

June 12, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

As the Easter Season has ended with the great Solemnity of Pentecost, the church still asks us to spend two Sundays reflecting on the important mysteries of the Holy Trinity (this week) and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ -- Corpus Christi (next week). These central beliefs of our faith flow from the Easter mystery we have celebrated. Today in the Trinity, we celebrate God as Creator, God as Redeemer, God as Sanctifier -- the abiding presence of God through time. This week be more mindful of this great mystery of the Trinity every time you bless yourself -- maybe do it a little slower this week.

Last week I thanked our families for choosing St. Luke Catholic School for your children, and the entire parish for the support we give to our Catholic school. This weekend I want to congratulate our 8th grade (41 members) who will graduate on Monday evening. Also celebrating will be our Kindergarten with their closing ceremony on Monday morning, and the rest of the students in our school who will have their "moving up" and end of the year celebration on Wednesday.

As this school year comes to an end I would like to especially acknowledge, and thank, and congratulate Ms. Elva FitzGerald and Mrs. Mary Santarelli who, after close to 40 years each, are retiring this year. They have impacted the lives of many children and families and continued to adjust and adapt to the many changes in teaching and methods over these years -- and the added stresses and challenges of the pandemic in recent years. We can all ask ourselves "where was I 40 years ago?" Thank you, Ms. FitzGerald and Mrs. Santarelli.

As part of our priestly lives, every priest is expected to make a yearly retreat. This is not a vacation, but a week to reconnect with God, ask where we are as priests, and strengthen our prayer life. Father Wackerman will be on his retreat this week, and I will be on mine next week. Please pray for us, as we will pray for you. This weekend several new Permanent Deacons were ordained for the Archdiocese by Archbishop Pérez, and given assignments for their ministry. As clergy, they too promise obedience to the Archbishop in service to the Archdiocese. It is also a time when current Permanent Deacons may receive new assignments as the needs of the Archdiocese continue to change. It was announced this weekend that Deacon Kevin Potter, whom we have been blessed with in this parish, has agreed to a new assignment at St. Genevieve Church, Flourtown, where there is a significant need. We have been blessed with 3 Permanent Deacons for this year. I am grateful to Deacon Kevin and Ellen personally and on behalf of the entire parish. Deacon Kevin and Ellen have grown into this vocation with us. Deacon Kevin has spent many years with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, he has shown great leadership and devotion with our Tuesday adoration and evening ceremonies through the changing liturgical seasons. He has brought energy and insight to his preaching, to our baptismal

program and baptisms, and to the many lives he has touched at St. Luke's. Thank you to Ellen, in a special way, in supporting him and sharing him with us. Kevin and Ellen will bring needed gifts to St. Genevieve's-- but will always be welcome here. Thank you and God bless you Deacon Kevin and Ellen. Deacon Kevin's appointment becomes effective Monday, June 20.

Enjoy another week of transitioning into summer activities. As I remind you "stay close to God and God will be close to you." Thank you for your love and support of all we do at St. Luke's.
for us.

St. Luke, pray
Father Joe Brandt