evening Marian Retreat via Zoom. We are grateful for providing us with this opportunity for reflection.

It is official – we have stopped taking **reservations and masks** have become optional. It all seemed to change so quickly. I do ask that we each look into our hearts and think about others when it comes to our masks. Some people are not vaccinated by personal choice, others due to health conditions. We will need to exercise some caution and respect all life by respecting one another.

Memorial Day weekend is upon us. It is a national holiday commemorating those who gave their lives in service of the country. One of our parishioners at Immaculate served our country and remarkably lived to tell about it. **Dr. Tom Smith** was at Iwo Jima and watched the flag be raised. +Tom has now gone home to God, and while he did not lose his life in service, he certainly gave of himself and lived for many years. Our prayers go out to his brother Art and sister-in-law Jackie, and to all who loved him. May he rest well in the peace of Christ.

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.