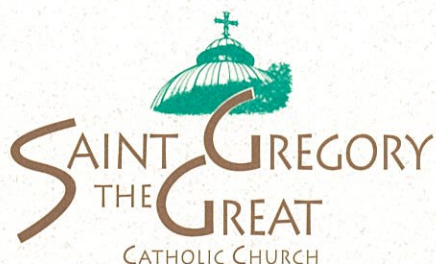


July 9, 2019



*"Come away to a quiet place (wilderness)...and you will find rest." Mk. 6:31*

Dear Parishioners,

Thoreau took to the woods dreaming of an existence, free of obligation and full of leisure. I do believe I want to do the same myself and take to the boardwalk across the bog & which disappears around a great oak and into the woods. It's where I used to pick hazel nuts in the fall in Doorey Wood, the land of the great oak! It was the dream of the children at the closing of school year Mass. And who could blame them? After a long hard year of study, they deserve a break. With the absence of stress, children grow noticeably over the Summer months, taking a brief sabbatical! We graduated a class of 28 this June; just the 2<sup>nd</sup> class to be with us all the way from Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This class, along with our Faith Formation 8<sup>th</sup> graders and High School graduates are in our prayers as they take the next step. It is the role of the teacher to impress upon their minds and hearts, all that is true, all that is good and all that is of beauty – the very definition of God. They also get a much deserved break after a busy school year.

We give thanks to God for the blessings of a great academic year and without surprising challenges. Surely our prayer as we commence the fall. Registration is open for Saint Gregory Catholic School and Faith Formation. Partial scholarships are available for those who want to enroll in our school. Please call the parish office for more information on scholarships. Don't forget to register for Vacation Bible School, which will take place July 22 thru 26<sup>th</sup>. The campus will come alive with the joyful sounds of children having fun & faith. May I joyfully report to you a Gala income of \$90,000.00. God bless Brie Atwater for her super leadership.

Please welcome Fr. Paul Connell, President of Saint Finian's College, High School, my Alma Mater, and now secretary to the Bishops of Ireland. You can rest in a new voice at the pulpit. We also welcome Julia Rodriguez at the front desk, with her youthful enthusiasm, and Matthew Tobin, who holds the new position of Young Adult Minister and Coordinator of Evangelical Catholic.

Both Dominic and Suzanne Guzzardo, our youth minister, are completing their second year of diaconate formation. We keep them, and Nichol Swift who serves on the Diocesan Stewardship Commission, in prayer. Continued prayers for Deacon Ron and Stephanie as they continue their journey through loss and cancer respectively.

Much appreciation for your on- going fidelity to the Sunday offertory. I know that I can count on you to remember us during the summer months.

**Please save the date**, October 19, 2019 at 8:30am in the Parish hall for a day of reflection given by the highly acclaimed national speaker, Tracy Earl Welliver. He will speak on lay spirituality and breakfast will be served.

God bless you all. It remains to wish you all a Sabbath Summer with the following prayer:

Slow us down, O Lord,  
So we may "let the land lie fallow,"  
So we may take time To view your creation with Reverence,  
To see the needs of all Your family,  
To share with our brothers and sisters,  
To celebrate with them the abundant life You offer,  
As we create Sabbath time in our own lives and in our communities.  
Help us to become sensitive to the rhythm of your seasons  
And rest in the security of your grace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor