

From the Pastor's Desk

This week has been extremely full and very rewarding. I have several medical appointments, all of which went well. First of all, I had an echocardiogram to check my pulmonary hypertension. At my cardiologist appointment that I had that same day, I was informed that my pressure levels were fine and that we could continue with the current medication levels for maintenance. Second, I had an appointment with my hematologist who explained the irregularities in my blood levels (I have suffered with various forms of anemia for the last 8 years) and assured me that although certain levels are low and need to be monitored that as long as I take the necessary basic precautions I am in no serious danger. All of this is great news, and I am grateful to God and to you for all your continued prayers. My gout and my serious back pain continue to cause me difficulty, but with the grace of God and the treatment of some very fine physicians I am certain that these issues will come to be resolved in some way in time.

*I also had some very important meetings this week, some concerning the diocese, the parish, and my ministry. There are some exciting things in store for us all as we anticipate a new liturgical year and the great Jubilee Year 2025. I am hoping that in addition to connecting with diocesan programming for the Jubilee Year, we can develop some exciting new things here at Visitation celebrate this momentous occasion. In preparation for the season of Advent you have the opportunity to be part of our adult education series and prayer partner project to celebrate a period of joyful expectation as we await Emmanuel, "God with us," in the recollection of the coming of the "newborn King." I hope that we all make the most of the opportunities that God affords us. **I also want to encourage you to join our carpool to travel to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Altoona for the opening of the Jubilee Year at a special Mass at 2 PM.** Please let me know if you are interested.*

*I would like to make a concerted effort to reach out to those who are elderly and homebound in our parish, something that I feel deserves great attention as we are about to begin anew as a parish during the Jubilee Year. **If you are someone***

you know cannot come to Church and would like to receive the Eucharist, please either fill out the form on the parish website or call the parish office and give your name to the secretary. We will be certain that you or your friend or loved one will receive the Lord regularly as you rightly deserve.

*As we did last Lent, we will be engaging in our **prayer partner ministry** this Advent Season. This is a wonderful way to enrich your preparations for the coming of Christmas during this important and independent liturgical season. If you are interested, next Sunday you will have the opportunity to place your name in a container in the main vestibule of the Church to indicate your desire to become a prayer partner. The following week you will find an envelope with your name on it in the same area of the main vestibule, which will contain the name of your Advent prayer partner. The selection of names will be chosen by me arbitrarily from the container in which you placed your name. I will also be participating in this ministry even though I pray for all of you collectively daily. I know we are beginning this ministry late; however, you will still have 3 ½ weeks to pray for your prayer partner.*

***Come and See: Do you know someone who is interested in becoming a member of the Catholic Faith? Were you or someone you know baptized in the Catholic faith and never Confirmed?** We would like to provide an opportunity to anyone would answer yes to these questions to “come and see: the possibilities and possibly become a part of the Christian Initiation process and become full members of the Catholic family. If you are interested, we will be holding inquiry sessions following both Masses on the Weekend of December 7th and 8th following each Sunday Mass (4:00 PM Sat. /9:00AM Sun.). We will gather for light refreshments in the rectory meeting room (next door to the Church) so that you can speak with me and meet members of our Christian Initiation Team. There is absolutely no commitment. Just Come and See.*

*As you know by now, next weekend begins the season of Advent. Mass will be celebrated **Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays** in Church. I will continue to celebrate the other weekday Masses privately as I continue to regain my strength.*