FR. GARY'S CORNER

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Five years ago, I came to Ascension to assume the role of shepherding this community after Msgr. Tank completed his time as pastor. It was an honor to be selected to succeed him, but those were impossibly big shoes to fill. Msgr. Tank's fingerprints will always mark all the good things that define Church of the Ascension.

In my first homily when I arrived in 2021, I addressed how the work of the Church is done, not so much by the clergy, but primarily by the people in the pews. While the priests, deacons and other parish staff help to build up, form, and serve the faithful, it is the parishioners who change lives, who transform culture by authentically living the Catholic faith in their homes, at their places of work, and in the public square.

As I step aside from my leadership role and hand the reins over to Fr. Scott Wallisch, I hope that the good people of Ascension will continue to share the joy of the Gospel with all whom they encounter. Jesus Christ is the Way, and the Truth, and the Life! May you always proclaim Him as such and live in imitation of His love and truth.

I am so grateful for your commitment to Christ and to the parish's mission, and for the kindness you've shown to me. Your gracious gestures, support, and friendship have meant so much. I have been honored to be permitted to proclaim the Gospel every Sunday and to join this community at the Sacred Liturgy. I apologize if any of my sins hurt anyone. I pray that God's grace will heal whatever my failures might have caused.

This is a wonderful parish with a bright future. I pray that you will afford Fr. Scott the same welcome, kindness, and cooperation that you offered me. May God bless all of you in great abundance. Please pray for me, as I will for you.

Gratefully in Christ Jesus, the Way, the Truth, and the Life,