

From the Pastor's Desk:

A new year begins this week (well actually our Church year began on December 3rd, but January 1st is a new beginning too). The beginning of the week was taken up for me with the celebration of Christmas - I hope you all had a wonderful day! I would like to offer a word of thanks for the cards and kind wishes I received, they were much appreciated. The rest of the week was fairly quiet and gave me a chance to reflect and pray and listen to what the Lord is saying and doing in our lives.

I have been meeting with our new Business Manager, who is getting up to speed very quickly; he, Jeff Gallant and I have been working on the budget finalization (wow that took a longer time than I thought). We can now be confident that we are projecting from accurate numbers. We will be presenting the final version on January 8th at the Finance Council meeting. I wrote in earlier columns that we are looking at office restructuring - actually the new Business Manager is part of this effort. This has been discussed at Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and Staff Meeting. Such a restructure looks like it will involve some additional staff changes. These are being done in consultation with parish lay leaders, and you will be informed of these as they occur. If you have questions and concerns you may contact me or a Pastoral Council Member.

Our new principal Mrs. Tavaska has taken over from Mr Chartier, and due to the diligent preparation provided by Mr. Chartier, has hit the ground running. There will be more opportunities to meet her soon, and I encourage all of you to give her your ideas and concerns so she can incorporate and respond to these. We have a great treasure in our school, one that is worth preserving and nurturing.

I feel that I need to mention that there have been some inaccurate reports regarding personnel matters that have been circulating in the parish and the larger community. It is a cautionary tale to all of us about being careful what things we repeat, spread around, or gossip about. All of us have perhaps been guilty of this at times (myself included) - but when false information spreads it is destructive. Remember that events are often more complicated than they appear on the surface, and things can be misunderstood from a few rashly spoken words. We would not want our words - or the repeating of other's words - becoming a source of pain to someone, making a difficult situation even more difficult, or damaging an individual's reputation. Our Lord calls us to bring more love and peace into situations. Let our parish be more and more an example of this.

As we move forward in worship and ministry we have the great privilege to bond together to be a force for the power of the Lord to enter into our world. As I said last week: "this is a faith community with much potential for even more growth" - let us continue to grow together in the Lord.

Peace to you all,

Fr. Steve