



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

DEAR PARISH FAMILY

Happy Easter! Welcome to family and friends of parishioners, as well as to visitors who are joining us for Easter weekend Masses.

We welcome into our parish Jill and Tiffany Muylle, and Amy Goodrow. Jill and Tiffany were Baptized, and all three were Confirmed, and received First Eucharist at the Easter Vigil this weekend.

PRAYERS AND REMEMBRANCES

Please pray for John Marino and Louella Galganski who both died this past month. Please remember them in your prayers, and please pray for the consolation of their families and loved ones as they mourn.

PLANS AND HOPES

We hope to begin repair on our sidewalks, and also add handicapped parking, improved ramp access, and lighting at the front entrance of the church building.

I'm still waiting for the official letter from the diocese, but verbally I've been told that we are OK to proceed. It would be good if we could raise the money up front, and not have to go into a capital campaign.

If you would like to support this effort, you may make a contribution to the Building Fund.

WELCOME SPRING

The days are getting longer, and the weather is teasing us with warmer temperatures. However, it was a long,

cold, dark winter. We could also use your help in offsetting the costs incurred over the past months with heating and lighting bills. If you are able to assist us, there is a spot marked Debt Retirement on your envelope.

And as I mentioned in my letter attached to the financial statement, health insurance premiums have risen substantially. The majority of our parish expenses are for salaries and benefits. Please help us if you are able.

SUNDAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Starting this weekend, we will be moving our Sunday Mass time one hour later to 10:00 am. We hope that this change makes it easier to bring young children and families to Sunday Mass, and will be better for everyone all around.

Confessions will shift to 9:00 am for half an hour.

The Saturday Mass will remain at 5:00 pm and Saturday Confessions will remain at 4:00 pm for 30 minutes.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter and Holy Week ceremonies. The RCIA team and sponsors, the decorations and quick changes to accommodate the various liturgies, the sacristans, and liturgical ministries. Thank you to the choir and musicians who always provide uplifting music helping us all to pray twice (St. Augustine said that those who sing pray twice!)

SO PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS

If you didn't get around to any of the student-led Stations of the Cross during Lent, you missed out. Our students continue to make me proud!

During Holy Week, our school sent fifth through eighth grades to the Cathedral, and provided servers for the bishop and were asked to bring up the offertory gifts.

Our school and parish are unique. While the diocese is re-aligning parishes and schools, St. Elizabeth remains an independent parish with an independent parish school. We are only able to continue with your support and the support of the school families.

CONFIRMATION AND COMMUNION

In two weeks, the students who have been preparing for Confirmation will receive this Sacrament from our bishop here at St. Elizabeth. We are sponsoring this year's Confirmation for not only ourselves but also Frankemuth and Vassar's students on April 18 at 2:00 pm.

TIME OFF AND TIME AWAY

During the next week, the school will be closed for Easter Break and I will be visiting family. After Confirmation, I will be on vacation in Florida at San Pedro parish in North Port.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISH

Please pray for me and for each other! God bless you!

Fr. David



MASS STIPENDS AND PRAYER INTENTIONS

From the very beginnings of the Church, it was customary for the faithful to donate the bread and wine to be used in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. In time, offerings of money were substituted for the actual bread and wine. Money given in excess of what was necessary for the procuring of the bread and wine was used to assist the poor and, eventually, to support the clergy.

It became customary for the priest to accept from the faithful a donation (called a “stipend”) in return for remembering a specific intention in the celebration of a Mass. Through this voluntary offering, the donor seeks spiritual benefits that God may bestow upon the persons or concerns that are specially held in prayer at the Mass. What is more, Church law notes that the donor himself benefits: “Christ’s faithful who make an offering so that Mass can be celebrated for their intention contribute to the good of the Church, and by that offering they share in the Church’s concern for the support of its ministers and its activities.”

The Mass “is quite properly offered according to apostolic tradition not only for the sins, punishments, satisfactions and other needs of the faithful who are living, but also for those who have died in Christ but are not yet fully purified”. The deep faith and ardent charity of the parishioners of a parish manifests itself in the numerous Mass offerings made for the living and deceased.

In our diocese, it is the custom for the parish which supports the priest financially to receive the Mass stipend. Priests who are retired or are not assigned to a parish may accept stipends; or a priest may accept a stipend when visiting another parish or diocese.

When a parish accepts a Mass stipend, they set up an agreement to pray for an intention at a specific Mass. The priest-celebrant

prays for that intention specifically, but that does not nor can it preclude him from also praying for other intentions as well.

All participants at Mass, including the priest, may, and hopefully will, not only pray for their own intentions at Mass, but also for the intentions of all present; as well as for the needs of our world, Church, and local community. Each of the Eucharistic prayers have within them prayers for various intentions, and the Prayer of the Faithful does as well. Mass is always offered for many intentions.

Pastors are “obliged to apply a Mass for the people (*pro populo*) entrusted to his care on each Sunday and holy day of obligation”. Take consolation in the fact that every weekend and holy day of obligation a Mass is offered for all of you who are members of our parish.

At St. Elizabeth, Mass intentions are offered for both the living and the dead. One weekend Mass is for the parishioners, and the other is for a particular intention. Our weekday Masses are also offered for particular intentions as requested by parishioners.

The customary stipend for a Mass is \$10. However, this is not an obligation and is waived for those who cannot afford the offering.

In situations where an individual desires to have a Mass offered, but does not want the intention publicized, the custom is to list “For a special intention.” This is a wonderful way to apply the infinite graces of the Mass to our needs, both spiritual and physical.

Masses may be offered for the deceased, but also the living. Occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries, surgeries, going on a pilgrimage, or leaving home for college can all be lifted up in our prayers at Mass.

Mass intentions may be scheduled by calling the parish office.

