

PARISH UPDATE

St. Agnes ~ St. Paul of the Cross ~ St. Rose

JULY 17, 2020

Thank you, Volunteers!

I'm increasingly convinced that gratitude is a fundamental characteristic of the true Christian soul. Life is inevitably challenging. There will always be difficulties and even tragedies. It's just the way of life on earth. Not until we get to Heaven will we know the perfection of joy and peace. The more we can endure adversity without giving in to despair, the more we resemble the wheat that Jesus referred to in this weekend's Gospel. Patient endurance and trust in God will enable us to be gathered into His barns. God's blessings are so many that we easily forget about them or take them for granted, even under normal circumstances. Amid the unprecedented struggles of our current situation it's even more crucial to express thanks and praise to God.

I've been feeling a particular sense of gratitude in the past few weeks that we have been able to celebrate Mass with the faithful in attendance. One of the major chores that needs to be done in new liturgical environment is disinfecting the pews and other common surfaces after Mass. Many volunteers have stepped forward and generously offered their time and effort to help perform this essential task. I continue to be humbled by the sheer volume of all work that is accomplished at our churches by ushers, collection counters, office workers, schedulers, gardeners and other important jobs: laundering sacred linens, lecturing, arranging altar flowers, hanging liturgical banners, altar serving, facilitating Children's Liturgy of the Word, and routine cleaning. The list goes on and on. Please forgive me for any activities that I have failed to mention. There is simply no way that our worship sites could continue to operate, and be as beautiful as they are, without the generous persons willing to perform these invaluable services without pay; even without thanks.



Yet there's something visceral about the work being done more or less on the front lines of combating the Coronavirus. First of all, the disinfecting work simply *must* be done, by Diocesan direction and ultimately accountable to State authorities. Regardless of the requirement we simply *want* to maintain the safest possible environment for our parishioners to be able to attend church and be protected from contagion. Beyond these essential drivers there is an element to this work that might be distasteful to many people. Any kind of cleaning, but especially "disinfecting" or "sanitizing" the surfaces likely to be touched by members of the congregation, might suggest to some people a job that is below their dignity. In fact, I believe that the volunteers doing this work for us all are of superior honor and most worthy of our gratitude. They are like Christ "who came to serve, not to be served." (Matt 20:28)

In Praise of Service,

Father Michael Fowler

Be Well, Stay SafeHope to see you in church soon!!

Normal Mass Times are now being observed. Attendance has, understandably, been light. We are observing appropriate social distancing protocols and you will notice pews are taped off to allow for this. Hand sanitizer stations are at all the doors of church and parishioners are asked to wear a mask. Our churches are being sanitized before and after each Mass. This is a HUGE and IMPORTANT job. If you'd like to help, just stay after Mass for a few minutes....it doesn't take long!



General Guidelines for Mass Attendance

- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains suspended in the Diocese of Rochester
- Those who are at a higher risk for COVID-19 and those concerned for their health should not to come to church.
- Those who feel sick in any way should not come to church.
- All persons two years old or older must wear a face mask. Please provide your own mask.

- All persons present at Mass must maintain six feet or more away from other persons (“Social Distance”). Families of the same household may sit together.
- Offertory collections will not be taken by ushers, a large collection basket will be placed in the center aisle for contributions to be placed before or after Mass. PLEASE consider online giving.
- Missalettes or other worship aids will not be provided; you may bring your own materials but please remember to take them home with you.
- The Sign of Peace remains suspended.
- No holding hands during the Our Father except among families who wish to do so.

Guidelines for Reception of Holy Communion

- Distribution is via the host only, which is the Body and Blood of Christ; there will be no separate offering of the Precious Blood.
- Only the Priest Celebrant will distribute Holy Communion. Approach via the center aisle, observing the tape on the carpet with 6 ft intervals delineated for social distancing.
- Once the host is placed in the palm of your hand, move to the side, lower your mask, consume the host and replace your mask.
- Return to your seat via the side aisles maintaining social distance as much as possible.

**Remember to be patient,
the Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith, no hurry.**

Check these out . . .



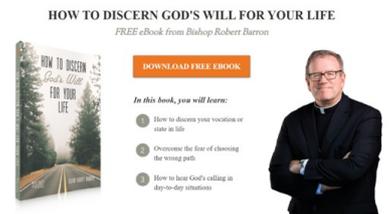

How about a virtual field trip . . .

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., is offering free virtual tours. The entire basilica can be viewed.



Free e-book by Bishop Robert Barron

Bishop Robert Barron has released a free e-book titled *How to Discern God's Will for Your Life* - your vocation or state in life, overcoming the fear of choosing the wrong path, and how to hear God's calling in day-to-day situations. You can download the e-book here. →




OUR PARISHES ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DIFFICULT TIMES!

Donations can be mailed to:
96 Prospect St., Avon, NY 14414

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING ~ Go to our website and click on the ONLINE GIVING Link.



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