

Dear Parishioners of Sacred Heart,

I think there are still a few patches of snow in the parking lot, melting slowly, being stubborn. However, a pair of porch finches were flying around the Parish House this week, chirping and checking out the real estate. Who didn't feel uplifted as the temperature rose above 70 degrees, even though it has dropped back to a more seasonal range. But, Daylight Saving Time begins this weekend and I stop to think of what that announcement really means. We are adjusting our time to allow for more light in our lives. Isn't that what we are doing throughout the season of Lent – allowing the Light to grow and the Darkness to diminish? How appropriate to be celebrating Laetare Sunday with the first words of the Entrance Antiphon calling us to: “Rejoice! Be joyful, all who were in mourning.” There are only two Sunday's of the Church Year when we are asked to wear “pink” vestments, but it is, after all, a lighter, brighter color than mournful purple and a reminder to rejoice. I think of the rising of the Easter Light, still weeks away, already shining on our Lenten path.

This week, there are other bright moments to add joy to our journey - the holy feasts of St. Patrick and St. Joseph. Let us remember to honor them with a little grateful celebrating and a lot of heartfelt prayer. If you are in Church, pause for a moment near the simple statue of St. Joseph in back of the Choir area and the majestic stained glass window of St. Patrick behind the Tabernacle in the Eucharistic Chapel. Both, I have been told, were brought over from the Former Sacred Heart Church on Washington Ave. Both saints, in their own way, were protectors and guardians of the Light. As we adjust our clocks this weekend may they inspire us to spend our time rejoicing in the Light that saves us.

“I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world; the star of my life is Jesus.

In him there is no darkness at all; the night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.”

Let us rejoice in the Lord always,

Father John