

Dear Parish family,

Last Saturday we had a wonderful celebration with our second grade cherubs who received their First Communion. The rainy weather did not put a damper on the celebration, as the rain held up and we were able to celebrate the May crowning of our Blessed Mother Statue that is outside of the Church. As I said to the cherubs, "God loves you very much because he allowed the rain to subside for our celebration."

I wish to express my thanks to Deb Henegan, our Coordinator of Religious Education, Patti Ganz our second Grade catechist for being so faithful to seeing that these young folks were prepared for their First Communion. Thanks to the parents for their cooperation with our program and for being the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Let us all continue to pray for our First Communicants, that they will continue to be filled with joy and approach the Table of the Lord each weekend for many years to come.

Next weekend, May 22nd during the 12 Noon Liturgy, our Bishop, Kevin J. Sweeney, will be visiting us to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. We rejoice with those from our Parish Family in their reception of the fullness of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Our three candidates, two from Pope John and one from Delbarton School have worked very hard to prepare for Confirmation and I am very proud of them for their commitment, dedication, the giving of themselves and preparing to take on adult responsibilities in their life of faith. I wish to express my thanks to their catechists from Pope John and Delbarton School for teaching them the ways of our faith. I thank the parents, who have walked along side of those to be confirmed showing them the right way and we share in their joy of seeing their daughters and sons grow in faith. To the sponsors they have chosen, for being examples of faith to our confirmandi. I ask as a Parish Family that we continue to pray for these fine young people as they continue their faith journey.

Finally, our Parish Family consists of a kaleidoscope of people who have many talents and gifts. A parish is more than a building, organizations and programs. What makes a parish vibrant is the faith of its members, who are nourished at the Eucharistic Table of the Lord and their participation in our Parish Ministries.

Ever since our wonderful parish was founded it has been a community of faith that depended upon the efforts of volunteers. Our volunteers make it happen and it continues today in that spirit. Lately it has been difficult to get volunteers to be part of our parish ministries. I have approached folks and asked if they would consider serving our parish in a particular ministry, and the answer I have been getting is "no thank you." Has volunteerism gone by the wayside?

As has been announced in the weekly bulletin the past couple of weeks, we are greatly in need of **Liturgical Ministers** for our Saturday evening and Sunday morning Liturgies. If you are interested in serving our parish family as a Lector, Altar Server (by the way, adults may serve as an Altar Server) or Usher please contact the Parish Office (973.827.3190) Thank you!

The COVID-19 virus seems to be on the rise again, not as serious as in the past, but still it raises a concern. I encourage all of us to be safe and to take precautions to help stop the spread of the virus.

Enjoy these spring days.

In His Love,

Father John