

## FROM OUR PASTOR



With the approval of our **Master Plan Special Use Permit** by the county a few weeks ago, many have asked me “when are we going to begin construction, when will the columbarium be ready, are we really going to have a pre-school, what are the next steps?” I will try to offer some preliminary ‘best-guesses’ here. The next step is for us to prepare **construction documents** and also materials to begin taking orders to secure the **sale of columbarium niches**. That is scheduled to take place the first half of 2025. In the mean time, we are already looking at the possibility of opening a **Pre-K** in the fall of 2025 in our existing nursery space as a ‘satellite campus’ to **St. Thomas Aquinas Regional School** (our shared parish school located at O.L.A.). More information on that will be forthcoming, hopefully in early January 2025. After construction documents are complete we will obtain cost estimates to prepare the overall financial model to complete Phase III of our Master Plan. Then we need to obtain final approval from the Bishop and his Building Construction Committee in the latter half of 2025. The final step is approval of our overall finished site-plan by the county. This process is estimated to take 9-12 months from time of submittal. Our Civil Engineers hope to have this plan submitted by early



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spring 2025 so the soonest we think we can ‘break-ground’ and **begin construction would be the spring or early summer of 2026**. The duration of construction could last 18-24 months, so the **general estimate of time of completion would be late 2027**.



I want to express my deep gratitude to Almighty God, and to you, the good people of Seton Lake Ridge who, through your generous financial contributions, support and prayers, have brought all of these facility and ministry enhancements closer to reality.

Advent Blessings to all ~ Fr. Bashista

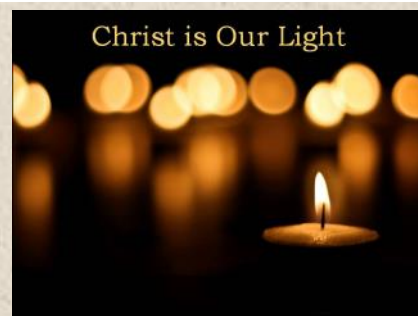
## WEEKLY REFLECTION

### Called to the Light

“God is light and in him there is no darkness,” John writes in his first letter (1:5); and Paul writes that God “dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:16). The divine light enters the world and shines over all people when God becomes human. This is the great event in human history: The divine life, the perfect and unapproachable light, has left the bosom of divinity and become visible among us in the person of Jesus Christ. He has “called you out of darkness into his marvelous light” (1 Pt 2:9).

The fact that the light has come to you brings tangible consequences, but only if you truly receive it and let it light up your darkness. Living in Christ will let you stay close to him, and feel his light and warmth. Ever since the beginning, darkness and light have stood opposed. Darkness is exactly the denial and the disavowal of Christ. As light is the glow of the divine truth, so darkness is a terrible effort to suffocate the effects of the light. The scene of this struggle is the human soul. It is painful to realize that so much within us and around us seems to reject the light.

The world has not received him, his own reject him and love the darkness more than the light. Nevertheless, we must believe in the insuperable power of the light. “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it” (Jn 1:5).



Christ is Our Light

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