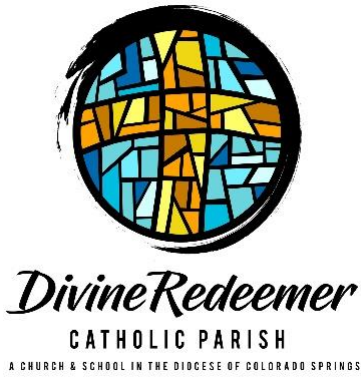


November 30, 2021



Dear Divine Redeemer Community,

As 2021 comes to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect on the past year. We are still challenged with the Pandemic, and we continue to pray for those who are sick and who have died. In June, we welcomed back our parishioners to Mass as restrictions lessened with our Joyfully Back Together concert and Remembrance Mass for all those affected by the coronavirus. From then on, we have enjoyed celebrating Mass in-person with our parish community. Our traditional events come back as well including our Annual Golf Tournament, DR Festival and Oktoberfest.

Our school came back almost as normal in August, in-person with enrollment of 200+ students and growing! Parents have been welcomed back into the building and engaging with our teachers/staff on a daily basis. We are forming little saints and walking the journey with our children is a blessing we can pass on to the next generation. Our school is thriving and our children are engaging in their normal academics and extra-curriculum activities (i.e., sports, after-school clubs, etc.)

We recently saw our staff and students organize Spirit Nights, Popcorn Fridays, Halloween Hop, and Glowsary (Praying the Rosary with glow sticks) events. Our Annual School Gala was back in person with over 150 attendees and \$134,000 raised. The Parent, Teacher, Community Organization (PTCO) has also been busy organizing our spirit wear shop, hosting fun events like the restaurant fundraisers, and sip & socials. The PTCO is self-funding and raises funds to help the school with special projects (i.e., field trips, teacher wants, etc.) Even our 8th Graders are volunteering and raising funds for their end of school year activities including The Summit Bowling Party and trip to Estes Park. We are very pleased with our school and thankful for Kari Smith, our principal and teachers for providing a blessed learning environment.

Our newest staff member, DeAnna Cooper, hit the ground running back in September. She quickly restarted our Religious Education programming with Adult Formation classes, RCIA and RCIC series. She has engaged new Catechists and faith formation leaders. We are preparing 24 students for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We also had 11 Baptisms, 29 confirmations, 2 marriages, 14 funerals, and 2 enter the faith over the past year. We also established our Evangelization Board which I hope you have noticed their table at our events passing out rosaries and prayer cards. Be sure to check our parish bulletin and website often for updates on faith formation events and evangelization opportunities.

We were pleased to announce the formation of our children's choir back in August. Daniel Foster, our Director of Music, established this new choir to help engage children and their families in our Masses. The choir has performed at our Veteran's Day Mass and our upcoming Christmas programming. Please come and enjoy our little angels as they sing in praise of our Lord. Our adult choir has also seen rejuvenation with new members joining and new music being brought to life with joyful praise. Both choirs are accepting new members, please check the parish bulletin or website for updates.

Our parish was introduced to a new program "Praying with the Saints" which has grown each month. We have enjoyed the feedback from guests to our parish; it's a prayerful and solemn time to pray, reflect and focus

during our hectic lives. Other parish life activities saw the return of Parking Lot Bingo over the summer, Vacation Bible School and Bagels & Donut Sundays. Events like this help to bring us together in fellowship to build up the body of Christ.

Our councils have been focusing us on much needed capital improvements; which is critical to maintain a reverent, blessed, safe and secure environment where we are able to worship and praise in peace. This past year, we were able to fix and restripe our parking lot, complete the swamp cooler installation on all classrooms and the rectory, installed new school cafeteria refrigeration/freezer units, complete installation of Community Center kitchen dishwasher and finish the new preschool playground. In the near future, you will see the following upgrades around our parish campus:

- Modular building demolition with landscaping updated
- Tree stumps grinded and holes refilled around the All Saints Center building
- Replacing school's first floor hallway carpet with asbestos abatement
- Update exterior and interior lighting in areas that need more visibility
- Refinishing the pews in the Sanctuary and
- Several other capital projects around our parish campus.

Other capital improvements that we are planning include creating a Bride's dressing room and a potential meeting room in the Community Center. We are also looking to upgrade the flooring in the Community Center Kitchen. Volunteers have already started cleaning and reorganizing the kitchen and storages. Also, we have started making some minor changes in the Food Pantry storage to create a safe environment for our volunteers. We have started looking at a remodel project for our school's cafeteria as well.

With the successful completion of our Elevator Campaign this year, we now look forward to our next big campaign. I have started researching and meeting with an architect to add an Adoration Chapel to our parish campus. This would be such a blessing to provide to our parish community 24-hour, secured Eucharistic adoration where the Blessed Sacrament is exposed and adored by the faithful. Just like the Elevator Campaign, we will begin enlisting volunteers to aide in planning, fundraising, and grant writing. If you are interested, please contact me.

It's hard to believe that we are coming to the end of 2021 with new beginnings in 2022. There is so much to share, plans to be made and projects to execute all in His Name! I pray that you will see and feel the excitement and want to get involved here at Divine Redeemer. We are looking for you to donate your time, talent and treasure. Please consider volunteering at the school or parish, giving financially what you are moved to give during these last days of 2021. During this Season of Giving, any monetary donation is welcomed and appreciated.

In Christ,



Jason Keas

Father Jason Keas, Pastor
jkeas@divineredeemer.net | 719-633-5559