

My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings Everyone! From December of 2015 to November 2016, the Church celebrated an Extra-ordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. It was extraordinary in that it fell out of the “normal” time, i.e. every 25 years. Extraordinary too, in that it highlighted God’s Greatest Gift to us: The Gift of Divine Mercy!

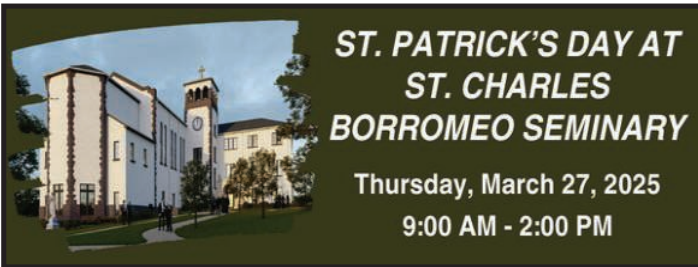
On Ash Wednesday of that year, the Holy Father commissioned, Missionaries of Mercy – priests designated to be a sign of God’s Great love. And at the close of the Jubilee on November 20, 2016, he indefinitely extended the mandate of the Missionaries of Mercy on that occasion.

On March 21, 2023, I received an appointment from the Vatican to be a Missionary of Mercy. I joined 9 other priests of our Archdiocese serving in this special role and over 1,000 priests throughout the world. This week, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, I will be headed to Rome to attend a special Conference for Missionaries of Mercy. We will gather to discuss and learn more about God’s great gift; we will hear confessions in the Church’s of Rome; walk thru the Jubilee Door; and gather for a large Jubilee Mass if not with the Pope, then with his representative Cardinal Fisichella, from the Dicastery of Evangelization.

I share this with you to both ask and assure you my prayers this week. And to encourage you even now, in this Season of Lent, to return to the Lord in the Sacrament of His Mercy! There is no greater gift and duty that I have as a priest than to extend God’s Mercy in that Sacrament. It is such a joy! Trust the Mercy of God and afford yourself that beautiful gift.

Next weekend, we welcome to our parish a priest from Cross Catholic Outreach. This is an organization that works throughout the world, extending the Works of Mercy to others.

Peace, Fr. Rogers



Join your fellow parishioners for a day trip to the new campus of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary on Thursday, March 27. Upon our arrival, we will be greeted by our Seminarians Michael & Josh who will be our tour guides. This day will include a personal guided tour of the campus, a Holy Hour in the Immaculate Conception Chapel, and lunch with our seminarians. We will **Car pool** to the Seminary and **depart from St. Patrick Church parking lot at 9:00AM with estimated return time of 2:00PM**. Please bring a bagged lunch.

For more details on transportation and to join us, please contact Jen Keller in the Parish Office at 610-444-4364 or

jenkellersp@gmail.com

Laetare Sunday

Did you know that the Entrance Antiphon on Sunday, March 30, is as follows:

“Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exalt and be satisfied at her consoling breast.”

Notice the first word of this passage from Isaiah 66, rejoice, which sets the theme for Laetere Sunday. Laetere (which means rejoice) Sunday is a day provided by the Church generally in the middle of Lent that allows us to look past the looming passion and death of Jesus, in order to focus on His resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent and is distinguished by the priest wearing rose colored vestments rather than the usual purple of Lent (similar to Gaudete Sunday in Advent).

The Thursday before Laetere is the middle day of Lent and at one time was celebrated as such. But it was eventually moved to the following Sunday. The point of Laetere Sunday is to provide a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter, just before we enter the somber days of Passiontide. We should look for restrained rejoicing with a certain amount of sadness. On this one day of Lent the Church allows flowers on the altar and instrumental music.

Laetere Sunday serves as a breaker midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character. The Church expresses hope and joy in the midst of Lenten fasts and penances. These signs of joy are intended to encourage the faithful in their course through the Lenten season.