

## From the Desk of Fr. Patrick

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the Gospel this week (John 14:1–12), Jesus speaks words that bring comfort and direction to every heart: *“Do not let your hearts be troubled... I am the way and the truth and the life.”*

These words were spoken to disciples who were confused and afraid, unsure of what was coming next. In many ways, they speak directly to us today. In a world filled with uncertainty, challenges, and questions, Jesus does not simply give us answers, He gives us Himself. He assures us that He is the way that leads us to the Father, the truth that grounds our lives, and the life that fulfills our deepest longing.

This Gospel reminds us that our faith is not just about knowing ideas, but about knowing a person—Jesus Christ. When we walk with Him, we are never lost. When we trust Him, our fears begin to fade. And when we remain close to Him, especially through the Eucharist, we experience the presence of God in a real and powerful way. This is beautifully witnessed in the lives of our children who received their First Holy Communion this weekend. For them, Jesus is no longer just someone they hear about. He now comes to them in the Eucharist. As a parish family, we rejoice with them and pray that they will always remain close to Christ, who is their way, their truth, and their life.

In a special way, I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to our second-grade catechist Chris Puszynski for her dedication, patience, and love in preparing our children for this important moment. Her commitment reflects the very mission of the Church, to lead others to Christ. To our beloved parents, thank you for entrusting your children to Saint Patrick Church Religious Education Program. Your support, faith, and encouragement are essential in helping these young ones grow in their relationship with God. Please continue to pray with them and guide them, so that the grace they received may continue to bear fruit in their lives.

I am also deeply grateful to all the volunteers who assisted the Knights of Columbus in setting up and taking down the exhibition of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary from around the world. Your generosity and service made it possible for many to encounter the beauty of our faith and to grow closer to God through the example of Our Lady. Like Mary, who always leads us to her Son, your efforts have helped point others to Christ, who alone is the way to the Father.

As we reflect on this Gospel, may we hold on to Jesus’ promise: He has prepared a place for us, and He walks with us each day. Let us not be troubled but instead deepen our trust in Him. And like those who serve faithfully in our parish, staff, catechists, parents, and volunteers, may we also become witnesses who lead others to Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life.

-Fr. Patrick