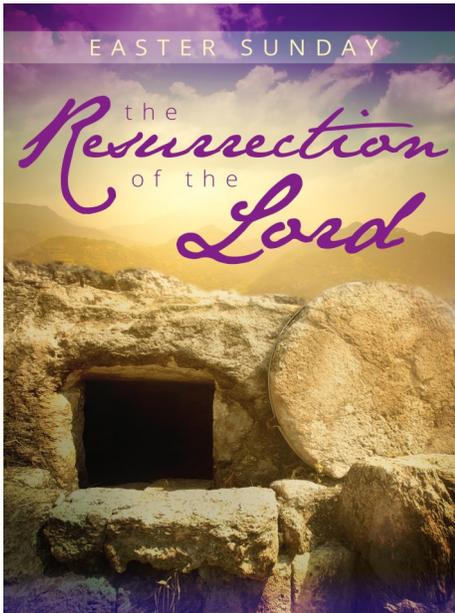




## Happy Easter From St. Mary's of the Lake and St. Benedict's



There is good news! *Jesus Christ has risen from his tomb!* He appears to his disciples to show us eternal life.

As Jesus opens the door to eternal life for each of us individually, we ask him to help bring new life to our parishes.

Last fall we provided updates on how our parishes are doing. There is good news in the fact that since we reopened our doors following the COVID shutdown, our attendance and our collections have been rising. Unfortunately, they have not *yet* returned to pre-COVID levels. With this in mind, we begin to discern God's plan for our future.

***“For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the Lord—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope” (Jeremiah 29:11),***

This led us to the updates I mentioned above and listening sessions at the end of last September. Since then, we have working to uncover God's plan for our future. We immediately addressed some comments from the listening sessions. In January, we began to offer our parishioners written responses to the comments. Now, our plan is ready to be revealed. Next weekend (April 27th) we will offer more details of the plan. For today, on the reverse side of this page, you will find the five goals we have identified and an invitation to join us on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> as we discuss how we are going to implement this plan.

One thing is certain about our implementation of this plan. We need help! The help comes in three ways:

1. The first, of course, is God's help. As I wrote in a recent blog article, “Using What You Have Given”, (<https://renewaloffaith.org/using-what-you-have-been-given/>), “God must be the origin and the director of the work for *“Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build”* (Psalm 127:1).
2. We need the prayers of our parishioners and we appreciate prayers from our visitors.
3. We need parishioners to give of their time, talent, and treasure per my blog article mentioned above.

Peace,

Fr. Jeff



My church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, *if I am.*

Its pews will be filled, *if I help fill them.*

It will do great work, *if I work.*

It will make generous gifts to many causes, *if I am a generous giver.*

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, *if I invite and bring them.*

It will be a church of loyalty and love,

of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, *if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.*

Therefore, with the help of God,

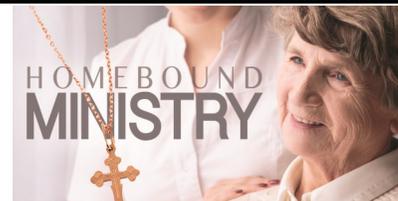
I shall dedicate myself to the task of

*being all the things I want my church to be.*

*Taken from our diocesan Joy of Stewardship Manual*

## ***Goal 1—Outreach***

***Sunday, May 4th after the 10 am Mass in the Parish Center***



## ***Goal 2—Deepen People’s Appreciation of Mass and Develop Prayer Groups and Bible Studies***

***Sunday, May 4th after the 10 am Mass in the Parish Center***

## ***Goal 3—Improve Communication to Our Parishioners***

***Wednesday, May 7th, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center***



## ***Goal 4—Increase Parishioner Participation in Volunteer Opportunities in Our Parishes***

***Wednesday, May 7th, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center***

## ***Goal 5—Develop a Sound Five Year Financial and Building and Grounds Plan***

***Wednesday, May 7th, at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center***

HIS PLAN IS GREATER THAN OUR PLAN.

EVERY TIME.



## ***Revealing Our Strategic Plan***

In September we listened to your comments about our parish.

We began to address some of your concerns immediately.

In January we addressed more of your comments in a bulletin insert.

Now it is time to reveal ***our plan*** that we developed ***with your comments in mind.***

- At all Masses the weekend of April 27<sup>th</sup>, we will present the full plan to you.
- Then, on Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup>, after the 10 am Mass we invite you to join us in our Parish Center to begin discussion. We hope you will volunteer to help implement our plan. We will continue this discussion Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> in our Parish Center at 6:30 pm.

If you cannot attend, please contact Fr. Jeff at [fr.jeffrey.tunnicliff@dor.org](mailto:fr.jeffrey.tunnicliff@dor.org).

BE CHRIST FOR OTHERS

