

Sunday Obligation (Mostly) Back in Effect

Beginning October 1, 2020, Bishop Lopes modified the commutation of the obligation to attend Mass. *As of that date, the commutation applies only to those persons who are at higher risk for the Coronavirus* (according to the CDC, those who are 60+ years of age, those with underlying medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, COPD, kidney disease, or are immuno-compromised). Persons not in this vulnerable group are now encouraged to return to Mass and the Sacraments.

Free Piano Available (Reply This Week Only)

A neighbor refurbishing a house on nearby Church Avenue needs to offload a Baldwin upright piano in good condition. The piano is free on a first-come, first serve basis, but the taker must arrange to move the piano. Call Rob Sowden this week at 570-242-6955, or email rpsproperties123@gmail.com; if not spoken for this week, the owner will dispose of the piano.

Annual Stewardship Campaign

Many members and friends will receive the annual stewardship mailing in the coming days. We invite you to take time to prayerfully consider its contents, and to discern a pledge for the coming year. Pledge cards may either be mailed back to the Parish Office, or placed in the offering basket on **Stewardship Sunday, November 1**.

No Weekday Masses October 19-22

Please note, there will be **no weekday Said Masses from Monday, October 19 through Thursday, October 22**, while Fr. Bergman joins the other Ordinariate clergy for their annual Convocation in Houston. The normal Mass schedule will resume on Friday the 23rd.

Youth Group to Resume October 25

The Youth Group will resume its customary pattern of meeting on the **fourth Sunday of the Month on October 25**. However, meetings will now occur **after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass**, rather than requiring members to regroup later in the afternoon. These gatherings typically take the form of fun social outings, rather than additional religious education. All youth ages 12 & up (and any invited guests) are welcome.

Volunteer Counters Needed on Mondays

Typically, Sunday Mass collections are counted by pairs of volunteers after the 10:00 a.m. Sunday Mass. However, with the addition of our Saturday Vigil Mass, the lack of a coffee hour, and a growing attendance at 7:00 p.m. Sunday Masses, we now hope to enlist the help of volunteer counters **each Monday**, counting a single deposit for the entire weekend. This may be either a rotating schedule, or if desired, a weekly commitment. Please speak with Fr. Bergman or Paul Campbell if you would be willing to serve.

Verger Training

There is interest in the Parish in forming a team of *Verger*s – men who serve both a ceremonial and a protective role in the liturgy, escorting the clergy and servers in the processions to and from the sanctuary, and also standing at the ready to stave off any malicious disruptions to the Mass or Office. On **first Saturdays of the month after the 8:00 a.m. Mass**, parishioner and self-defense teacher Corey Comstock will instruct volunteers in the use of the *virge*, the staff brandished by vergers. Please speak with Mr. Comstock or Fr. Bergman if you are interested in learning to serve in this capacity.

Plenary Indulgences for All Souls

Plenary Indulgence available on All Souls Day (Nov. 2nd)

- Piously visit a church to pray for the faithful departed;
- Say one “Our Father” and the “Creed” in the visit to the church;
- Say one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary” for the intentions of the Pope and worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally both on the same day but may precede or follow by several days);
- Make a Sacramental Confession within 20 days of (before or after) All Souls Day.

Plenary Indulgence available each day in the Octave of All Saints Day (Nov. 1-8)

- Devoutly visit a cemetery and pray for the dead, even if the prayer is only mental;
- Say one “Our Father” and one “Hail Mary” for the intentions of the Pope and worthily receive Holy Communion (ideally both on the same day but may precede or follow by several days);
- Make a Sacramental Confession within 20 days of (before or after) All Souls Day.

2021 Mass Intentions Now Being Booked

The Daily Mass Record book for recording Mass intentions has arrived at the Parish Office, so we may begin scheduling Mass intentions on a first-come, first-served basis for 2021. Lists may be submitted to the Parish Office in writing or by email, or you may schedule intentions one at a time by phone call. Please be sure to specify whether each name submitted is Catholic or not, living or deceased. contact@stmscranton.org / 570-343-0634

Bishop’s Appeal

God bless all who have so generously responded to the 2020 Bishop’s Appeal, which provides for services and programs that will widen the Ordinariate’s ministry to those who seek full communion with the Catholic Church. If you have not yet responded, please do so today; pick up a pledge card, or visit www.ordinariate.net/bishops-appeal to give.