

**FROM FATHER JOHN** – *“Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights. Praise him, all you his angels; praise him, all you his hosts. Let the kings of the earth and all peoples, the princes and all the judges of the earth, Young men too, and maidens, old men and boys. Praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven. He has lifted up the horn of his people; Be this his praise from all his faithful ones, from the children of Israel, the people close to him. Alleluia.” ~ Psalm 148: 1-2, 11-12, 13, 14*

***Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Alleluia!!!***

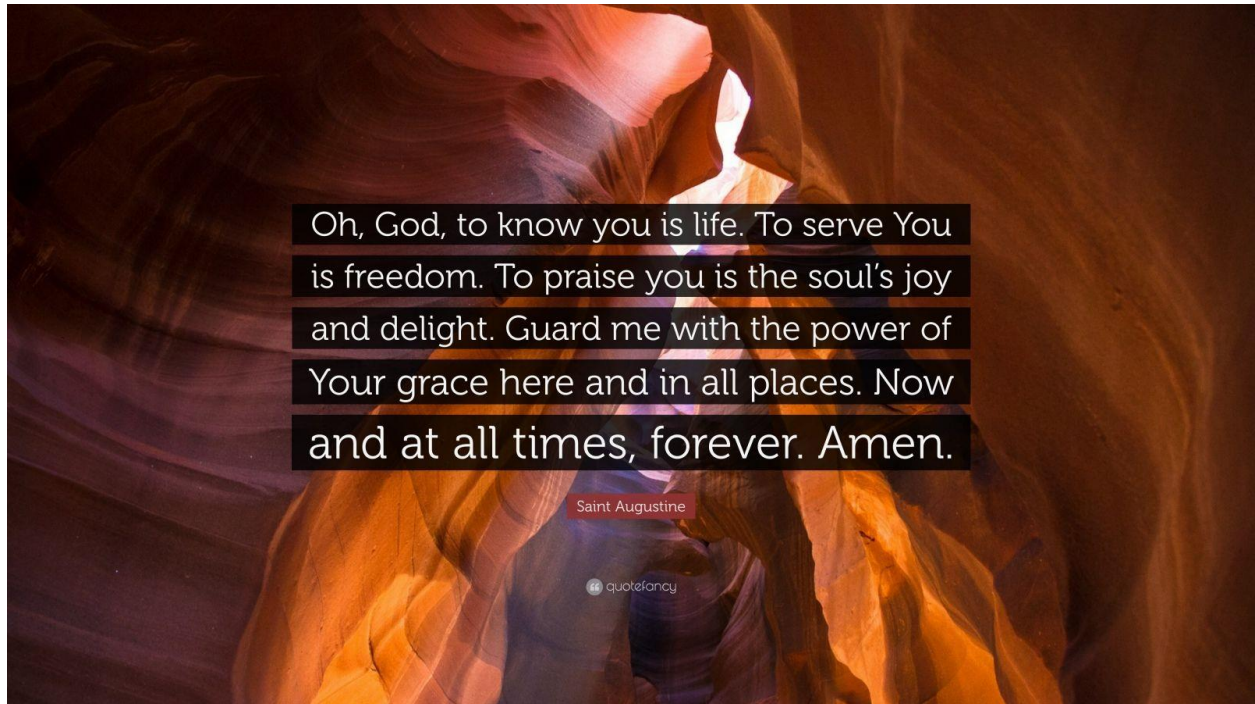
I will be going on vacation this coming Sunday afternoon and will be returning to the office on Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. If you need anything while I’m away, please contact Jill in our parish office. I do have to admit that I am really looking forward to this vacation because, due to the pandemic, I haven’t been able to take a vacation for about a year and a half. I’m very fortunate because a close friend of mine and his wife have a condo on the beach in Florida that they are letting me use.

Deacon Bob will be offering a communion service on Mondays through Fridays while I am away. Also, we will not be having confessions while I am away which means we will not have confessions on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. I have arranged for Fr. Louie to celebrate mass on Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Fr. Dennis Spies to celebrate both masses on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> which means there will not be any disruption of our normal weekend masses.



***Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Alleluia!!!***

I want to share with a discourse by Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church. The discourse is entitled *The Easter alleluia* and is a reflection on the Psalm 148. In this discourse St. Augustine encourages us to praise God and discusses both the happiness we will possess in the heavenly kingdom and the trials we face here on earth. I hope you find his discourse enlightening and enjoyable.



**From *The Easter alleluia* written by Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church:**

“Our thoughts in this present life should turn on the praise of God, because it is in praising God that we shall rejoice forever in the life to come; and no one can be ready for the next life unless he trains himself for it now. So we praise God during our earthly life, and at the same time we make our petitions to him. Our praise is expressed with joy, our petitions with yearning. We have been promised something we do not yet possess, and because the promise was made by one who keeps his word, we trust him and are glad; but insofar as possession is delayed, we can only long and yearn for it. It is good for us to persevere in longing until we receive what was promised, and yearning is over; then praise alone will remain.

Because there are these two periods of time – the one that now is, beset with the trials and troubles of this life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy – we are given two liturgical seasons, one before Easter and the other after. The season before Easter signifies the troubles in which we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we are celebrating at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess. This is why we keep the first season with fasting

and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise. Such is the meaning of the *Alleluia* we sing.

Both these periods are represented and demonstrated for us in Christ our head. The Lord's passion depicts for us our present life of trial – shows how we must suffer and be afflicted and finally die. The Lord's resurrection and glorification show us the life that will be given to us in the future.

Now therefore, brethren, we urge you to praise God. That is what we are all telling each other when we say *Alleluia*. You say to your neighbor, "Praise the Lord!" and he says the same to you. We are all urging one another to praise the Lord, and all thereby doing what each of us urges the other to do. But see that your praise comes from your whole being; in other words, see that you praise God not with your lips and voices alone, but with your minds, your lives and all your actions.

We are praising God now, assembled as we are here in church; but when we go on our various ways again, it seems as if we cease to praise God. But provided we do not cease to live a good life, we shall always be praising God. You cease to praise God only when you swerve from justice and from what is pleasing to God. If you never turn aside from the good life, your tongue may be silent but your actions will cry aloud, and God will perceive your intentions; for as our ears hear each other's voices, so do God's ears hear our thoughts."

May God Bless you and all those who love the Lord.

