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1/27/2021 (Wednesday)

Dear People of Peace of Christ,

Today is a day of triple transitions. At 10:00 A.M. this morning, I discovered we still have a couple hundred free copies of our Lent Retreat book available for parishioner use. Lent begins 3 weeks from today, and so I invite you to transition your focus forward by way of preparation. The book is titled *I Heard God Laugh: A Practical Guide to Life's Essential Daily Habit* by Matthew Kelly. When I read it last summer, I made a note to myself that this would be a great book to read during our 2nd pandemic Lent. Part 1 of this book is titled "The Unexpected Life" where we read that "Life doesn't unfold as we plan" and of "two enduring truths: We cannot live without the hope that things will change for the better, and we are not victims of our circumstances." And that's just on page 2! Call us at 288-5000 to reserve your copy. You could read it in one sitting, but we'll stretch it out through Lent with the opportunity to participate virtually in discussions and to watch related accessible videos on your computer at home.

Second, at 11:56 A.M. this morning, Governor Cuomo released us from Orange Zone restrictions so we will be re-opened for Confessions and Masses on the regular weekend schedule: Confessions at St. James (3:45-4:15 P.M. Saturdays), St. John's (8:15-8:45 A.M. Sundays), and St. Ambrose (4:15-4:45 P.M. Sundays); and Masses at St. James (4:30 P.M. Saturdays & 8:00 A.M. Sundays), St. John's (9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. Sundays), and St. Ambrose (9:45 A.M. & 5:00 P.M. Sundays). Of course, the obligation to attend will not be in effect until we are at the pandemic's end, so we will still be livestreaming all Masses at St. James (at the times listed above) as well as the Rosary on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M. (which you may attend in person if you wish) and the Stations in Lent on Tuesdays at 6:30 P.M. (which you may attend in person as well if you wish). Keep your eyes on our weekly bulletin, our web site and our Facebook page for further updates regarding Holy Week and beyond.

And third, at 3:49 P.M. this afternoon, I received word that in this year when I reach my eligible age of 72 to attain senior priest status, I was approved today by the Bishop and the Personnel Board to retire on June 29th. Such transitions always take place on the last Tuesday of June at 6:00 P.M. In fact, it was on June 29th at that time seventeen years ago in 2004 that I began here when our three churches together were called the Winton-Culver Catholic Community. Thanks largely to all of you, it has very happily been the longest appointment I have ever had in my priesthood! I'll share more on that in the months ahead, but on this June 29th, I will relocate for my retirement to Our Mother of Sorrows Rectory in Greece. Fr. Bill Coffas, the pastor, is a native of St. Ambrose and was with me 20 years ago at St. Mary's in Auburn for his pastoral year of seminary. Fr. Bill Darling also resides there and we are in the same Jesus Caritas priest support group. Newly ordained Fr. Joseph Martuscello is also on staff there, so it should be quite a well-rounded home—as I have experienced here with so many other priests through the years. Change, though, and moving are never easy for me. May we keep one another in prayer in these months ahead during this time of transition. The peace of Christ be with us all, now and forever!

--Fr. Bob Schrader