

### *A Message from Fr. Jim*

This week as we celebrate our independence, our freedom, we pray for those who have and are serving our country. We owe our freedom a great debt.

As we approach the day of our independence we must remember that we are free! What a gift! As people who have this very precious gift we have a great responsibility. We must use this freedom for the good of all.

Freedom, true freedom, belongs to God alone. Our Savior is the true warrior, the true soldier, the Son of God who purchased our freedom upon the wood of the cross. We must never forget that we enjoy the freedom as a nation due to the shedding of countless soldiers' blood, and we are truly free due to the shedding of Jesus' blood. That divine and holy blood that was offered up to the Father for you and me! Jesus is the one who is King of Kings and Lord of Lords and by His power and His gracious gift He has blessed us as His free brothers and sisters. Free from the grave and destined for eternal life. This is true freedom! Enjoying what we have on this side of eternity but not becoming attached to anything. There's a song with the line that says "Freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose." There is some great truth in this line. Scripture tells us that all things will pass away except God and His will. God is eternal, all other things will be no more. No more money, no more needs, no more sky or earth. No more death, no more pain, no more pleasure or happiness out side the happiness and joy we will have in God. This is the freedom that you and I have because of God's love for us. With such a great gift as freedom let us respect, love and serve each other as true children of freedom.

God Bless,  
Fr. Jim