

**A FINAL WORD** from Deacon Joe:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made my ministry here as your Deacon so memorable and spiritually rewarding.

I want to thank Fr. Thrasher for his support and inspiration these many years; the staff that I have worked with, especially Janice Proulx, whose assistance was so valuable to me; Sr. Jane Morrissey and the SSJ Leadership Team and all of the Sisters of St. Joseph for their constant prayers and support that they have given me throughout the years.

Last, but definitely not least, you, the people of Holy Family Parish – for you have been the Church and will continue to be the Church wherever you may go.

I pray that you will continue to grow in your faith and continue to minister to one another.

I will never forget you and I will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

With Much Love and Prayers,

Deacon Joe



**SPONSOR OF THE WEEK**

This week, we would like to thank **SAFARIK LANDSCAPING** for sponsoring an ad in our bulletin.

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**THANK YOU ALL** for being parishioners of Holy Family Parish. We wish you luck in your future endeavors. May God bless you and your families.

**Theme:** *Jesus is the Bread of Life. Jesus told his followers that God the Father sent him into the world to bring eternal life to all who believed in him. Now Jesus says that those who eat of his Flesh and drink of his Blood will have eternal life. For some this was too difficult to understand and they left Jesus. We stay and we believe because we have the gift of faith.*

Readings for the Week of May 29

- Sunday: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:51-58
- Monday: Tobit 1:3, 2:1a-8; Mark 12:1-12
- Tuesday: Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Luke 1:39-56
- Wednesday: Tobit 3:1-11a, 16-17a; Mark 12:18-27
- Thursday: Tobit 6:10-11, 7:1bcde, 9:17, 8:4-9a; Mark 12:28-34
- Friday: Deuteronomy 7:6-11; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 11:25-30
- Saturday: Tobit 12:1, 5-15, 20; Luke 2:41-51
- Next Sunday: Hosea 6:3-6; Romans 4:18-25; Matthew 9:9-13

**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday, May 28**

4:00 PM STEFAN KALILNOWSKI requested by the Filip Family

**Sunday, May 29**

10:00 AM JOSEPH MALYSKA requested by John & Tess Cavanaugh

**Monday, May 30**

9:00 AM

**Tuesday, May 31 (at Mont Marie Chapel)**

9:00 AM Janice & Russell Proulx 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

**MAY THE LORD BRING HOME ALL WHO HAVE DIED**

# The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

May 29, 2005

## **FAREWELL**

*I came to Holy Family Parish twenty-five years ago, young, with a new baby and more than a little angry with God. He had taken my sister a few years earlier and I hadn't come to grips with it yet.*

*How could he take someone so young? Why bother going to Church anymore? I felt abandoned by God.*

*I had a new little baby with me, given to my husband and me by God after five years of infertility, a beautiful daughter named after my sister Karen. I could not deprive her of a life with God, a life I had been ready to throw away for myself.*

*Something told me to go back to Church, start anew, try to understand the meaning of life. Yes, I was still angry, my parents and brothers and sister and I were suffering greatly over this loss; but, a nagging thought of returning to Church made me give it another chance.*

*Luckily for me, Holy Family Parish was ready and waiting. My daughter Karen was baptized on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1980 and thus began her new life with God and mine also.*

*When Karen was diagnosed with her disability at a very early age, I was surprised that I didn't blame God – I was maturing in my faith and I knew that God didn't give her this disability to punish me for some reason.*

*My husband and I threw ourselves into our new Church. When Karen turned three I decided to start volunteering at Church. I began teaching CCD, we were greeters at Mass, Russ was a eucharistic minister and I was typing the bulletin for Holy Family on a volunteer basis.*

*In 1989, the most wonderful thing happened and my life took another turn towards the Church, I began to work for it! I was scared, I didn't think I was worthy of working for the Church. I didn't think I knew enough about it.*

*My mom was still having trouble with my sister's death and I asked her to come in to work with me to*

*help me with certain jobs so that she could see that the Church wouldn't fall down around her over her anger at*

*God. We will never get over the loss of our daughter/sister but we have come to learn that you cannot blame anyone for it.*

*I have Father Thrasher to thank for that realization. He didn't do anything special to show us this, he just was himself. Father Thrasher is the most amazing priest I have ever met (and I'm not saying this just because I happen to work for him). I must say that I have never met anyone as honest and caring as he is.*

*When my dad died, it was such a different experience for us – the priests at his wake, the parishioners that came and offered their condolences the heartfelt outpouring of love. This was truly what Church is all about – caring for one another..*

*My daughter has grown up being active in the Church and knowing Father Thrasher and I am glad that she got the chance to get to know such a wonderful and holy man. He has taught her that priests are people just like the rest of us and she is very comfortable around the Church.*

*Now that I have bored you with this long tale of my new life within the Church, I want to thank all of you for making my years here at Holy Family Parish such wonderful ones.*

*I have gotten to know so many of you, taught CCD to your children, had them in our Youth Ministry program, served on various councils with you, belonged to different groups, grieved with you at funerals, and made many friends.*

*I just thank God that he has given me the opportunity to meet and work for all of you. He has surely blessed me in many ways – a beautiful daughter, a wonderful husband, a new and everlasting faith.*

*I will remember all of you and my years at Holy Family Parish forever. Please keep me in your prayers as I will keep you in mine.*

*With gratitude and love,*

*Janice Proulx  
Secretary*