

Dear Parishioners, Alumni and Friends of St. Patrick's Church,

In the midst of this very hot and humid summer, it's a good time to slow down and pace ourselves. And what better way to do this than with prayer and reflection? Indeed this week the readings focus on prayer. Some mystics say that perfect prayer does not ask or desire anything. Perfect prayer simply enjoys God's presence. Prayer though can be petition, thanksgiving or praise. And yet the supreme prayer that Jesus talks about is to be filled with the presence of God and have a sense that God is walking by our side, talking to us, listening to us, just being with us.

Our ability to pray any way is rooted in our covenant relationship with God. Though the disciples ask Jesus to teach them to pray, their question is really about their relationship to God. What is our relationship with God? How far are we willing to go to interact with God and to risk listening to what God has to say to us? What do we ask for in our prayers of petition? Do we understand the power those words can have when we pray them with meaning? Do we believe that God answers our petitions and gives us as much as we need? Prayer can be so powerful and can change our lives by bringing us closer to God. Prayer is to spend time with God and to enjoy that relationship as much as we do with our very best friend.

This weekend, Fr. Jim Lynch is the celebrant for the Sunday 9:00 AM Mass and I will preside and preach at the Saturday 6 PM and Sunday morning 10:30 AM Masses.

Information and application forms for our Family Based Religious Education Program are now available by email: rector@stpatricksamericanrome.org Registered active parishioners who have been regularly attending our parish Masses and programs will have first preference for enrollment. However, there will be a limited number of openings for non-parishioners and non-active St. Patrick's parishioners. Attendance of the child together with one parent is mandatory for every session. Both parents however must have a comprehensive, thorough understanding of English. The minimum age for First Communion is now 8 years old and the Third Grade (by the first day of class) and for Confirmation it is 14 years old and the Ninth Grade. If you are interested in our First Communion class especially please do not wait any longer to enroll as the class is filling up quickly.

Just a reminder that with so many people away, finances are very difficult at this time of the year. We continue to need your support. If you live in Italy, our Credem Emiliano account is Chiesa di S. Patrizio a Villa Ludovisi. The IBAN number is IT35D 03032 03201 01000 0005028. For US bank transfers, the BIC/Swift code is BACRIT21318. The number of the account is: 010/000005028-5. Or you can send US dollar checks made out to The Paulist Fathers and send to me at Via Antonio Salandra, N. 6, 00187 Rome, Italy. You can also donate via Paypal through our website: stpatricksamericanrome.org Any help would be greatly appreciated.

We are diligently in the midst of working on the new As Romans Do, the first one at St. Patrick's. If you are interested in sponsoring our 100 page bi-annual guide to life in Rome as a way of promoting your business, school or place of work, please write to me as soon as possible and I will send you the information. Stay cool and stress-free this week and I look forward to seeing you soon. Fr. Greg