



ST. LOUIS THE KING PARISH THE HERALD

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Volume III, Issue II

November 2022

TIME TO GIVE THANKS AND REMEMBER—BY FR. GLENN

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Special points of interest:

Our Parish Family:

- Spirit Filled**
- Spirit Let**
- Spirit Giving**
- Welcoming**
- Family Friendly**
- Child Friendly**

My prayer and discernment over the past several months led me to what is perhaps the most difficult decision of my life: I am retiring from full-time ministry.

I was eligible for retirement on my 70th birthday this past April, but my love for my parish family drew me forward. And while that love continues, I believe now it is best for me and the parish that I retire.

It fills me with great sadness to say goodbye to my role as your pastor. I will miss leading and being a daily part of this amazing community. But memories of all we have shared fill me with joy, and I am excited about the journeys and growth that lie before us.

Being assigned to St. Louis the King Parish as your pastor in July 2014 is one of the greatest blessings of my life. I knew God had ordained me to be your pastor. I have been involved in parish life and ministry

my whole life, and my 8 ½ years here with you has been my best experience. For that, I owe you a debt of gratitude. It is something we should cherish, hold onto, and build upon.

As I reflect on my time with you, I am filled with gratitude. St. Louis the King Parish is a wonderful, welcoming, caring, faith-filled community. Perhaps our most powerful and visible charism is our family and child-friendly atmosphere. Thanks to all who have made that a reality.

I accept the role God entrusted to me and take it very seriously. My first responsibility as pastor is to feed the flock with the authentic Word of God and the Bread of Life. I spent hours in prayer before every homily, asking God to give me the words He wants you to hear. It is God who wants to feed you. I am merely a humble vessel.

It gives me great joy to see you grow in faith. I experience it in confession, spiritual direction,



faith gatherings like Share the Word and bible study, R.C.I.A., youth group, faith formation classes, etc. With you, I have grown in my faith exponentially and experienced many spiritual breakthroughs. I thank God for the gift of faith we have shared together, and I am eternally grateful.

The daily Mass group has become a wonderful community. When I arrived, I started our coffee and donut social after every Mass, where faith and lives are shared. We started Wednesday's Share the Word to break open the Word of God for the approaching weekend, listen to God, and share our reactions and spiritual insights around "What is God

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saying to you?” Thursdays we began coming together for an in-depth bible study, journeying through the Gospels and on to the Book of Revelation.

I am grateful for the founding members of our parish and those who had the vision to construct our church building and complex. Many were skeptical of the costs and resulting debt the parish would bear.

I entered a parish that was financially weary. With \$150,000 of debt and very little working capital, we faced years of deferred maintenance. Now, I cannot dream of a better building and grounds complex. The design fosters spiritual growth, a welcoming environment, and the building of community.

The parish finance council, led by Mike Roy, was a devout, gifted, and visionary group. With the input of several parish gatherings, we charted a roadmap for the future. The parish community responded generously to this shared vision, and we tackled our most pressing needs one at a time.

- New roof on the narthex
- New subfloor and carpeting in the narthex and offices
- Bell system
- Remodeled kitchen
- LED lighting throughout the complex
- New windows in Gauthier Hall
- Upgraded Harris Hall
- Video system in church and Gauthier Hall
- Rectory care
- Exterior lighting improvements

- New St. Louis the King statue blessed and dedicated

The most visible improvement is the complete transformation of the grounds thanks to Rhode and Carol LaBine and the amazing Garden Club.

Our financially weary parish came to life. Within two years, we paid off the debt to the bank and diocese and celebrated with a mortgage-burning party. Our assessable receipts grew steadily from \$307,000 annually to over \$400,000 this past fiscal year. Our school subsidy and UPCSA assessment have grown proportionally, surpassing our USPSCA goal for the past 8 years.

I am forever grateful for all your financial support. It has taken great stress off our administration. The parish is currently debt-free with substantial savings. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to the mission of our parish family.

Over the past 8 years, our parish has grown from 490 families to 620 and continues to lead the diocese in baptisms. Our growth bucks the trend throughout the diocese and most of the country. I attribute that to you and your inviting, welcoming spirit.

We reach out to others in so many ways. Young families attract other young families. Older members welcome new life. And we have grown to accommodate new families with a

nursery and playground. Beautiful social gatherings like our annual picnic, St. Louis the King feast day school supply give-a-way and dinner, annual Pumpkin Fest, blessing of the bikes, KC breakfasts, Women’s Club bazaar, and Lenten fish dinners attract people from the community. And we reflect that open spirit with a welcoming desk in the narthex. When they come, they feel welcome. Thanks to all of you.

I hope the All Souls Mass and Dinner I began becomes a tradition. The Arimathea ministry team, Sharon and the choir, and the funeral lunch committee have embraced this important evening and made it possible. It is important that we gather as a parish family and support those grieving the loss of a loved one. We need each other. We are not meant to travel through this life alone.

Every funeral I have celebrated in recent years has been for a family member because St. Louis the King Parish has truly become my family. Our Arimathea ministry, funeral lunch ministry, and wonderful music ministers are a very important part of our mission as a parish. Thank you all.

One of the recent additions to our parish mission has been developing an annual Parish Family Retreat. Participants know what a joyful, faith-filled event this has become. It is heartwarming to see everyone come together and truly enjoy each other’s company.

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One of the most moving retreat experiences for me was the living family rosary with old and young leading the prayers, including an entire family from grandma down to a 4-year-old. This new format transformed the parish retreat from 4 or 5 people to an amazing intergenerational faith gathering of 100 people. I pray this becomes an annual tradition for our parish family.

St. Louis the King will always be my parish and my family. I hope to remain active in gatherings and events, and I pray you continue to welcome me as a retired priest and member of the parish family.

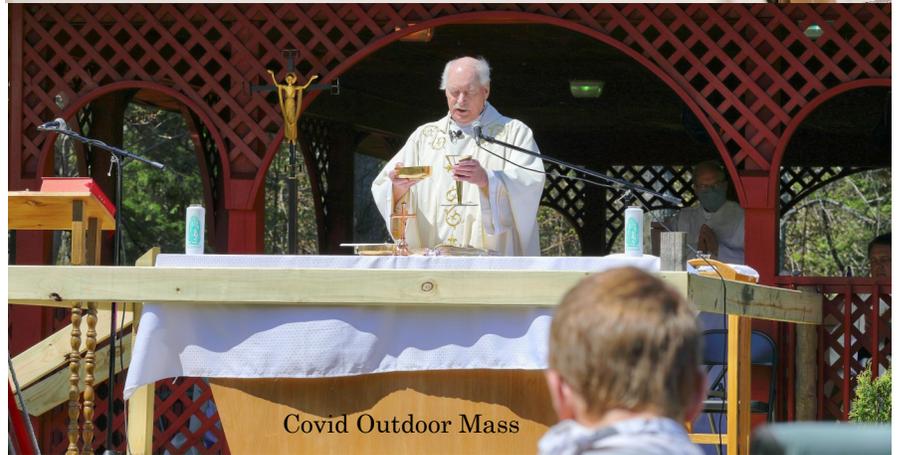
Please welcome and support whomever the bishop chooses as your pastor. I know he will feel as blessed as I did to serve you. All the good our parish accomplished these 8 ½ years is because of the Spirit alive in you. All that the parish will be 8 years from now will depend on that same Spirit remaining active in you all.

My thoughts and prayers will always be with you, dear family. I hope to check up on you from time to time. Please keep me in your prayers during this time of transition. May God bless us all. Come Holy Spirit fill the hearts of us Your faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your love. Amen.

In Christ,



All Souls Mass



Covid Outdoor Mass



Parish Family Retreat

Time to Give Thanks and Remember—Continued



Annual Parish Picnic