



July 13, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

The birth of John the Baptist is the beginning of summer feast. The Baptist is not the light, he is a prophet who is to bear witness to the light. We are at the point of greatest light, the longest day of the year. From here on, the days get shorter until the time of least light at Christmas when the Light of the World shall be born into the darkness.

Meanwhile we enjoy the light and long summer days to spend time with family and friends. It will not be long before I dream of entering with Thoreau into the woods. "Whose woods these are I think I know. His house is in the village though." reflects Robert Frost. The woods are a haven of the beauty of God's creation, where flora & fauna are charged with sights & sounds of the grandeur of God. I find no other reason to recline there other than to languish in the peace and beauty of nature at its finest.

The ministry center was particularly challenged this past year with the absence of 3 staff members. We give thanks to God for the return of Stephanie following her debacle with serious illness, surgery, chemo and recuperation spanning the lions share of the academic year. We also give thanks for the return of Deacon Ron after being out for 3 months with knee replacement surgery. Finally, Rebecca our youth minister was out on maternity leave and we give thanks for the early, healthy arrival of baby Zacchaeus. Thank you for your understanding when we were understaffed. It was a very great challenge which makes us even more grateful for their return and in good health.

I wish to thank Linda Rowin, Gala chair, who gave us a wonderfully successful Gala. It was a great community builder as well as fundraiser for parish and school. Gratitude to all who supported our premiere parish event.

We celebrate the completion of phase III school building, looking forward to our first full year of St. Gregory the Great Preschool, accepting 2 year olds this fall. Welcome to all the preschool staff. We thank Rebecca Krawczak for serving as our youth minister this year and welcome Suzanne Guzzardo who filled in while Rebecca was on maternity leave and is staying on as youth minister. She and her husband, Dominic have completed their first year of Deaconate formation. We look forward to ordination in 3 years and pray for them. Judy Roitz is now working as our Wedding coordinator, Funeral scheduler – Jeannine Sullivan assisting, and just recently Baptism coordinator which left Ginger all alone in Faith Formation. We are very pleased that Erica Rossio has joined our staff as the elementary faith formation assistant and we thank Janet Malacane for helping Ginger out in the interim.

The new pillars are such an improvement. The parish thanks all those parishioners who made funds available through the Gala and Annual Catholic Appeal. Some \$58,000 was returned to the parish last year from the ACA and the parish received \$50,000 from last year's Gala which will cover the cost of over 100 pillars @ a thousand dollars each. Without your generosity there is no way we could keep up with expensive maintenance.

A great summer event here at the parish center is Vacation Bible School. We encourage your signing up. It is always a winner and a great week for the children.

Dr. Dan Ebener lead a group of 100 parishioners last year, in an event of Strategic planning. The plan emerged as follows;

1. Evangelization within the community
2. Evangelization beyond the community
3. The parish would hire a young adult coordinator, beginning part time.

"The church exists in order to evangelise' (Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14) What attitude do we need? Faith and courage, Pope Francis would suggest: 'How often we are tempted to keep close to the shore! Yet the Lord calls us to put out into the deep and let down our nets' (*Gaudete et Exsultate*, 130)." "What form might letting down the nets take?" We have retained the expertise of Evangelical Catholic, as highly recommended by the diocese and especially by St. Brigid's parish. Even with the aid of such expertise, much of the work falls back on the parish, in establishing small faith communities. Pray for this wonderful venture in the Fall. We welcome Maggie Morrin as our part-time young adult coordinator who will also help us with Evangelical Catholic. Thank you to all who participated in the offertory increase last Fall; the increase in our collections enabled us to hire her and respond to the third mandate of the Strategic Planning.

Fr. William King and Fr. Pat Browne, once again, will help us out over the summer. Do extend to them your best Saint Gregory the Great, Scripps Ranch hospitality.

Meanwhile, to all of you children (especially children) and adults, may God's blessing be upon you and in your travels. Have a Sabbath Summer.

Rev. Nicholas Clavin

Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor