

Scott's Corner

We are now beginning a new chapter in our spiritual leadership at St. John the Evangelist with the appointment of Fr. John Ludden as Pastor. I can assure you that Fr. John's appointment by Bishop Dewane is a testament to the outstanding parish community that exists here at St. John. Fr. John is the best of the best and we are truly blessed to have him as our leader. Under his guidance, we will surely continue to grow and prosper well into the future. Please welcome Fr. John with open arms and let us assist him in whatever way possible so that his transition is as effortless as possible.

New York City Marathon update:

This past Sunday morning (November 2nd) while you were preparing to attend Mass, I was sitting outside of Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island in 38 degree temperatures waiting to begin my 26.2 mile trek to Central Park. At 9:40 am, a canon was fired indicating the start as me and nearly 39,000 brave souls made our way to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge with "New York, New York" blaring from the massive speakers. To create a more dramatic start to any marathon I do not believe is possible. I could not wipe the smile off of my face as I made my way to Brooklyn even with the knowledge that for the next three hours I would face numerous trials and tribulations. With over 2 million spectators along the marathon route, you can imagine that the scene was "electric." In addition, there were over 100 bands entertaining us along the way. Although it was quite cold at the start, by the time I made my way into Queens, the temperature had risen into the low 40's. By the halfway point, my nemesis came into view. In my previous two New York City Marathons, the Queensboro Bridge which connects Queens to Manhattan had been my demise. This 1.2 mile incline is brutal at best however I had a different strategy this time around. By the time I arrived at the bridge, I had banked 1 ½ minutes so that I could take my time and not have to push in order to keep my pace. This strategy paid off immensely. As I left the bridge and turned onto 1st Avenue in Manhattan I was greeted by crowds 10 deep on both sides of the road all the way to the Willis Avenue Bridge. Entering the Bronx at mile 20, I could not help but remember Fr. Glackin's last bit of advice "Do us proud." With Fr. Glackin's advice in my mind and his memory in my heart, I ran through "The Wall" and headed back into Manhattan for the home stretch. Arriving in Central Park at mile 23, I was greeted with massive crowds and a canopy of trees in full peak fall color. Adrenaline had the best of me now and with only 2 miles to go I was able to pull from my reserves and pick up the pace. As I turned onto Central Park South and headed for Columbus Circle for the final 1/2 mile, euphoria had set in as I was nearing the end of my journey. I crossed the finish line in 3 hours 13 minutes and 10 seconds or nearly 2 minutes better than my goal of 3:15. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers and thank you for letting me share my marathon experience with you. It was truly magical! My wife also completed the marathon and we celebrated our accomplishment later that evening.

As I sat on the plane waiting to leave JFK, I was greeted by none other than our very own Choir Director, Todd Peterson. Todd had just finished his final visit with his voice therapist to assess the results of his surgery earlier this year to repair the damaged nodes on his vocal chords. Todd showed me a picture of his throat and was very excited that the results of his visit were very favorable. With continued rehabilitation, Todd looks to be as good as new. This is great news as we will be the beneficiary of his beautiful voice for many years to come.

This past Sunday, many of our parishioners received an unauthorized circular on the windshield of their vehicles. This literature was a publication from the Republican Party of Florida. I am not sure who is responsible for its distribution but it was not approved by the Diocese of Venice nor did we authorize its delivery. Please accept our apologies for this unauthorized circular.

Thank you so much for supporting St. John the Evangelist.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager