

November 9, 2025

A Letter from Fr. Patrick Kizza

Flowing Waters and Living Temples: God's Presence in Everyday Life

The readings from Ezekiel, Paul's letter to the Corinthians, and the Gospel of John remind us that God's presence is not confined to a physical structure, it flows into every aspect of our lives like the life-giving water that Ezekiel saw pouring from the temple. That water, bringing freshness and life wherever it flowed, is a powerful image of God's grace constantly renewing and healing us. Just as the water turned the salty sea into something fresh and life-filled, so too can God's Spirit transform even the most desolate parts of our hearts and relationships.

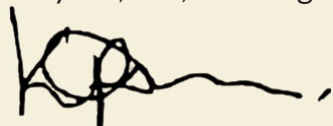
Saint Paul builds on this vision by reminding us that we ourselves are *God's temple*. God no longer dwells in stone walls, but within each of us. This truth challenges us to treat our bodies, our hearts, and our communities as sacred places. When we choose kindness, forgiveness, and love, we allow God's Spirit to flow freely through us, bringing life to others just as the water from the temple brought life to the desert.

The Gospel brings this message to life in a very human moment: Jesus cleansing the temple. He drives out the merchants and money changers, restoring the temple's true purpose, a place of prayer and communion with God. It's a dramatic reminder that sometimes, our own "inner temples" also need cleansing. In our daily lives, this might mean setting aside distractions, unhealthy habits, or grudges that clutter our hearts. Each time we forgive, pray, or serve someone in need, we make room for Christ to dwell more deeply within us.

A simple, everyday example of this can be seen in moments of quiet care and compassion. Consider a person comforting a grieving friend—not with many words, but with presence, patience, and prayer. In that small act, God's living water flows. It refreshes both the one who grieves and the one who gives comfort. This is how the Spirit builds up the temple of God in our midst, one act of love at a time.

As we remember our deceased loved ones this November, we are reminded that their faith continues to live in us. Their love, prayers, and examples still flow through our lives like Ezekiel's River, quiet, steady, and life-giving. I am grateful to our Ministers of Bereavement: **Liz Brandt**, **Maureen Schmidt**. They do an outstanding ministry to our grieving families. I applaud the efforts of **Maristella Lee** and our music ministry that brings such comfort to families at the time of the funeral. I am grateful to **Joanne Manarik** and **Jennifer Boldry** who are often the first contact a grieving family has with the parish. I am grateful to the presiders who make an earnest effort to address the families. We are so blessed by the funeral homes that care for many of the funerals here at Saint Patrick. Their compassion is a living sign of God's Spirit at work—healing hearts, renewing hope, and keeping the waters of God's love flowing in our community.

May we, too, be living temples where God's grace overflows.



Fr. Patrick