

September 30, 2021

Hi Everyone!

Sorry for the lack of updates lately. Over the summer there's not been a whole lot other than the daily routine stuff that's been going on, even with the bankruptcy, COVID, etc. But here's some updated info for you:

Bankruptcy: Pretty much the same from last report, though the first phase auction of non-essential properties is complete; it did pretty well. There's a second one scheduled for November, but it'll be mostly smaller, more rural properties, so we don't know how that will go. Because titles on some of the rural parcels are not clear, title companies are hesitant to take on the chore of researching, especially since many properties are very small and isolated; they'd have to charge us more than the property itself is worth! And, of course, they won't auction land that doesn't have clear title. A "my grandad said it began at that pile of rocks" account just won't fly.

At present in the bankruptcy negotiation process, we're collecting the funds for the archdiocesan portion of the settlement, which right now is fixed (but under court-required confidentiality, so I can't tell you the total). Right now we're negotiating with the insurance companies that covered the archdiocese during those years named in the (many) claims; unfortunately, that may take a while, but there's no way to speed it up. Sigh.

COVID: We continue to monitor the medical advice and restrictions recommended/mandated by the state. Many people complain about the restrictions, vaccinations, etc., but opinions run the whole gamut of conjecture—from hoax to government plot to "we should all quarantine 'til it's over!" Since the virus is quite real (the deaths certainly are, as are full ICUs and morgues), state restrictions seem to be pretty much in line with well-known microbiological principles. Yes, yes...there are seemingly infinite social media opinions by various doctors and scientists; people constantly cherry-pick those which they agree with and send them to us to try to change our direction to the parishes. But the state's direction seems pretty middle-of-the-road as restrictions go; some places in the world are in complete lockdown!

Unfortunately, medical reports state that the COVID virus mutates easily; in fact, mutations occur in every infected person, so finding a "one cures all" vaccine for all variants will be difficult at best. That's the same reason the flu vaccine is not 100% effective, and why there's a new flu vaccine every year: there's always new variants (literally) floating around.

Latin Mass: Many who love the Latin Mass were upset at the recent [Motu Proprio](#) of Pope Francis limiting usage of that Mass. But our faith gives us confidence that the Holy Spirit ever guides the Church ("[Jesus said:] 'I am with you always, even to the close of the age.'" (Matthew 28:20)), even when we may have difficulty understanding this or that direction from the hierarchy. Everyone may prefer a certain liturgy or liturgical style, but that should never take precedence over the unity in the Church itself. After all, Jesus Himself prayed to the Father for that unity ("That they be one, as we are one." (John 17:11)), which we recognize most fully realized under the Pope and Magisterium. (Matthew 16:19, 18:18). How sad we must make Our Lord, I think, when we fracture due to our own preferences, or choose our own will over His Holy-Spirit-guided Church.

On that subject, if you prefer the Latin Mass, know that it is nonetheless illicit to receive sacraments at a Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) Mass; they are not currently in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. That question sometimes comes up. And if you happen to find a "Catholic" church that just doesn't "feel" right, you can always check our [website](#) for (known) communities not affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church. Many of them will add words to their name like "Traditional Catholic Church" or "American Catholic Church," etc.; that can be a red flag for you. Sadly, there are many in our area, and even sadder is that many of those are directed either by former priests or priests no longer in good standing with the Archdiocese of Santa Fe. Heavy sigh.

But...only a few months before Christmas!! 😊

Well, that'll hopefully get you caught up on some of the major stuff going on in the archdiocese. Remember that October is a month of our Blessed Mother, so pray for her intercession with her Son for the good of all in our archdiocese. By the way, All Saints Day (Nov. 1) is NOT a holy day of obligation this year because it falls on a Monday, but you're certainly encouraged to attend Mass that day in remembrance and veneration of our holy brothers and sisters in Christ—examples for us of steadfast faith. Also, All Souls is Nov. 2 for us to pray for our dead. It's important for parishioners to know that the archdiocese allows the collection for All Souls Day to be for the priests of the parish; this includes the All Souls envelopes for your deceased. You may want to ask your pastor whether they'll be exercising that privilege so that you know where your collection \$\$\$ are going; some pastors do, and some don't. And thank you for your support of our priests.

So, 'til next time:

The LORD bless you and keep you:

The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you:

The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. (Numbers 6:24-26)