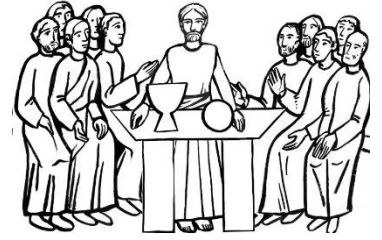


From the Pastor:

We think about rituals as static events. Yet, in fact, most of them evolve to retain their relevance and freshness for ongoing generations. Take holiday rituals for example. The Thanksgiving table may include recipes your great-grandmother once prepared (don't fool with those recipes!), but it may also include a dish that your newest son-in-law enjoyed with his family. Timeworn Christmas tree decorations share space with souvenirs picked up during last year's vacation. Family reunions always involved hot dogs on the grill. Now they make room for veggie skewers too. The liturgies we celebrate in church are the same: ever ancient, ever new. Some of the hymns we sing were written within the decade, and others may be from the early days of the Church. Gestures and postures taken by Christians down through the centuries appear side by side with female altar servers and lay lectors. So Jesus once took the ancient ritual of breaking bread and sharing wine at Passover and inaugurated a new and everlasting covenant for the forgiveness of sin. Ritual is life! Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, saying, "**Take this all of you and eat of it; this is my body.**"



We are grateful for the priestly ministries of **Fr. Jack Varno** and **Fr. Leo Markert**. Recently, Fr. Jack celebrated his 55th anniversary of ordination and Fr. Leo celebrated his 59th anniversary. Please keep these good men in your prayers and thank them when you see them. Coincidentally, birthday wishes are also in order - both Fr. Jack and Fr. Leo celebrate their birthdays in early June!

Attendance at the three parishes was up this weekend, and it was so good to see many who have not attended mass since the beginning of the pandemic. *Welcome home to all of you!* We will continue to live stream the 9 am masses at St. Joseph's and Immaculate Conception and daily 9 am mass at Immaculate Conception.

For many years the **mass stipend offering** was set at \$10 by the diocese, but they have now set it at \$15. Please know that the stipends are set forth as a part of canon law. As always, the stipend is requested but we will never turn away less and so many of you gratefully offer more.

For the past year we have been streaming the "**Tuesday Morning Chat.**" The tête-à-tête shows were fun to do and they were well received by many. We did tours of the three churches, a variety of interviews, garden tours, and so many interesting things. Now that we are at the end, or so we hope, of Covid 19, we will be placing the Tuesday Chat on hold. I am so grateful to **Tom Bigos** and **Christine Goss** who were instrumental in the production of the chats. Thank you to all of you who watched the show and gave us excellent feedback.

While happy for her, I am sad to see one of our most faithful servants retire. **Madeline Fretto**, our Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation, has retired at the end of this school year. Madeline has served here for 26 years and helped innumerable families and children along the way. She has shepherded the many catechists who have worked with her—helping them impart their faith to our children, all the while supporting them. Well done, good and faithful servant!

The parishes of Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's are saying farewell to a long-time servant. **Grace Fay**, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry has served in this capacity for almost a decade, along with providing numerous retreats along the way. We wish Grace the best as she moves forward in her career.

The office at St. Joseph's church is now located in the parish rectory. The rectory was built with one side ready to accommodate the parish secretary. Since the former school is for sale, it made sense to relocate the office to the rectory and closer to the church. The new location is safer for the staff and easier to heat and cool. I am grateful to the crew who helped us move last Tuesday. Please be patient with us as we make the transition.

Daily mass is celebrated Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning at 9am at the church of the Immaculate Conception. If you would like to have an intention remembered (a deceased person, sick person, anniversary remembrance, etc.) at a morning mass, please call the parish office at Immaculate Conception (518-399-9168).

Please look for an insert in today's bulletin that will explain our **plans for a new model of managing** the three parishes. We are doing something that has not really been done before and your prayers are most welcome as we undertake this.

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.