

Sacred Heart Parish

December 12, 2020

Liturgy Report: Submitted by Fr. Steve Dublinski

Christmas

Governor Inslee extended the current restrictions for the Coronavirus until January 4, 2021. This means that the movie theatre parking lot is available for Christmas services. At the moment Christmas Eve is predicted to be 40 degrees and partly sunny. Christmas day it may snow. Christmas Eve will be a children's service with the distribution of Holy Communion. Parents have asked that it be no more than 30 minutes in length. If the weather is manageable, we will have Christmas morning Mass at 10:00 in the parking lot, if the weather is inclement, we will have Mass on line with the distribution of Communion outside the church.

Penance Service

Pope Francis gave permission to give General Absolution during the pandemic. We will have two Penance Services with General Absolution in the parking lot of the church on December 16, at 3 PM and 7 PM. People are asked to sign-up ahead of time and not to leave their cars during the service. There is no electrical outlet in our parking lot so we purchased a small generator. We also received the speakers that we ordered. We will be able to have both the speakers and the FM broadcast for the service.

First Reconciliation

Some of our youth are completing their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will schedule with Fr. Dublinski to celebrate the sacrament.

Baptism

We baptized four infants recently. These celebrations were livestreamed in various ways so as to include family and friends. One baptism had a technical problem so we had to livestream it on our Facebook page. It has had almost 200 views. Livestreaming baptisms will be a permanent change that will remain after the pandemic is over.

Funeral

We celebrated the funeral of Anne Whelchel. There were about 20 people present. This Mass was livestreamed and has had 344 view. Livestreaming funerals may also be here to stay. Other funerals have been graveside services.

Parking Lot Masses

The weather in December has been favorable so far and attendance at Sunday Mass has been good. Last Sunday was a little colder than anticipated but all went well. Atom Heart Music has decided not to do the sound for our services now that the weather is so unpredictable. Vic does not want to get his equipment wet. We have been broadcasting the Mass on FM and that seems to be working well. Those who are seated outside have had a hard time hearing. We now have speakers that will solve this problem. (We do not want to get our speakers wet either.)

Anointing of the Sick

A few parishioners have requested anointing prior to surgery. These anointings have been done following the Mass in the parking lot. Anne Whelchel was anointed in her home just prior to death.

Week Day Mass

The daily Mass continues to be livestreamed from the church. We have 50 – 90 views a day. Thanksgiving Day had over 100 views.

First Communion

In late November we had one final group for First Communion. All those who prepared have now received. Confirmation is rescheduled with Bishop Daly for Saturday April 17, 2021.

Ongoing Challenge

Livestreaming the services from the church has been generously done by Kurt Zimmerman for the most part. The internet access in the church is very poor so he has been using his own data on his personal account. In mid-December we are changing internet service to Spectrum. This will be more expensive but livestreaming is here to stay and we need to upgrade our ability so that this new ministry can be shared by more people.