

From the Pastor's Desk

As we look back before Easter, Lent and Holy Week were filled with opportunities at Holy Guardian Angels for reflecting on our relationship with Jesus Christ and seeking ways to reconcile ourselves more closely with His life.

During Lent, we were encouraged to undertake the spiritual practices of social outreach (almsgiving), prayer, and fasting.

Each of these activities are expected to be undertaken throughout the year, but in a more intentional and prolonged way during Lent.

The parish hosted two Lenten Missions, one in English and one in Spanish, where we heard, at different times, about reconciliation itself as well as the efforts of angels to guard and encourage us on our way to salvation. During these missions, we had the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation**.

On this **Divine Mercy Sunday** we acknowledge our generous Lord's mercy and welcome him into our lives through our trust in Him, most especially in times of adversity and uncertainty.

This Divine Mercy Sunday is a special day for reflecting on the importance and significance of repenting of our willful separation from God and reconciling ourselves to Christ's life, even though it is no longer Lent.

Christ's resurrection is a most joyful time and enlivens our hope in eternal life. For the next six weeks, making a total of seven weeks, we celebrate our Lord's resurrection and reflect on this Paschal mystery in the life of the Church.

This Sunday, at St. Barbara Church, the parish will offer Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation from 2pm to 3pm. Following Adoration, a **Liturgy of the Word** will take place. All are welcome!----

Thank you to all who participated in the Holy Week and Easter liturgies!

Thank you to our **Liturgy Team** who organized and helped prepare the different liturgies for Holy Week and Lent, which are more complex than a regular weekend Mass.

Kudos, also, to our **Altar Servers** who managed to juggle the many changes in their duties during the liturgies as well as to our **Proclaimers, Ushers, and Eucharistic Ministers of Communion**.

Thank you to our **Music Ministry** who spent weeks practicing for our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. This ministry comprised of our **musicians and Cantors** in addition to **the Adult Choir and the Bell Choir** provided beautiful arrangements for our liturgies.

Finally, thank you to our **Arts and Environment Team** who help us enter into the sense and season of our most holy liturgies. Thank you to **Dorothy Ball, Pam Carlson, Starr Donovan, Marie LeGros, and Barb Johnson** for decorating the St. Barbara Church for Holy Week and Easter; and to **Pam Vicek** for decorating the St. Louis de Marillac church for Holy Week and Easter. Thank you, too, to our many **donors** who contribute to the financial resources of Holy Guardian Angels Parish. (Our **Easter collection** this year was more than 50 percent higher than last year.) Thank you for all you do!

-Fr. Brian Kean