

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

IT'S THAT TIME FOR MANY THANKS

Actually, any time is good for giving thanks, but the great success of our parish festival this year is due to God answering our prayers. He answered them not only with the excellent weather, but also through the generous hearts of our festival workers who always come together in good spirits to make the festival work like a well-oiled machine. I am always amazed when bands at football games not only play music so well, but simultaneously march into a formation of a word or design. This is how I see our festival unfolding year after year. To all the planners, workers, and clean up team, you are a blessing to this parish. Thanks a million. And thanks to all who supported the festival by participating in it.

IT'S THAT TIME FOR EVEN MORE THANKS

I also want to thank everyone who donated to St. John's Future Home Advancing Our Journey campaign, whether in the past few months or on our Commitment Weeks. Your generosity is moving us toward putting the shovel in the ground! Thanks, too, to all who have visited, made phone calls, helped with the Masses on the Commitment Weekends. I know everyone's schedule is tight, but despite this, so many people have given of their time to raise the money for the new church. If you have not seen the plans, visit stjbfuturehome.org. To see the virtual tour, visit: stjbfuturehome.org/past-presentations/. It is never too late to donate to this great endeavor. Just call

Mike Newton at 513-367-9086 x 211 or email him at mnewton@stjb.net.

LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

With Independence Day this Tuesday, it may be good for us, even before our first parade or brat, to reflect on what it means to be a citizen of this country in light of the founding documents of our nation, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights and other amendments of the Constitution of the United States. These are available at: www.archives.gov/founding-docs. Click on the left column for the documents, and then on the right column towards the bottom SEE TRANSCRIPT to view the typed version. Actually, none of these documents, as important as they are, are very long. It is good for us as Catholics to read them, not only in the sense of how do we benefit from them, but also to read them with all people in mind, especially asking where we still have work to do to bring the ideals they embody to reality for all people.

It's an experience of thanksgiving and recommitment to live the American dream, not simply the one of a house, a job, and what I want, but a recommitment to be agents of continual growth in moral goodness, personally and societally. Let us pray with grateful hearts and open minds that we may be blessed as a nation by living the will of God in our context of free men and women.

Have a blessed 4th and week ahead. *Fr. Jeff*