

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

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The Most Holy Trinity June 7, 2020

We can be socially distant but spiritually close. Even though we cannot be close physically, we can reach out to our fellow parishioners through phone calls and emails, and of course, we hold them in prayer! We can protect one another by keeping our social distance, but also extending to one another our friendship, love, compassion, support, and mercy.

Congratulations to Brianna Van Dreele and Jake Guyer married Friday, June 5th at St. Patrick's. Please keep them and all young people in your prayers as they journey through life in this world and beyond.

Mass Intentions – Fr. Ted does private Masses at his home, so he is still praying the Mass intentions that have been scheduled. It helps him feel connected during this time. Please schedule as you wish. Thank you.

Mail-in Giving – Thank you for your continued contributions that have been mailed to the parish. It continues to help pay the utility bills, etc. We do deposits as needed. If you mailed in a check, patience, as it may take two weeks to clear the bank.

Online Giving – To give to the Parish Support or Bishop's Appeal fund, go to our website at stpatrickslebanon.com and click on link below 'Online Giving.'

We have reached **\$10,000** for the Bishop's Appeal. While short of our goal, considering the times, we are close and for those who want to donate, there is still time to give. Thank you for your generosity.

Your donations May 15th-June 1st: Envelopes: \$1800.00, Maintenance: \$250.00.

COUNCIL MEMBERS NEEDED: We need more volunteers to be members on the councils. This is a two-year commitment, and six meetings a year. Please pray about volunteering to be put on the ballot for either the Pastoral Council or the Finance Council. Thank you for your consideration, and let us know of your interest.

Maintenance Fund – Please place donations in the Maintenance Fund envelope or in an envelope marked 'Restoration Fund.' The fund has been very successful raising over \$7000 this current fiscal year that began on July 1 2019. Thank you for your generosity and contribution towards the overall beautification of the church.

End of the fiscal year: The church fiscal year ends on 6/30. While many churches in the Green Bay Diocese reported steep declines in giving, we are fortunate not to be in that situation. If you have remaining donations that you would like to have counted in the 2019/2020 fiscal year, please make them in the next few weeks.

When the mandatory shutdown of churches began in March, the Diocese strongly encouraged each Parish to participate in the Payroll Protection Loan offered by the US government. Our church applied and consequently received the loan. As has been reported, we expect that loan to become a grant by year's end. That money and your contributions have kept us in good fiscal shape.

Please feel invited to safely visit our own beautiful, serene St. Patrick's Cemetery.

OUR CATHOLIC CEMETERIES The Catholic Cemeteries play a vital role in our Catholic Faith. They are a symbol of the reverence we hold for the human body when the soul passes on to God. The cemetery says to the world, the body rests here in this sacred ground to be remembered and revered.

As a Christian community, we are called by Jesus Christ to comfort those who mourn. This mandate is the heart of the mission of the Catholic Cemeteries. In his own life, Jesus did it dramatically with Martha and Mary when Lazarus died. The Gospel writer called it a sign coming from the depths of his heart.

Mourning is a unique journey for each person. Yet there is a tendency in our modern-day culture to want to get things over with and move on quickly. This makes our ministry to the bereaved – reaching out, listening intently, being present – of more importance than ever.

I would encourage anyone who experiences loss to let the cemetery become a place of comfort where we reach back into a relationship with those who have died and be in conversation with them. As humans, we need and want ways to connect with and remember the past – indeed, we need the cemetery.

Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, D.D., Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Paul and Minneapolis

