FATHER SCOTT WALLISCH'S

PASTOR'S CORNER

Dear Flock,

Happy 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time! Just a couple Sundays of Liturgical Year 2026 left. Start practicing your “2027”s.

Okay, so, today we have a whole smattering of different topics. I am hoping to have something for everyone, like a good blockbuster movie or 5-star resort or ice cream truck.

So, let us begin with numbers. I like numbers. As a former engineer, I really like numbers, you know, like the numbers 3, 12, and 144,000. I really like those numbers. So, if you are like me, you will want to see the numbers in the stewardship insert in this week’s bulletin. In addition to my letter on stewardship here at the Church of the Ascension (unlike some of the Pastor’s Corners, it is actually worth reading), there is a whole page of the impressive numbers of what happened here at Ascension and through Ascension’s parishioners during this last year. I am awed particularly by the number of meals served at St. Mary’s Food Kitchen, the amount of money and food donated to Catholic Charities in our food drives, the amount of cash and gift cards helping women through our pregnancy centers, the number of children formed here every week, and the number of new households.

One of the other numbers that strikes me is how many people serve in liturgical ministry roles here at the parish. It takes a small army to do the most important part of our mission: celebrate the Mass. And yet, this is a just one aspect of the wonderful legion that serves here in all of our ministries. This parish is driven by the generous spirit of its parishioners, who are willing to step up and help in so many ways. Although I know that our folks are not donating their time and talent in order to get any praise or accolades, I am happy to know that we have a history here of thanking our volunteers. This weekend, on Saturday, November 7, we had our annual Thanks-for-Giving event. If you have donated your time in service here this last year, I hope you joined us for this celebration. If you were not able to join us, I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Although I have only been here for four months, I am already proud of the giving attitude that is prevalent here. Thank you!

That wonderful culture of caring has fostered some other fruits that we have been able to celebrate this last week. These past few days, we have observed National Vocation Awareness Week. (Now, you are probably thinking, “Boy, Fr. Scott, this would have been a great thing to write about last week.” Yes, I am a week late this year…or am I 51 weeks early for next year?) Anyway, you all have much to be proud of when it comes to vocations. In addition to the many former/current parishioners who are professed religious, priests, and deacons, we have one woman in formation for religious life (Sr. Anciline [Avery Buck]), six men in formation for the priesthood or religious life (Deacon Alex Rickert, seminarians Jack Oxley, Leo Cruz, and Matthew Fortino, Brother Gideon [Ryan Connor], and Brother John [Christian Rickert]), and one man in formation for the permanent diaconate (Landry Secredou). You have helped create an atmosphere that fosters vocations, and it is a beautiful gift to young people to help them find God’s calling for their lives. Please regularly intercede for those who have found their vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, or religious life from our parish. Also, please continue to pray for and foster the vocations of the current youth of our community.

Alright, I hope at least one of these topics suited your fancy. Have a blessed second week of November.

In Christ’s Peace,

Fr. Scott Wallisch