

Dear Everyone Connected with St. Patrick's Catholic American Community,

I received word from our new Vice Rector, Fr. Steve Petroff, that his father, Joseph, passed away in his sleep this past Friday evening. Our prayers and thoughts are with Fr. Steve and the Petroff family. The funeral will be next week in Clarkston, Michigan.

We also pray for the innocent victims in El Paso and Dayton and their families and loved ones suffering through the unimaginable horror of the terrible acts of violence this past weekend. As Paulist Father Eric Andrews stated yesterday, "Let us take action as a nation to put an end to all forms of home-grown hate and terror."

In next Sunday's second reading, the Letter to the Hebrews states that faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. How is our faith tested? How do we persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus? How do we keep from growing weary and losing heart? Being faithful and acting with trust in God's ways is exactly what God is asking of each of us. How do we respond to this request each day? How do we support and challenge each other's faith? That is why we are part of a Christian community, not to go it alone, but to be affirmed by one another's prayers, presence and support to give each other strength especially in our darkest moments.

This weekend, Fr. Bill Nordenbrock will be celebrating the Sunday morning 9 AM Mass, and I will preside and preach at the Saturday evening 6 PM and Sunday morning 10.30 AM Masses. Our Masses for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary are Wednesday, August 14, at 6 PM and Thursday, August 15, at 10:30 AM.

I urge anyone who has not already done so to register for our Family Based Religious Education Program as soon as possible. Information and application forms are available from me by email only. Please note that there will soon be a waiting list for the First Communion classes. However, there is plenty of room in our Confirmation class and the grades in-between. Active parishioners have priority for all of our classes, but you must get your applications in now. Write to me at rector@stpatricksamericanrome.org.

Just a note that the collections for the entire month of July were 5,588 euros and we need 10,000 per month in order to pay our bills and salaries. I realize that people are away during the summer months, but whatever you can do from a distance to contribute would be greatly and enormously appreciated. Please do not wait until September. We need your help now.

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

If you are in town this week, we would love to see you at Mass. I hope that you are well and happy wherever you during August. Ciao for now, Father Greg.