



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope that you all had a great Fourth of July holiday as we celebrated our freedoms and our country Under God!

I'm so grateful for all the hard work and generosity that allowed us to put the final stained glass "grace notes" in St. Richard's choir loft. First, thank you to our sponsors who financed the stained glass. We just had the "Sponsor Windows" installed at the base of the windows. I've included a photo of the window's list of sponsors (see below). Second, many thanks to Don Ricketts and his daughter and administrative assistant Jennifer, who played an integral role in relaying the technical measurements to Stained Glass, Inc. for all the windows (including nave, breezeway, and Pearce Center stairwell), in order that they would be an exact fit – and they fit perfectly! Deo Gratias! Third, kudos to Aluma Glass who did a marvelous job of planning and executing installation of the windows, which required technical thought and care. Thanks to Curtis, Andrew, and the crew at Aluma Glass. Our hearts and minds are meant to be elevated to Heavenly realities when we are in a church. I hope and pray that this helps us all to keep us focused on Our Lord and our eternal vocation.

Frs. Mike Pool and David Nix appreciated your hospitality and kindness during their stay here when I was in Spokane celebrating a Nuptial Mass. They loved it here and I'm most grateful for your generosity.

The new priestly assignments for the diocese have been posted for months. July 1 is date when assignments are in effect. Fr. Craig Hanley is now pastor of St. Ann's in Butte, as the "Pope of Butte" Fr. Tom Haffey, enjoys his well-deserved retirement. We will miss Fr. Hanley but let's pray that his transition goes well. Fr. Bart Tolleson is the new pastor at St. John Paul II in Bigfork. Fr. Tolleson is an exceptional priest who will be a great addition to the Kalispell Deanery (A Deanery is simply all the Catholic churches in an area such as the Flathead Valley area).

Thank you for all of you, who are loved by Our Lord!

Father Raffin



Liturgical Celebrations

2019-2020

Thursday, August 15, 2019 – *Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary* – a holy day of obligation. Please schedule Masses Wednesday evening, and/or Thursday to celebrate this Solemnity.

Sunday, August 18, 2019 – *St. Helena, Patroness of Diocese – Solemnity in the Cathedral, omitted this year in remainder of diocesan churches.*

Friday, November 1, 2019 – *Solemnity of All Saints* – a holy day of obligation. Please schedule Masses Thursday evening, and/or Friday to celebrate this Solemnity.

Sunday, November 24, 2019 – *Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

Sunday, December 1, 2019 – *First Sunday of Advent*

Monday, December 9, 2019 – *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* – No obligation this year.

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 – *The Nativity of the Lord; Christmas.*

Sunday, December 29, 2019 – *Feast of the Holy Family.*

Wednesday, January 1, 2020 – *The Octave of Christmas; The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God; World Day of Prayer for Peace* - a holy day of obligation. Please schedule Masses Tuesday evening, and/or Wednesday to celebrate this Solemnity.

Sunday, January 5, 2020 – *The Epiphany of the Lord*

Sunday, January 12, 2020 – *The Baptism of the Lord*

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – *Ash Wednesday*

Sunday, March 1, 2020 – *Rite of Election at Cathedral (First Sunday of Lent)*

Thursday, April 2, 2020 – *Chrism Day (tentative)*

Thursday, April 9 through Sunday, April 12, 2020 – *The Sacred Triduum*

Reminder. Funeral Mass may not be celebrated on Holy Thursday (all day), Good Friday, Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. For pressing pastoral need, a Funeral outside Mass and/or a Burial may be celebrated these days; with funeral Mass following Easter.

Sunday, May 24, 2020 – *Solemnity of the Ascension (replaces 7th Sunday of Easter)*

Sunday, May 31, 2020 – *Pentecost*

How the Knights of Columbus Had “Under God” Added to the Pledge of Allegiance

Billy Ryan for uatholic.com (July 5th, 2017)

Every person in the United States of America has probably recited the Pledge of Allegiance at one point in their lives. Whether it be at sporting events, memorials, or most likely a public school, we all know and have said the familiar beginning “I pledge allegiance . . .” However, most of us probably don’t know where the Pledge even originated or that “under God” was not always included when reciting it. How did the Knights of Columbus help have “under God” added to the Pledge of Allegiance?

The Pledge of Allegiance had its start over a hundred years ago in 1887, when Rear Admiral George Balch composed it’s first form. Five years later in 1892 it was revised by Francis Bellamy, a socialist and Baptist preacher as part a movement to have a salute to the flag on Columbus Day. He said he revised the pledge when “patriotism and national feeling was at a low ebb.” His revised version read (bolded is his addition from Balch’s original):
“I pledge allegiance to my Flag and **to** the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”



In 1942, Congress recognized the Pledge for the first time, but did not make it an official salute to the flag. Three years later it would be officially adopted as the “Pledge of Allegiance.”

The addition of “under God” had its early beginnings in 1951, when the Knights of Columbus adopted a resolution that would amend the Pledge of Allegiance recited in their meetings that would mandate “under God” be said after “One Nation.” A year later at their annual meeting, they adopted a resolution to try to affect this change on a national level by sending letters to the President, Vice President, and Speaker of the House. While the three did not respond to their initial attempt, they tried again a year later at their next annual meeting. This time, they sent the same letter, but this time sending also to all members of Congress. They received many replies from members of Congress, and seventeen individual bills were made to formally make the change.

In 1954, one of the seventeen bills was adopted and passed by a Joint Resolution of Congress. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into law on Flag Day, June 14th 1954. On that day he said:

“From this day forward, the millions of our schoolchildren will daily proclaim in every city and town, every village and rural schoolhouse, the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty... In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource, in peace or in war.”

President Eisenhower sent a letter thanking the Knights of Columbus for their instrumental work in having “under God” added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

A letter to the Knights of Columbus from President Eisenhower on the reverse side

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 6, 1954

Dear Mr. Hart:

I am happy to send greetings to the Knights of Columbus on the occasion of the annual meeting of your Supreme Council. Your tireless work for charity and brotherhood in communities throughout our land has long done much to keep Americans aware of the religious values which we hold. And this year we are particularly thankful to you for your part in the movement to have the words "under God" added to our Pledge of Allegiance. These words will remind Americans that despite our great physical strength we must remain humble. They will help us to keep constantly in our minds and hearts the spiritual and moral principles which alone give dignity to man, and upon which our way of life is founded.

For the contribution which your organization made to this cause, we must be genuinely grateful.

With my very best wishes,

Sincerely,



Mr. Luke E. Hart
Supreme Knight
Knights of Columbus
New Haven 7, Connecticut