

# FROM THE PASTOR...

March 7, 2021

This past week we had mornings of retreat for our confirmation candidates from the school and RE programs. Please pray for them, their sponsors, and parents, that they may all be open to the grace of the Holy Spirit working in their lives and through this sacrament. We have a total of thirty candidates who will be confirmed by me on March 18<sup>th</sup>. The Mass is reserved only for the confirmands and their guests due to Covid restrictions. May they all grow as Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ.

You may notice this weekend that the tabernacle in church is different. It's from the old convent chapel across the street and it's only temporary! We have the original tabernacle out for restoration. There are also two old chalices and the ciborium from the tabernacle out for restoration. These sacred vessels are sterling silver, but with gold plating that has mostly worn off. They are beautiful, but need livening up. The Lord deserves our best! We are to love Jesus in the poor, in each other and certainly in the Blessed Sacrament.

Here is what is being planned for the tabernacle: It will be completely disassembled and all mechanicals will be checked and repaired, if needed. All exterior pieces will then be chemically dipped to remove any oxidation and lacquer. The pieces will be polished in a combination of high polish and satin finish. They will then be spray lacquered and oven baked for superior durability. Finally, everything will be reassembled, and a new silk interior will be installed. The whole process will take about two months.

In the last week, just from verbal announcements at daily and two Sunday Masses, we've raised about \$1,800, which is enough for the two chalices and ciborium. The tabernacle will cost about \$6,300, so if you would like to contribute, you can make a one-time donation on Faith Direct, noting that it is for the tabernacle, or you can donate with a check or cash as well, noting the same. With the focus on buildings, operations etc... it is good for us to remember the Lord Himself and the way we honor and worship Him.

There are no real updates about Fr. McCarthy's Archdiocesan internal investigation. He is safe and doing relatively well. Please continue to pray for him and his accuser. There are no process updates that I am aware of, so he's still waiting for news, as we all are.

***"Zeal for your house will consume me."*** This week's Gospel from St. John describes Jesus cleansing the temple of the money changers. The animal sacrificial system at the Temple of Jerusalem was something God had ordained (for a time), but like any good thing, it could be abused. Christ reveals that the Temple was His Father's house, a house of prayer, not a marketplace. This cleansing is necessary for us to consider.

The church is primarily the house of God, a place of prayer where Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist and we get to pray together in the Sacred Liturgy. Of course, we need money to run the whole parish/school operation, which we receive through donations, fundraising, tuition etc... But the point of the Church, and the parish as a whole, is that we become disciples of Christ, a people of prayer, such that our own souls become the dwelling place of the Holy Trinity.

May this Lent be a time for us to make our hearts and souls a fit dwelling for our Heavenly Father to be with us. Can we let Jesus drive out the secondary elements of our lives for the one thing necessary?

God Bless,

Fr. Mike

