

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

At this time many have returned to Sunday Mass, others are coming to weekday Mass when there are fewer people. I know that others of you are staying home still especially if you have health conditions to be concerned about.

So, I am here with our new Associate Pastor, Fr. Paul and our new seminarian, Deacon Robin to give a short update on what is happening in the parish at this time.

First, for your information, the offices are now open, we do encourage you to contact by phone or email to limit the need to come in person to the office. But, we are available for appointments for those who need to meet or for confession.

Despite the Covid limitations, there is much new life in the parish. We are celebrating many Baptisms. We limit these celebrations to maximum of two families. Fr. Paul, Deacon Robin, Deacon Tom and myself share these baptisms and they are joyful celebrations.

We have also recently had a number of weddings with couples who have decided to go ahead with their wedding though unable to have any large reception afterwards.

During October we have started to have our First Communion celebrations for those that were cancelled in the spring. Now in grade 3, these young people are excited to finally be able to celebrate this special Sacrament for the first time. Please pray for all of these young people celebrating these various sacraments in our parish at this time.

We were hoping to focus on youth ministry in this coming year. Though this situation limits what we can do, Fr. Paul and Deacon Robin are working to begin some initiatives. This includes something from our Children's Liturgy group, young adult meetings, connection with St. John de Brebeuf High School. I will let Fr. Paul describe these for you:

### **Children's Liturgy**

- Good news: (dedicated group of parishioners)
- Children's Liturgy group has initiated weekly videos for the children in our parish corresponding to the Sunday Gospel
- These short videos contain the weekly Gospel message in a way kids understand as well as some crafts and fun activities for the kids to incorporate Gospel values.

- Updated weekly on our parish website and on our new Children's Liturgy FB page: [St. Catherine of Siena Children's Liturgy](#). Invite you to join this FB group - You can find a link to this group on our parish website.
- Feel free to invite other young families to join the FB group/share videos with them - build up our young families

### **Young Adults Group**

- Initiating a young adults group in our parish (compliment team of young adult volunteers)
- Young adults face many challenges in society/the church - way to respond to their needs
- Invite all young adults - "university age" - (18-30)
- Instagram group "[Ascent YM](#) - or email/contact Fr. Paul/ Deacon Robin at parish office
- Take the plunge and make unforgettable memories and lasting friendships/relationship with God- discover a side of the church you never knew existed

### **Youth initiatives**

- [Teens](#) - grades 9-12 (Platform @ St. Jean de Brebeuf) (compliment staff)
- Ie: in the past - campfires, hikes, retreats, fellowship, formation - Difficulties with large 'traditional' group due to COVID 19
- Planning some future events/training some leaders - possibly some youth videos forthcoming on topics regarding the church where it touches your life.
- [Elementary age kids](#) - planning some resources for them - virtual Q and A sessions /video

As you can see, there is still much life in the parish despite the challenges. Especially I know that many of you are keeping a life of prayer alive in your homes. Let us keep our connection alive through our prayer for the parish and each other. Feel free to contact us if you have any needs.

St. Catherine of Siena, Pray for us.