

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

As we've shared in previous bulletins, this month of November has been exciting and full of firsts. The opening of our Pre-School ministry is certainly a great joy and worthy of celebration. Structural work has begun on the classrooms including new fire doors, reinforced wall, and ceiling modifications. Fortunately, the rooms also already have upgraded heating and cooling controls thanks to our yearlong Pastoral Center temperature work project. Cold November days have proven the updated system most valuable and necessary!

A "normal" November would find us together for our annual parish Christmas Bazaar during these very days. I think of the knitting club, the St. John's Guild, the Over 60 Club, the Knights of Columbus, and always the steadfast leadership and efforts of the Catholic Women's Club. Last year's event raised \$7,500 for the temperature control project, and I invite you to see our earlier YouTube video where we shared all the good work done through this grateful generosity (cf. *Your Support at St. John's: Parish Center Maintenance Upgrades*).

As I mentioned at last week's Masses, your regular and weekly tithe (a sacrificial offering and stable percentage of your weekly and monthly finances) supports the ongoing operations of our parish, but it is your exceptional generosity, memorial contributions, donations of still bolder giving that allow us to do still greater things! While there are no Attic Treasures or scrumptious treats this year, the spirit of charity, friendship, and prayerful care of all who rejoice in these parish events remains.

Yet, this November is still providing us opportunity for growth and adjustment. Our young families have innovated catechetical schooling with our Religious Education program, meeting with our children and parents once a month for class at church, with weekly activities at home. Our Worship Commission is studying novel ways to provide greater access to the sacraments and opportunities for praise and worship, especially as we approach the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Confession are celebrated frequently and regularly so that we may be nourished at the life-giving streams of God's abundant grace. Yes, grace abounds!

As we enter into Thanksgiving week, we know things are different this year. But through it all, we know that that which is good, and true, and beautiful remains. It is the good work of personal sanctification. It is the good work of your ongoing generosity. It is the good work of our evangelization and mission. It is the good work of the salvation of souls in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord!

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz