

Welcome to 2024 – A New Glorious Year of Opportunity and Connection

St. John Fisher Parish Family

Pope Francis encourages us to spend time in the Lord's gaze. "When you visit the Lord, when you look at the tabernacle, when you receive the Blessed Eucharist, what do you do? Perhaps you speak, think, meditate and listen. That is very good, but do you let yourself be looked at by the Lord? He looks at us and this is itself a way of praying. How does He view you? What does He think about your life?"

Quite a reflection and opportunity as we begin a new year! Your Parish Council, partnering with the staff and all the ministries and volunteers work together to provide you ways to connect with your faith and the Lord each and every day. Celebrating, acknowledging and sitting in the true presence of Christ present in the Eucharist is the base from which all we do flows – His presence, His mercy, His grace, His promise. In Adoration, in receiving the Eucharist at Mass and in His presence at the tabernacle, it also flows for ALL of us.

As we progress through this new year, we will continue to offer ways to express your faith, celebrate your talents and grow closer to the Lord – whether in action, in contemplation, in learning, in prayer, in service, in celebration – our annual SJF theme of **"The True Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist"** will guide all we do.

A good place to start is to review the ministries listing in our bulletin to see if there is an area that speaks to you – we will have a **Ministries in Motion** event after Masses one weekend where you can also learn more. We also plan to highlight various ministries and staff activities throughout the year as they provide excellent opportunities to be involved and active in your faith expression – in whatever way that presents itself for you.

Our first highlighted ministry is **Christian Outreach** with their annual plan on the backside of this sheet – new volunteers are always welcome, as are new initiatives. Please be sure to mark your calendars with the activities that speak to you.

This is your Catholic faith, this is your St. John Fisher parish family, this is your new year ahead to make it ALL you need it to be – as such, please know we are always open to new ideas, new ways of doing things and new ways of connecting.

To continue with Pope Francis' address about the Gaze of the Lord ... "Do you let yourselves be gazed upon by the Lord? But how do you do this? You look at the tabernacle and let yourselves be looked at ... it is that simple! It may be a bit boring and your mind may wander but let yourself wander. He is still looking at you. But know for sure that He is looking at you."

What do you want Him to see?