

From Fr. John

Vocations Update

This weekend, we will bid a fond farewell to our seminarians who have been with us on Sundays this year.

Mr. Joseph Martin and Mr. Ryan Martire are currently completing their third year of theological studies at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. Joe will be ordained a transitional deacon on May 6, at 10:00am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Ryan will be ordained later in May in his home diocese of Bismarck, North Dakota.

Next May, Joe and Ryan will be ordained priests, Joe for our own Archdiocese and Ryan for the Diocese of Bismarck.

Congratulations Ryan and Joe and thank you for all you have done for us!

Rev. Mr. Jacob Wessel and Rev. Mr. Shajir Pech, who were at our parish last year, will be ordained priests this spring. Deacon Wessel will be ordained on May 27, at 10:00am at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Deacon Pech will be ordained in Belize in June, I believe.

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

This Sunday, the Church also celebrates World Day of Prayer for Vocations. As a church, we focus this Sunday on asking the Lord for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

One question that can come up is: what type of man is being ordained now as a priest? I am glad you asked.

In a nationwide survey just released, the average man being ordained a priest is 33 years old. Of the 458 men to be ordained priests in the United States this year, 334 participated in this survey.

Here are some of the characteristics of men being ordained to the priesthood:

- 43% attended Catholic grade school and 34% attended Catholic high school.

- 66% regularly prayed the Rosary and 75% went to Eucharistic Adoration before entering the seminary.

- Typically began thinking about the priesthood around 16 years of age.

- 52% had participated in a parish youth group.

- 72% had served as altar servers, 51% had served as readers, and 40% as Extraordinary Minis-

ters of Holy Communion.

The Need for Vocations

With All Things New, we are becoming more aware of the need for vocations in our Archdiocese. This statistic I recently saw startled me.

In our Archdiocese, we have 135 priests who are aged 70 or older. In contrast, we have only 26 priests in their 50s.

We are proud of men like Joe Martin and Deacon Wessel from our Archdiocese and Ryan Martire and Deacon Pech from other dioceses for answering the call to the priesthood. But we need many more, including from our own community, to ask themselves if God is calling them to the priesthood. Please join me in praying for this intention and in posing this question to our young men as well.

In Gratitude

Thank you to all who came to the Mercy Healing Service on Monday night. It was a beautiful evening of prayer and I pray that you received many graces from this.

Also, thank you to our Knights of Columbus for hosting the blood drive on Wednesday evening. Thank you, too, to all who donated!

Congratulations

Congratulations to our First Communion Class who will receive First Communion on Sunday at the 10:00am Mass.

Also, congratulations to our Confirmandi who will receive Confirmation on May 2! Please pray for them as they prepare for their personal Pentecost.

Parish Rosary Program Intention

Let us pray this week for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

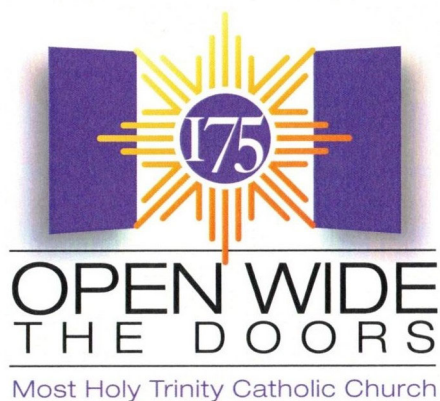
I will see you online or in church! -Fr. John
#SRAstrong

P.S. Please do not forget to pickup your ACA card from the ACA volunteers in the back of church as you are at church today!

P.P.S. Please remember our prayer groups this week on Monday at 2:00pm and Tuesday at 9:30am!

Upcoming Events

Join our sister parish in a momentous celebration
in the life of its parish!



You are invited

MOST HOLY TRINITY CATHOLIC CHURCH 175th ANNIVERSARY

MAY 14, 2023

9:30 a.m. MASS

Most Reverend Mitchell Rozanski, Presider

PLEASE JOIN ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOLS FOR A



Spring High School Fair

WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2023

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Hosted by DeSmet Jesuit High School in the Gym

→ 233 N New Ballas Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141

Parking will be available at the Emerson Entrance

*Students in grades 5-8 are welcome to visit with
representatives from St. Louis' best all-girl, all-boy,
and coed high schools:*

Bishop DuBourg
CBC High School
Chaminade
Cor Jesu Academy
De Smet Jesuit High School
Duchesne High School
Incarnate Word Academy
Nerinx Hall
Notre Dame High School
Rosati Kain Academy
Saint Louis Priory School

St. Dominic
St. Francis Borgia High School
St. Joseph's Academy
St. Louis University High School (SLUH)
St. Mary's South Side Catholic
St. Pius
Ursuline Academy
Vianney High School
Villa Duchesne
Visitation Academy

Guest Column by Sister Alicia Torres, F.E.

I often notice in my own life an expectation that encountering Jesus must also include felt experience of the right emotion. It seems most people share this sentiment. The truth is, we will not always feel “right” or even feel Jesus’ presence. But, that doesn’t mean he is not there.

While I have understood this in my head for a while, I am still on the journey in my own heart. It is tempting to judge the quality of my prayer life based on the presence or absence of the “correct” emotion. At Mass or in Eucharistic Adoration, I can be tempted to think that, if I simply have the “right” feeling, it will indicate I’m “really praying.”

Our encounter with Jesus is not about a feeling—it is about a relationship.

Whether I feel anxious, joyful, distracted, peaceful, sad, excited, angry, or nothing at all does not reveal if I am praying “right” or “wrong.” But those emotions and inner experiences are exactly what Jesus wants me to invite him into. It takes courage and grace, but as I slowly open my heart and trust Jesus with what is going on deep within me, I gain confidence in his presence—whether I can feel it or not—and our friendship grows. I realize I am not alone in the ups and downs of life, and no matter how I feel, I can still make a gift of myself—to Jesus and to others.

As we continue this journey through the Easter Season, my prayer is that each of us can take a next step in allowing Jesus to encounter us, even as we seek to encounter him, in the Eucharist. I am confident that the Lord will help us do just that! God bless you!