

Thoughts from the Rectory ...

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

The LORD is Risen, Alleluia!
He is truly Risen, Alleluia!

This month of May is certainly a busy one in the great gift, hope, and vitality of life. The song of birds and the colors of buds resound and radiate with eagerness and bursting excitement. The warmer days and brighter skies speak to a newness we long for.

I ask that you join me in celebrating the great work and effort that made our first annual St. John's Craft Fair such a wonderful day and great success. So many vendors and friends came together for this open air event and the spark of joy was felt by so many (even as the winds kept everything fresh)! Special words of gratitude must be directed towards our Family & Human Life Commission, together with Andreana Perkins, who have worked hard for many months with early mornings and late nights to make possible this day. Congratulations!

Last week our Finance Council met and we continue to balance the needs of our parish with its many expenses as well as the volatility of available funds. Thank you for your regular and extraordinary gifts that help sustain our daily and weekly works, as well as your investments into our future endeavours. As you keep our parish in mind every week with your tithe, I wish to express gratitude also to all those who leave bequests in their wills and memorial contributions. These provide for generous and life-giving opportunities here in Agawam.

The first weekend of May we joined several eager children in the joy of their First Holy

Communion. What a blessed day! Let us pray together that the experience we all shared may take ever deeper root in the hearts of these boys and girls, as well as their parents and families, so as to conform us ever more nearly to the tender and gentle Heart of Jesus.

With that prayer, let us also recognize the heart of those near whom all of us have found comfort and tenderness: our mothers. The first sounds each of us begin to sense are the beat of our mothers' hearts and the tenor of their voice. On this Mother's Day, let us remember, pray for, and thank our dear mothers who are the first to have cared for us and carried us close to their hearts. In those first weeks of our existence, and we pray the many years of our life, it is our mothers who show us the first encounters with the love of the heart. May it lead us to an ever deeper appreciation of the divine love of the Heart of God in whom we can have communion. Thank you, dear mothers!

*Happy and Blessed Easter to you and all!
St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!*

Fr. Pierz