

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

In the blink of an eye, we find ourselves halfway into July, with the summer months half over. Summer is a time of rest and relaxation, but it is also a time for parishes and schools to make ready for the coming year. Although we just began a new fiscal year, and the calendar year stretched for more than five months, parishes, with their programs, projects, and many other activities, seem to run an academic calendar. We will be taking the remaining weeks of summer to not only complete our religious education and adult faith formation calendar, but to also set a schedule for all our social and fundraising events. The most notable being our end of summer picnic, scheduled for Sunday, September 11th after the 11am Mass. This year, we will have some changes to the picnic, so stay tuned for more information.

We are also developing a list of the various physical projects for our parish campus. We have already announced the new lighting project for the Church building and will be discussing more about the refinishing of the center section of pews, as well as new kneelers for these pews. Additionally, when this project is underway, we will be creating a “break” in the middle of the Church. This will allow for a better flow of communion, as well as accommodating more space for the entrance rites at a Mass of Christian Burial. At the same time, we will be relocating the physically challenged section to the pews located immediately upon entering the side of the Church nearest the handicapped entrance and the restrooms. While such changes are never met with total agreement, the current placement creates challenges to wedding and funeral Masses and is not greatly utilized on Sundays. This project will not be immediate but will be discussed more when it does happen. We are also in the process of bringing down the former parish rectory in preparation of a new parish residence.

Another project that will be happening between now and Autumn is work to our parish offices. We will be creating a separate entrance which will bring people directly into a reception area in order to access the parish offices. There are a variety of reasons for this. The principle two are [1] A more welcoming and inviting entrance, especially for new visitors to the offices (currently you pass 8 other doors before you stumble upon the offices. [2] and the most important – To create a safe and secure environment for all. The Diocese of Youngstown requires that every parish have a safe environment committee (which we are working to establish). One of the charges of this committee is to determine how to keep everyone safe, while still providing access to the campus. This is not only for our staff, but for everyone coming into our facilities. More details about the renovation and access to the facilities will be presented as the project moves forward. We will also be working on some parking lot and landscaping issues.

Thank you so very much for your support and encouragement of our parish community. Tomorrow is the feast of Saint Benedict. One of the rules of Benedict stated “hospitality to all who enter”. May we each strive to bring that hospitality to all, in our physical, liturgical, spiritual, and social and service aspects of Church. God bless you all.

On Wings, We Rise,

Father Lavelle