

*Dear Parishioners,*

***Last Week's Word: "For the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the Father's voice is heard, 'This is my Beloved Son.' We all need to hear the voice of God. But the devil drowns out God's voice to convince us that God is a not good or event absent Father and then when we buy that lie that enemy turns on us and calls us guilty and unworthy sons and daughters. I had a pointed experience of all this while I was on retreat last week with my brother priests at the John Paul II Healing Center. I started the week realizing that I was holding on to a lot of things, especially anger. For a time it seemed I was angry at God.....Through much prayer and assistance it was revealed to me that underneath everything, I was actually angry at myself about some particular things: my own variation of the original lie of the Accuser's label to Adam and Eve of 'You're no good.' When I was able to face the root lie in this area of my life, and renounce it in the Name of Jesus, I was amazed to discover that most if not all of my anger about many other things simply dissipated, because it no longer had a root to hold onto in my heart.***

***"But there was still some residual.... The question of 'why' did bad things have to happen in my life. Why have I been wounded? I was no longer angry with the question, but the question was there. It wasn't until the last day of the retreat, when us priests were broken up into small groups and my brother priests began to BLESS MY WOUNDS. I envisioned a big crack in the earth or the wall, with shafts of light shooting out of it and I felt this blessing in the core of my being.***

***"We need to Bless each other's wounds and to Bless God for the wounds that we have, because by Jesus' Resurrection, at your resurrection at the Second Coming, your wounds, pouring out the light of the Risen Christ, will be your true identity and glory! It doesn't matter how many times we have been wounded or how deeply we have been wounded. The Light of Christ will shine all the more brilliantly through each crack of our wounds, allowing Christ's Light to be dispersed like a brilliant prism. Let us thank God for His Power to overcome wounds by the Divine Mercy of Jesus Christ, and let's start by blessing each other's wounds, so that we might hear the voice of the Father."***

- ***THANK YOU to all for your Christmas and New Year's wishes, cards, and especially your prayers!***
- ***I'm starting to catch up again.....Apart from pastoral emergencies, all calls answered in the order received.***
- ***Theology on Tap: Young Adults, Wed Jan 20<sup>th</sup> at 7PM at the Archer Ale House in Bellingham.***

I'll be speaking at the Northern Deanery Theology on Tap in Bellingham Wednesday evening. ***Any young adults interested in attending, please contact Sarah Marks at the Parish Office ASAP.***

- ***Keys & Codes Update***

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we transition into our new security and access procedures. ***Please note the Code to the Adoration Chapel will change this week. PLEASE DO NOT GIVE OUT THE CHAPEL CODE! ONLY THE PARISH OFFICE MAY SHARE ACCESS CODES.*** If you notice that the new procedures are excessively burdensome, please communicate your concerns to Ruth Miller at the Parish Office and we will review the best way to respond to your concerns. A special Thank you to Travis Switalski, Facilities Supervisor, without whose help this needed security upgrade could not have been achieved.

- ***Special Anointing of the Sick on Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>.***

On the Anniversary of the tragic Roe v Wade decision, there will be **Anointing of the Sick at that Mass for the Day of Prayer and Penance**. This Anointing is especially offered *for all those parents and family members who have lost children in any way: children who've left the Church, the family, their way, or parents who have suffered miscarriage or abortion*. The Anointing of the Sick will also be available for the same reason after all the Weekend Masses next weekend.

- ***Youth Program Updates***

THANK YOU to the ONE COUPLE who has offered to help with **Middle School Youth Group!**

*We still need more regular assistance for both **Middle School and High School Youth Ministries.***

**PLEASE PRAY IF YOU FEEL GOD CALLING YOU TO HELP THE YOUTH AND CALL SARAH ASAP!**

*Fr. Straz*