Fifth Week of Lent

Today we begin the last week of Lent before Holy Week. I hope your Lenten resolutions and works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are going well. These disciplines are intended to make us more attuned to God's presence in our lives and to help us prepare for the great feast of Easter in two weeks. We all are breathing a little easier as even the weather is showing signs that the new life of Spring is right around the corner.

Over the past nine months, we have had 150 new households added to our roster. It also seems as if every weekend, there are several new faces among us. We hope that if you are visiting us this weekend, you might consider officially becoming part of our parish family. You can do so in several ways, you can call or stop by the parish office (388-0040) and fill out a registration card, or pick one up in the ushers room or use our "on-line" registration on our parish website: www.AssumptionFairport.org and click on "registration". We are very proud to be the parish family of the Church of the Assumption, and while we are a large community, we work very hard to keep our interactions as personal and welcoming as possible.

If you have a relative who is homebound and unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive communion regularly, please speak to a member of our staff and we will be glad to issue you a Pyx and train you to take the Eucharist home to them each weekend. We try to visit those whom we know are confined to home as well, especially those who are living alone. If a member of your family is hospitalized, please give us a call at the parish office, and we will make a point to stop by the hospital to visit. These days hospital stays are very short, and with the new privacy laws in effect we do not always know who is in the hospital and are finding it a challenge to catch up with folks when they are hospitalized. If you anticipate going to the hospital let us know and when you check in be sure in list Assumption as your parish so that when we check, we will know that you are there.

We celebrate a communal Anointing of the Sick once or twice each year at our weekend Masses. However, if you are anticipating surgery soon, by all means, please speak to one of us so that we can celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick with you before you go to the hospital. It takes but a few minutes after Mass and we are glad to pray with you and for you. If you would like, we will add your name to the list of people in the bulletin for whom the community is asked to pray each week; if you'd prefer to keep the number of those "in the know" small, we will consciously add you to our personal prayer intentions. It's your call. When you're feeling better, let us know so we can take your name off our list and rejoice with you!

We are busily preparing to celebrate Holy Week and Easter and are hoping that you will make our parish celebrations a priority in your planning for
the holidays. Particularly important is the Solemn Vigil of Easter, which takes place at 8:30pm on Holy Saturday night. At this powerful service of fire and water, darkness and light, Scripture readings, which tell the story of our salvation, are proclaimed before we welcome new members to the community in Baptism and Confirmation. This wonderful celebration lasts a bit longer than a typical Mass, but it is packed with powerful symbols and beautiful actions. Come try it, you'll like it!

Have a great Fifth Week of Lenten.

PS Don't forget the Coffee Hour after all Sunday morning Masses this weekend. Social Ministry is hosting and has a few surprises that you will not want to miss.

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