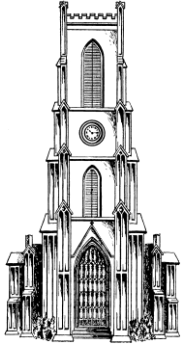


March 17, 2019  
S. Patricii ep., conf.



Dear Parishioners of St. Patrick's Parish,

*"Servite Domino in timore."* Every Sunday morning, the Church prays these words when the second Psalm is recited at Matins, and they resonate in my heart at this moment. It is with both fear and true awe that I look forward to serving the Lord as St. Patrick's 13<sup>th</sup> pastor. St. Patrick's unique mission to serve the Lord in awe through beautiful liturgical worship has had a profound effect in my spiritual life, causing me to count myself as a son of St. Patrick's.

Fr. Pat Wattigny has been a dear friend since my childhood in Covington, and he instilled in me a love for the liturgy. Little did I know that his own love for the liturgy was due in part to St. Patrick's influence. When I began seminary studies in 2007, Fr. Klores was preparing to celebrate the Solemn High Mass for the promulgation of *Summorum Pontificum*. I attended that glorious occasion and a new spark of intrigue was kindled within my heart for the *usus antiquior*. Fr. Klores' paternal generosity followed me through seminary as well as after my ordination in 2012. In addition to these spiritual fathers, I am blessed by the many lay friends I have made over my years visiting this parish. For all these reasons, I consider myself a son of St. Patrick's. I join you in thanking our Lord for the wisdom and vision of Fr. Klores who never wearied to wade against the tide in his 19 years as pastor. Our debt of gratitude is truly vast toward Fr. Bozant for his tireless leadership as administrator. Not only will Fr. Bozant depart with our thanks, but also with our pledge of prayers for the next chapter of his priestly ministry.

Reflecting on the past opens our eyes to God's goodness; looking to the future shows us so clearly our need for an abundance of God's grace. Near and far, the Church faces seemingly unprecedented challenges. But no matter the assaults of the enemy, we know the Church is indefectible. Thus, I look forward to nourishing your faith with the unchanging truths given to us by our Savior. Learning the faith and worshipping God are absolutely vital, yet these are not the only solutions to the present crisis. As such, I am grateful to join forces with Deacon DiGrado, our parish staff and volunteers in the work that lies before us. I hope to cultivate St. Patrick's into a parish that supports your personal piety and your family vocations in even more ways. Of course, our work to spread the Gospel even to the faithless can never be neglected. To fulfill this vision, I beg your ideas, your patience and your elbow grease!

Because my first encounters with St. Patrick's inspired me with awe in serving the Lord through beautiful liturgy, I desire that my first day as pastor be spent in that same awe. To this end, I hope you will join me on Monday, July 1, at 7 p.m. for a Solemn High Mass for the Feast of the Most Precious Blood. Providentially, the cornerstone of St. Patrick's Church was blessed on this same feast day in 1838. But even before my pastorate officially begins, please feel free to contact me at [gobrien@arch-no.org](mailto:gobrien@arch-no.org). On a practical note, Archbishop Aymond has directed me to continue my work at the chancery as a canonist on a limited basis while serving you as pastor.

Whether it's in the dignified simplicity of the weekend English Masses, the regal solemnity of the Extraordinary Form, or the quiet reverence of the weekday Masses, St. Patrick's has many ways of attracting the faithful. In addition, we are blessed to include the faithful of St. John the Baptist Church as members of our parish! However you have come to claim St. Patrick's as your spiritual home, I am honored that I will be with you soon, serving the Lord in awe.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. Garrett M. O'Brien, JCL