

May 2019

Spring is the time in almost every Parish when we celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation in a special way. Our celebration of the Life of the Risen Lord Jesus is made real through the celebration of the Sacraments of the Church. We Baptize new members, children and adults; we celebrate First Communion for many of the children of our parish communities. Young people and adults are called to witness the Faith for themselves through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please remember to pray for all of the people who have embraced Jesus and the Church in new ways during this Easter Season. They are the truest signs of life and vitality in our Churches today.

Springtime also means Festival time. This year, the Parish Festival is Memorial Day weekend, May 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. First, we ask you to pray for the safety and enjoyment of our parish members and patrons, also for favorable weather. This year we have again included a forecast of the proceeds in our parish budget. The estimated income is necessary to get us as close as we can to a balanced budget. We continue to explore other means of increasing stewardship. Part of our merger process is to review and recommend new options for financial stewardship.

Parish festivals are costly. It takes a lot of money to make it happen and a lot of people to make it a success. SO, we ask you once again to pick up the raffle tickets. Perhaps you can offer to volunteer as you are able, or to donate to offset some of the start-up costs. We are also looking for new items that will appeal to folks in the Raffle area: televisions, children's or adult bikes, small appliances, and sporting goods. Gift cards to area stores or tickets for special events are always popular, as are sports memorabilia. There are lots of ways to help us meet our goal! I want to thank you for all your help both past and present. You will find the names and contact numbers for our Committee Chairs in the bulletin. Please feel free to ask them any question you may have. You can also call the parish office for information.

Our parish communities are celebrating new and 175 years as an Archdiocese. We continue to look for ways to grow and improve our ministry; the mission of the Gospel. These efforts always bear fruit when we work together. Thank You for your prayers and continuing support. Peace to you this Easter Season and Happy Spring!

Fr. Thomas, Fr. Jeff