

May 27, 2018: Building Community and Discipleship

Dear Parishioners,

Perhaps you have already heard the news that Fr. John Madigan has been asked by the Archbishop to serve at Sacred Heart Parish in Bellevue. We will miss Fr. John's presence in our parish and we wish him well on this new assignment. With Fr. John's departure and a change of my day off we will be making some adjustment to the daily mass schedule starting July 1st. We'll make that new schedule available soon.

I am happy to announce that we have signed a contract to have the upper parking lots re-surfaced and striped in July. This is made possible through the generosity of the school auction and a generous parishioner.

Someone asked me after one of the Masses, "What is your plan for the parish, where are you taking it?" It is the plan of the early Church. It is what happened at Pentecost. It is what I shared in my homily last week about the powerful action of the Holy Spirit which moved the Apostles and the early Church to such great growth and to follow Christ's mandate to go out and make disciples of the entire world. My Plan is Eucharistic centered discipleship. Discipleship is where each person comes to a personal and intimate knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and his Gospel. Discipleship means developing a strong interior life rooted and growing in prayer and devotion (e.g., the rosary, Eucharistic adoration, spiritual reading, etc.). From the interior life comes ongoing conversion, through which we become the best version of ourselves. Conversion leads to discernment, which answers the question, "What does the Holy Spirit want me to do with my life, talents and resources? Discernment leads to service, the bearing of fruit, and charity that Our Lord expects of us and for which we will be accountable. For Christ, sitting on the sidelines is not an option, we are called to play, engage.

In a community like Holy Rosary there are many opportunities to serve. Please prayerfully consider some of these opportunities. We need volunteers to help in the nursery at the 9 and 11 o'clock Masses in the fall. We are always looking for more readers, Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers, and ushers. In the fall we will begin "Koinonia" an evening of Dinner, Discipleship, and Devotion for everyone. We will need many volunteers to help with this. Please contact Timothy Putnam who is our Faith Formation and Evangelization Director to help.

"Koinonia" names the kind of community that naturally builds disciples. The word appears 19 times in most editions of the Greek New Testament. It is variously translated "fellowship", "sharing", "participation" and "contribution". This kind of community flows from the Eucharist, which is the sacrament of communion with one another in the one body of Christ. As we experience intimacy with Christ and unity with one another in the Eucharist, we have the opportunity to deepen our relationships with one another in service to our community. Make plans to participate in Koinonia this fall, and prayerfully discern how God may ask you to contribute to its success. Koinonia is the giving of the gift together. It is a way to give what we have received.

In Christ,

Father Vincent