

NOTE: Today's Car Wash by the Knights of Columbus is cancelled for today because of the continued drought and water ban.

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ,

Thankfully the virus status in Plainville has improved from “red” to “yellow”, so parishioners will be able to attend Mass at St. Martha *without* having your temperature taken at the door. (As usual, staff and volunteers will continue to have temperature checks.) Wrentham remains in the “red” category again this week, so **at St. Mary, please arrive about 5 minutes earlier for Mass** than you usually do to allow time for temperature taking.* As part of loving one another during this pandemic, it should go without saying that **when any of us does not feel well we should stay away from public Mass** - participating instead through www.pwc.church, CatholicTV, etc.

* Last week, officials in both of our towns assured residents this was *not* a major outbreak: higher rates were tied to one “cluster” in Wrentham and a few families in Plainville. (In smaller towns, it doesn't take many cases to move our classification to red.) Still, they encourage us to take precautions and be diligent.

This Sunday: Senior-Friendly 8am Mass for our Collaborative

With increased attendance, and the help of parishioners as Hospitality Volunteers and Lectors, our collaborative is adding a regular 8am Mass at St. Martha starting this Sunday, September 27. To help all to feel safe worshipping with us, **we are trying to promote this as a Mass for seniors** (much like some grocery stores reserve their first open hour for them). **For now, we ask all parishioners to respect this as a Mass for seniors and those with health vulnerabilities.** If younger people in good health do attend at 8am, ushers will ask them to sit toward the back of the church.

We are so grateful to hear from so many of you that you feel safe coming to church and spiritually supported by our collaborative parishes. Please know that those who are not able to be with us physically are still in our prayers and very much part of our faith communities!

Also in this newsletter:

- *Next Sunday:* Special Collaborative Mass at Noon
- Flu Shot Clinics *Coming Soon* at Each Parish
- Parish Census Update Reminder
- Our Regular Second Collection for our Buildings
- What Role Does Church Teaching Have in a Diverse Democracy?

Next Sunday: Special Collaborative Mass at Noon

All are welcome to attend a special Noon Mass on Sunday, October 4 at St. Mary, being celebrated for our Confirmation youth and their families as they begin their second year preparing for this important sacrament. It will be a regular Sunday Mass, but Fr. Lambert will focus on the Holy Spirit inspiring and strengthening them and all of us.

Like at St. Martha, Mass attendance is growing at St. Mary - but we need more parishioners to volunteer as Greeters and Ushers *if* we want to resume the Noon Mass on a regular basis. Please contact either parish office if you are willing to volunteer in support of adding Masses back to our regular schedule.

Our Regular “Second Collection” for Our Buildings

In order to do necessary maintenance at St. Martha and to make the mortgage payments at St. Mary, we need our second collections which are designated for these purposes. Whenever there isn't a diocesan second collection, our second basket at the doors is to support these beautiful but expensive buildings to maintain. Thank you for your generosity to these collections in the past, and we ask all who are able to continue to support our church buildings.

Reminder: Please Complete the Parish Census Update

Over 250 households have already participated in the Parish Census Update Project - have you? Accurate emails and phone numbers are critical for us to be able to contact you - especially these days with important safety and faith formation updates. Please go to our [online Parish Census Form](#) today - let's stay connected in our community of faith!

What Role Does Church Teaching Have in a Diverse Democracy?

Click to read [my Pastoral Column](#) this week, where I use a recent statement by Cardinal Seán to help explain the *difference* between moral advocacy and political interference in one's freedom to vote.

Flu Shot Clinics at Church: St. Martha Next Weekend and St. Mary Oct. 10-11

The CVS Mansfield Team is holding flu clinics at St. Martha's and St. Mary's again this year. They offer the quadrivalent vaccines, as well as the high dose vaccine for those age 65 and over. We vaccinate ages 9 and up. Many pharmacies are already experiencing a shortage of vaccines due to the high demand from CDC recommendation that everyone gets a flu shot this year.

St. Martha will be holding the clinic on Sunday, October 4th between the 8am and 10am Masses.

St. Mary will be holding the clinic on Saturday, October 10th after the 4pm Mass and Sunday, October 11th after the 9:30am Mass.

CVS is now offering optional online signup beforehand, if you wish to minimize the paperwork that day. The link will be provided on www.pwc.church during the week before each clinic. Participants can click on the link and schedule a time and pre fill out the vaccine form. Even if the time slots fill up, they still accept walk-ins and paperwork will be filled out on site. ***Anyone that wants a flu shot is welcome!*** Anyone that receives a vaccine will get written verification with a copy of their information. Please bring your health insurance card, but you can still receive the flu vaccine at no cost to you even if you don't have insurance, courtesy of CVS.

Remember to wear a face covering as you normally do in church, or one will be provided. The pharmacist will be wearing a surgical mask and taking forehead temperatures, and the area will

be sanitized after each vaccine is given. Participants will be spaced out appropriately with guidance. *Come get your flu shot before they are gone!*

May God bless and keep you always,
Fr. Joe