

**From the Pastor:**

One of the recognizable types listed on personality inventories is the person who is afraid of appearing weak. This person will do whatever it takes to maintain a strong front. He or she will argue, grow belligerent, and even approach the realm of violence to demonstrate dominance. Such a person will cheerfully surrender being liked for the assurance of being feared. Unfortunately for the world, a lot of leaders of nations fit into this profile. Unfortunately for the Church, more than a few religious leaders have preferred the maintenance of authority over every other value. St. Paul had a different revelation. We can imagine that Paul, once a deeply zealous and not always likeable fellow, might have personally preferred a method of Church governance that would make his authority indisputable. For a leader, being feared would appear to have its advantages! But Paul learned, from Jesus himself, that weakness is the way to real power. Empty yourself of the need for control. If you're not afraid of death, no one can hurt you. *"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."* 2 Corinthians 1:7-10



It is with great joy that I announce the hiring of the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis (DEC) and the Director of Administration and Finance (DAF) for the parishes of Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace, and St Joseph's. **Christine Goss** will serve as the Director of Evangelization and Catechesis. She will be responsible for setting the overall mission, objectives, and goals for the Evangelization and Catechesis team and for curriculum development incorporating a wide variety of components. **David Wetzel** will serve as the Director of Administration and Finance. Dave will be responsible for implementing and enforcing policies, processes, and workflows for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the three parishes, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Grace, and St Joseph's, in alignment with the mission and vision of the three parishes with the goal of improving efficiency and cooperation among the three parishes. Please join me in congratulating Christine and Dave in their new positions.

As we move forward with our plans, I cannot help but pause to consider just how many people were involved in offering liturgy during the pandemic. As the shadow of that time shrinks in our rearview mirror, we must remember the great sacrifices and superhuman efforts of many. From first responders, doctors, nurses, EMTs, other medical personnel, police and fire men and women, clergy, chaplains, teachers, school administrators, scientists, and more we made our way through it.

Many people lost loved ones to Covid-19 and often without the personal presence that makes such losses more bearable. Others suffered through isolation, loneliness, fear, despair, anger and more.

We were able to quickly pivot to offer online liturgy, retreats, and talks, and many things grew forth from those early efforts. We were able to deliver soup, offer you plants, drive through blessings, make phone calls, and buy groceries, and other things at all three parishes thanks to the joyful service of so many parishioners and volunteers. Once we reopened others stepped up to help with sign ups and coordination of seating and more at our three worship sites.

It has been a remarkable time and I simply cannot thank all of you who worship here and support us enough. Many thanks go to out to each and every staff member who gave of themselves in incredible ways. My gratitude is endless.

Here is a corrected update regarding the planned receptions for Debbie Griffith. **Special thanksgiving receptions will be held on Saturday, July 17 after the 4 pm mass and Sunday, July 18 after the 9 am mass at St. Joseph's for Debbie Griffith**, who has served the church for a long time and most recently was the Parish Administrator for both Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's. Coffee and pastries are on the menu in Holy Family Hall. Please join us to recognize Debbie's contributions. Debbie plans to remain active at St. Joseph's and will remain visible in the preparations for weekend liturgies.

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers and have a safe holiday. **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.**