

VOTIVE LIGHTS AND MASS ATTENDANCE

Two relatively brief items packed into one....I just found out that the votive lights in the rear of church, below the St. Joseph statue, are now fully paid for after only three years or so; that's over \$9,000 you've contributed, even with the attendance limitations of the past year! But more importantly, what that means is that every penny (or dollar!) put in that money slot from now on will go to our **St. Vincent de Paul Society** to assist those in need in our parish and, often, in the wider community. And those lights are always a wonderful reminder that someone is in need of a prayer which we can provide even though we won't know exactly who or what we're praying for.

But following up on that mention of "attendance limitations"Our weekend Mass attendance has grown slightly since Easter, possibly because more and more of us have been fully vaccinated (including me and Fr. Dan). And even though the numbers aren't yet nipping at our maximum of 135 per Mass, we are getting close to 100 at times, with nearly one-fourth of that number NOT signing up in advance in some instances. As I say, that doesn't pose a problem right now, but it could create issues down the line if more and more do return as the weather warms and the virus concerns subside as we all hope they will.

It's not that difficult to sign up in advance, though it does require a bit of planning to decide which Mass you wish to attend and to either go online or call the rectory by **noon** each Friday. Signing up is also a courtesy to your fellow parishioners and to our greeters: if the usher/greeters have to write down your name and phone number when you arrive, parishioners who have taken the trouble to sign up are waiting in line behind you to check in. So please consider that simple matter of courtesy and make every effort to sign up in advance. We just have to hope that this tedious process, along with social distancing and masking, come to an end in the not-too-distant future.

Since I write this a week in advance and don't know exactly what the bulletin will look like five or six days later, I can only guess that I will have aged very quickly, from five to twenty-five, in the photos Agatha has been printing. But that should be the end of that and you'll have to be content with the current me, 44 years after ordination!

Fr. Bob



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