CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

BAPTISMS

Matilda Eloise Rosales
Kit Kennedy Turner
Mason Downey Fieger

NEW PARISHIONERS

The Schmitz Family
Edward and Debra Tomicich
The Egger Family
John and Cynthia Zabroske
Walter and Connie Whelan
The Carroll Family

BANNS OF HOLY MATRIMONY

Justice McKernan and Jacqueline Baska
Ryan Kelley and Katie Muckerman
Joel Maris and Macy Hill
JT Bell and Brooke Westrom
Paul Strecker and Elke Peak
Austin Palmateer and Katherine Lane

† FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE

Daryl Meyer
Father of Sarah Altenhofen and Amy Lewis, Father-in-law of Patrick Altenhofen and Cody Lewis, Grandfather of Will & Ellie Altenhofen and Daniel, Gwyn & Nolan Lewis

Randy Fine
Husband of Mary Fine

FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. With all of the preparations for welcoming the grade schoolers and preschoolers back, things around here feel like anything but ordinary. But, the Church says it is ordinary time, so who am I to argue?

Usually when I am on a plane, people avoid eye contact and hope that I do not sit next to them. I am guessing it is because I look like a boring conversationalist…or because I wear a Roman collar. One time, though, the man next to me was very interested in talking. He was not a Christian, but when he found out that I had been to the Holy Land, he was eager to discuss a favorite topic: archeology.

At one point in the conversation, he said with great enthusiasm, "Wouldn't it be awesome if we found the bones of Jesus?" I responded, "Ummm, nnnoooo. That would actually be a big problem." He quickly realized the issue and laughed at how devastating that would be for Christianity.

No, there is a good reason why no one has ever found the bones of Jesus. He is, of course, risen from the dead, leaving no body behind to decay. This weekend we celebrate the fact that this is true for someone else, as well. Yesterday (or in two days for those of you who just can't wait to read the bulletin) was the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary.

Why was Mary assumed into Heaven while the rest of us have our bodies remain here decaying after death? Well, it is tied to December 8th, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary. Since the time of the sin of our first parents, humans have been subject to original sin, and thus the result, which is death and decay. Mary, though, being preserved from original sin so that she could be a proper vessel for Jesus, was therefore not subject to the decay of death. She was assumed body and soul into Heaven. We celebrate that she is there, loving us as our Mother with both body and soul, praying that we will be faithful to her Son so that our souls, and at the end of time, our glorified bodies, will join her in the blessedness of Heaven.

My airplane friend may think a discovery of her remains would be the find of a lifetime, but it won't happen in his lifetime, or any lifetime. Meanwhile, she, in her heavenly, glorified body, prays for him and for us.

Hope your first full week of school (or your 20th week of ordinariness) goes well.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch