



Freedom

On July 4 we celebrate Independence Day. The authors of the Declaration of Independence considered themselves to be free: free to make decisions regarding the future of their lives, free to worship, free to work out for themselves how they would spend time on this earth, time that God had given them. For our founding fathers, and for us today, freedom does not mean that we can do whatever we please. It means that we are free to make choices, but our choices, hopefully, will be determined by good moral and religious upbringing.

On Independence Day, we reflect upon this great gift of freedom God has bestowed upon our country and we take time to say, "Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be free. May we always cherish this gift and never take it for granted. May we make responsible decisions, decisions that will reflect our love for you and all of your creation. May we continue to work for peace and justice, not just here in our own land, but for all people throughout the world. You have created us and we know that we are brother and sister to each other. Help us to treat one another accordingly."

The sacrifice of Jesus has set us free from the bonds of death and sin. St. Paul tells us that "no distinction is made: all have sinned and lack God's glory, and all are justified by the free gift of God's grace through being set free in Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:22-24) May we use our freedom to do more than avoid sin. May we make Jesus' reign here on earth one of peace and love, always lived out in freedom.

May you have a wonderful and safe holiday. May it be a time of refreshment and renewal for everyone!

Father David

Update on Capital Campaign and Church Roof

As of June 25, our 2016 Capital Campaign has raised \$109,906. Our goal is \$250,000. I am very pleased with the generosity that is reflected in what has been given to the campaign as of this date. I also wish to thank all those who have participated thus far. If you have not yet made a commitment to the campaign, I ask that you prayerfully reflect on what you are able to give so that our parish complex may continue to be a spiritual and comforting place to worship and grow in faith. I am also pleased to report that our new church roof is in place and only minor details need to be attended to. *(By the time you read this article, it may already be finished!)* I also wish to thank our parishioner, Bob Johnson, who has overseen this project with diligence.

Father David