

Father Michael's Musings
July 2021

Last year, the President pointed toward the 4th of July as the day we could begin to celebrate the decline of Covid and our re-emergence as a grateful and tolerant nation. While he may have been off by a year, it seems like this 4th of July, we will have the opportunity to begin to emerge from the weariness and worry that has afflicted us the last 3 years. While our tolerance for respectful debate has declined over the last decade, I believe that our essential character has not.

The America I see is still a place of hope for dignity, freedom and the pursuit of happiness and prosperity. Prices may be higher at the store and at the pump, but we have been through these cycles before, and we know we will get through this one as well. Our response to these hard times needs to be aligned with the heart that America has shown the world from the Revolution to the World Wars to the pandemic. We will pull together. We will lift each other up. We will share our blessings in both the hard times and when we come back into abundance.

The America I see is also a grateful place. We appreciate the men and women who have served our country, and whose families have sacrificed for our freedom. We appreciate our first responders, who have never wearied of serving our community, despite being in exhausting circumstance. We appreciate the researchers, the teachers, the truckers and shopkeepers that have stayed open and served us for the last few difficult years. Most especially, we are grateful to God, who never abandons us, always loves us, and who blesses us in even our greatest difficulties. We know the difference between suffering and sacrifice, and we know that the ones we love will be with us for eternity, even when they aren't with us for today.

The America I see is faithful, and hopeful and loving. St. Patrick's will celebrate that America with patriotic hymns and prayers at 4 PM on Monday July 4th. After the service, we will have burgers and dogs to share. I can promise there will even be apple pie. I hope the kids will bat a ball around. Please come join us and sing and pray for our country.

God bless you all

Father Michael