

To the Parishioners of St. Augustine's and St. Mary's,

Pope Francis challenges us to open ourselves to the Holy Spirit, so as to be an active part of our communities.

After moving to Baldwinsville, I daily consider myself greatly blessed to minister with the people of St. Augustine's and St. Mary's. This is especially true as we look to our celebration of Holy Week.

It has often been said that our journey through Holy Week is an acknowledgement of our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection in the lived moments of our days. It is likewise an occasion to celebrate the universality of our Faith. Pope Francis captured it perfectly as he preached that, Holy Week means reaching out to others in our celebration of all that is integral to our Faith as Catholics.

As pastor at both St. Augustine's and St. Mary's it has an even more personal meaning because within the mysteries of the Easter Triduum we acknowledge all that is foundational for ministry. The exercise of Priesthood finds its meaning in the service of God's people. It is with this centrality in mind and in conversations with the leadership team of both parishes (parish council, liturgy committee, music ministry, ministry team and staff) we have developed a plan to celebrate Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil together. Holy Thursday and Easter Vigil will include both communities. This year Holy Thursday will be at St. Mary's and the Easter Vigil at St. Augustine's.

On the weekend of March 17th and 18th we will offer a more detailed explanation of these liturgies but in the meantime we are reminded of the following: Both parishes are vibrant and growing celebrating Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil together is simply about our communality as a people of faith.

Thank you for all you do to enhance who we are as a people of Faith.

In prayer,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. G. H. K." with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.