FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time and last Sunday in August. Wasn't it just July, like, yesterday?

So, I have almost two months under my belt as pastor. Some days that feels like a long time. Some days that feels like the blink of an eye. I chalk it up as a victory that that the church is still standing, there has not been a mass exodus of parishioners, and I have not been tarred and feathered and carted out of Overland Park.

That being said, I probably do owe you an apology. I instituted something here at Ascension without any explanation or introduction. I want to remedy that today.

We have started to pray the St. Michael the Archangel Prayer after the closing blessing and dismissal of all of our Sunday Masses. This is a practice that has been happening after our daily Masses for a while, and we have now extended it to Sunday Masses. It occurs now in many parishes throughout our archdiocese and throughout the country.

The prayer was written by Pope Leo the XIII in 1884 after he had a frightening vision of Satan boasting about his efforts to ruin the Church. The original prayer was much longer, but, in 1886, a shorter version started to be required at the end of all Low Masses (Sundays used to have High Masses and Low Masses).

Although the requirement to recite this prayer at the end of Mass was lifted during Vatican II, Pope St. John Paul II, recognizing that our spiritual battle with the forces of evil will continue until Christ comes again, strongly urged it to be prayed again at the end of Mass.

As we are being sent out from Mass to love and serve the Lord, I think it is important for us to remember that the Devil wants us to do nothing of the sort and will try to prevent us from spreading the Kingdom of God. We invoke the help of St. Michael the Archangel so that our love, service, and proclamation of the Truth are not thwarted by our enemy.

I am sorry that I did not write an explanation before I abruptly started using this prayer at the end of Sunday Masses. I hope this apology will mean that my expulsion-free streak will last at least another month.

May God bless and protect you this week.

In Christ's Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch