

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of Visitation Parish,

Throughout my life, especially in recent years I have always maintained my trust in God's love and mercy. My hope has always been well placed, for when I needed God most, He always came through for me (E.g., my liver transplant, comforting me at the death of my father, blessing me with life-giving assignments in my priestly ministry). I cannot deny however, that this past summer and fall have been very difficult for me. You are already aware of the life-threatening illness that I had to endure during the second half of July (my recovery being another sign of God's goodness). I have been dealing with several other health issues as well over the past several months. Cataract surgery that was originally scheduled for the middle of June was cancelled not once, not twice, but three times. This last cancellation has resulted in my having to find a new ophthalmologist in Pittsburgh because my condition has become so critical. At this point, I can no longer see out of my left eye (ergo, the reason for the patch I was wearing at Mass). I can no longer drive and my ability to read has been severely compromised. I have no idea when I will be having surgery...that depends upon the appointment that I have on Tuesday, October 14th (thanks be to God).

In addition, the complications that accompany my use of cyclosporine (the life-long anti-rejection medication that I take daily) have greatly escalated over the past several months. The incredible pain from the gout that effects almost every joint in my body (but especially my hands, my hips, and my left ankle) has intensified (the reason for my slow and protracted movements at Mass). Also, the deleterious effect of the drug on my kidneys has increased resulting in the need for increased diuretics with only modest success (I am currently holding on to more than 25 pounds of water weight). We are working with my nephrologist to determine a more effective course of treatment, but for now know that I am in great discomfort.

I share this information with you not to draw attention to myself (for anyone who knows me I do not wish undue attention). And I am most certainly not an invalid. I tell you this to be transparent with my health issues and because I am asking you for your prayers. As I began, I trust in God and know that everything will eventually work out. Your prayerful support most importantly will give me the courage to endure.

Christian Initiation – COME AND SEE

We will be holding COME AND SEE WEEKENDS for those individuals interested in joining the Catholic Faith on the weekends of October 19th and 26th after all the Masses (Saturday, 4 PM and Sunday 9:00 AM). If you or anyone that you know is interested in being baptized Catholic or being brought into full communion with the Church (receiving first Reconciliation and Eucharist and/or being confirmed) please consider joining us on these weekends at a coffee and donut social in the Elizabethan Suite (located in the rectory basement). There is no obligation in just coming to “investigate” what is involved in becoming Catholic or completing your essential sacramental life. These gatherings are very informal and all are welcome to attend. Please note that several individuals have come forward so far this year, so we hope to have a very lively group. Thank you.

Ethnic Fest - A heartfelt THANK YOU to our wonderful and ever faithful group of volunteers who donated Jello and “Spirits” and especially to the people who donated the transport van, ice wagon, Coke and juices needed for the weekend. Thank you also for your overwhelming financial generosity on the part of the many parishioners which helped to keep our expenses down.

A very special thank you to our small but dedicated group of volunteers who gave so much of their time, from making Jello shots, setting up and tearing down our booth, to the small but dedicated group of people who spent their weekend working at our booth. Thank you for your ACTIVE support of Visitation Parish.

A complete breakdown of expenses and profit will be published in next week’s bulletin.

Steeler Tickets 2025 – Thank you to everyone who helped make our Steelers tickets promotion successful. A very special thank you to the many parishioners who purchased tickets and also took some to sell.

Our parish is exceptionally blessed and very grateful to our parishioner who donated the tickets.

The winner of the Steelers tickets was number 512 – Jeanne Conkle, the winner with the number below (511) who won \$100 was Jim Henry and the winner with the number above (513) who won \$100 was Chris Sullivan. Congratulations to those who won!

Our profit from selling the tickets was \$3500.00.