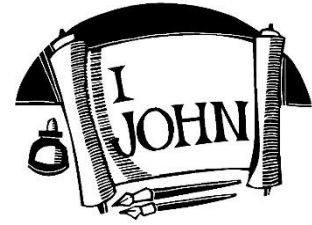


From the Pastor:



How many of you grew up in a home where your mother served a meal of leftovers every now and then? It didn't happen too often at my house as mom and dad had six bellies to feed beside their own! But now and then, leftovers in the refrigerator would be revisited and become the evening meal. I suspect all of us have found ourselves cooking more than was required. Leftovers, meager or bountiful are part of life. Today's first reading from the Second Book of Kings and the Gospel of John, tell similar stories of limited resources. Both the Prophet Elisha and Jesus communicate that what was believed to be a shortfall actually was a windfall. Scarcity was transformed into abundance! What might God be saying to us today from these impressive lessons? Might I suggest a few: God welcomes all of our gifts of any size. When we give to God, little becomes much! We should never underestimate the power and presence of God to multiply gifts, if only we give and trust. For God, leftovers become a feast! What a grateful and generous God we have!

Along those lines, please remember that **your gifts always go to your parish church**, no matter what church you worship at. If you drop your envelope off in one basket, it does get sent to the appropriate spot. Thank you for all that you do for God's church.

We have always enjoyed a lively and active **funeral reception ministry** at Immaculate Conception. Our most recent ministry leads were **Eileen and John Sowa** who led their team so well. Prior to COVID they were seeking a replacement, but no one had stepped forth. Now we are seeing funeral receptions again, and have made our way with a few of them. The Knights of Columbus and Christine Goss have both stepped up to help. I will ask that you discern if this is something you might like to lead. If you want to know more, please call the office and talk to Fran or to me. You never know where it could take you!

We are grateful to be back in full swing at church, but we should all be mindful of the **Delta variant** which is spiking cases of COVID. If you have not yet been vaccinated, I pray that, unless a health condition makes it impossible, you please reconsider. If you are unvaccinated we honor your choice, but please make sure you wear a mask in church. Some of you have asked if you can get a religious exemption - a dispensation, if you will - for not getting a vaccine. There is no religious reason in our faith to not get one, so no exemption can be given.

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