

From the Desk of Father Ed:

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday in our Gospel we hear Jesus speak the word, Ephphatha, which is Aramaic, Jesus' native language, which means be opened. While He was in the Decapolis, a northern pagan territory, Jesus performed a powerful miracle and healed a young man of his deafness and speech impediment. The miracle restored this young man giving him the ability to hear and to speak plainly. The miracle also fulfilled the prophecy from Isaiah in our first reading, "Be strong, fear not, Here is your God...He comes to save you...(then) the ears of the deaf be cleared...then the tongue of the mute will sing."

During these days of darkness and uncertainty in our Church let our ears be open to Isaiah's prophecy that speaks to us in our time also: We need to be strong in our faith and not fear, because our God is close to us, He is here with us and will never abandon us. He has come to save us. Let us speak plainly to our Blessed Mother by taking up the Rosary, which always opens her ears to our cry that She may cleanse and heal our Church.

Parish Life:

Vivere Christus Award:

This Sunday the Diocese of Paterson will be giving out the Vivere Christus Award. Each parish of the diocese presents a parishioner to receive the award. In 2015 the award was given to parishioner Hap Roman, in 2016 Mike & Marie O'Connor family, and in 2017 Bob Mayer. This year the award, "to live Christ", will be awarded to parishioner, Barbara Bayles. Barbara is a Daily Communicant and very active in the life of our parish. Barbara has been teaching our RCIA program for several years and she coordinates our parish Evangelization Team. Barbara is also a lector and Extraordinary Minister. She provides and maintains the flowers in the sanctuary and church. She volunteers to count the Sunday collection and is one of the women who cook for our First Saturday Breakfast. I invite you to join us for the best breakfast and hospitality on First Saturday morning. Barbara is always at work inviting people to come back to the Church and sharing her strong faith to continue in Jesus' mission to make disciples of all nations. Congratulations to parishioner, Barbara Bayles.

Pavilion Enclosure Renovation:

When I first arrived here in the parish over three years ago several parishioners pointed out to me the need for additional hall space and the desire to enclose the existing pavilion. They also informed me that originally the pavilion building, which was built in 2008 was to be enclosed, however, there was not sufficient funds at the time to do so. I believe that the greatest need in our parish at this time is for additional hall space. The current hall is much too small for the needs of our parish. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds to build a new building, and I do not want to put our parish in any kind of financial debt. I have met with our parish staff, and Parish Finance Council and we have agreed that the best way for us to increase our parish hall space is to enclose the existing pavilion. Several months ago I formed a committee to look into the possibility of enclosing the pavilion. Since then we have met with the diocesan architect and the local building department and are currently in the process of applying for approval from the diocese to proceed with enclosing the pavilion. If we receive permission from the diocese the enclosed pavilion will allow us to use the pavilion all year round, which will be more than double the size of the existing parish hall space. We plan to heat and air condition the space and to have sufficient windows and glass doors so that it will have an open feel with an unimpeded view of the pond and back meadow. Enclosing the pavilion will allow us to have many more events in the parish such as hospitality, fundraising events, seminars, year round space for our youth group, and will give us more options with our Religious Education Program. We have done some restructuring of our parish finances and currently have the funds to enclose the pavilion, which means we would not have to have a campaign to raise money. My hope is that we will hear from the diocese sometime in October to see if they will allow us to proceed with the project. I will keep you informed on the progress of the project. I hope that you will be in favor of the project and realize the benefits that it presents to help our parish grow.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,

Father Ed,

Pastor