

## PASTOR'S REPORT - MAY 5, 2020

1. Tremendous thanks to all who have been sending in the parish envelopes by mail, by coming to the rectory or bringing them to church. Many have signed up for the automatic WESHARE program. Collections are down but not dramatically so. We are doing okay thanks to your support.
2. The Easter Collection is about the same as last year --- about \$12,000. Flower collection is about \$1700 down from last year but I am sure that people realize that we did not need to purchase so many flowers for Easter. Again, THANK YOU, THANK YOU. Also, we have the palms in de Chantal Hall. We will bless them and distribute them when we re-open. Perhaps, for our Corpus Christi Procession.
3. We, the priests, have been calling our parishioners. We have about 600 registered parishioners and we each called about 200 parishioners. We were very graciously and gratefully received by just about everyone and our call was much appreciated. If you did not receive a call, perhaps, we do not have your number or the line was busy or not in service. Let us know so that we can update our records.
4. This weekend is Mothers' Day. We will have our usual novena of Masses celebrated "in private" by the priests. Please give us the names of your beloved --- living or deceased --- and we will remember them at Mass.
5. The church is open for prayer and reflection in front of the Blessed Sacrament --- weekdays from 7:30 am until 3:30 pm; Saturdays from 8 am until 6 pm; Sundays from 8 am until 1 pm. There are times --- not announced --- when Mass is celebrated and those who are praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament may remain for Mass and Holy Communion. These Masses are referred to as "private" Masses that are not scheduled. We are remembering all of your special Mass intentions at these Masses as they are printed in the church bulletin.
6. Thanks to Sean and to Monique, there is a tremendous amount of information on the parish website and in the weekly bulletin. Also, I have sent out letters to our e-mails, to our school parents, to our school teachers and staff and to the CCD religious education students and teachers --- all are attempts to keep you informed. We have received no information from the Archdiocese regarding opening dates and as you

can imagine we will be very busy with baptisms, first penance, communions, anointing of the sick Mass and Confirmations once we can re-open. Several weddings were cancelled and re-scheduled for next year. 12 burials occurred at St. Raymond's Cemetery for parishioners over the past 50 days and these have been sad and heart-breaking for the families. We hope that these families will arrange a Memorial Mass in the near future.

7. The Sisters of Life have received consecrated hosts for Communion services in the convent and we hope that their daily Masses will soon resume. As you know, we are not able to visit hospitals or nursing homes and this is a sadness for us, priests, as well as for the family members. We offered assistance at hospitals or morgues but did not receive permission. I called Jean Jugan Residence to see if they needed any help but so far so good. I wonder if their financial situation has been impacted because they cannot go out for their usual "begging" Sundays. Could someone find out and, perhaps, we can do something for the sisters and the residents?
8. Parishioners have been sending us cards, notes and food during this time and we are very grateful for your kindness.
9. Work will soon begin on the heating/ac church system. Mechanical drawings have been completed and are being revised. Hopefully it will be a smooth renovation. If you have made a pledge for the RENEW+REBUILD CAMPAIGN, do your best to fulfill it for the sake of this project. Unfortunately the school boiler project was put on hold for the past 50 days because of restrictions on non-essential projects. We have just become an essential project and work can resume.
10. As we begin the month of May, the children in the school and in the CCD program have been invited to make a visit to church with their parents, take a rosary, say a rosary and to leave a prayer intention in the basket. The bishops of the US and Canada re-consecrated our countries to the intercession of Mary on May 1. May she pray and help us!
11. Hopefully we can schedule a parish celebration of Thanksgiving for our first responders and other essential workers to show our appreciation. We are grateful to Sister Patricia and to Ms. Christi who have been "running" the school and the CCD

program remotely. Our students are very lucky to have these dedicated educators on their side. Nary a beat was missed!

12. The parishes of the Archdiocese applied to the federal government as small businesses asking for grants/loans due to the fact that our revenues were drastically cut. We needed to assure the government that we did not lay off any of our church employees on our payroll. We applied and we have been contacted that we will receive the grant/loan and that the government check will be deposited in Sterling Bank for our payroll and maintenance bills --- GOOD NEWS!
13. We need to plan for our RE-OPENING --- how will the parish be different, how can we make the parish grow, what can we do better, what new things need to happen. The future of our parish will depend upon our extra involvement of time, treasures and talents.