

November 16, 2020

Our Lady of Loretto Parishioners,

Here is this month's update:

*Stain Glass Memorial Update.* We have been collecting donations for two stain glass windows in the church to honor Father Brian Costello, one of St. Therese of Lisieux, the other of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. We have collected \$65,000 and have enough for both windows. Thank you for your generosity! We arranged a meeting with Hogan Glass who did the original stain glass windows of the four Evangelists in the sanctuary. They will design the windows this winter for our approval and construct them early in the year. They will be installed in April or May.

*New Pastor Selection Update.* The Archdiocese of San Francisco has given us a clear timeline for the selection of a new pastor for Our Lady of Loretto. In January or February, members of the Priest Personnel Board will come to OLL to interview individuals and groups within the parish to determine its needs in terms of a pastor. They will take all this feedback, as well as all the names of the priests who applied for pastor of OLL, to Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone. The Archbishop will make his decision and the new pastor will be announced in April or May. The new pastor will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Until then I will continue as Administrator of OLL.

*Safety Guidelines for Worship.* The Archdiocese safety guidelines state that during these COVID-19 times only essential meetings should be held in the parish. Fortunately, this includes the administration and celebration of the Sacraments, particularly Mass and Confession. But this also means that all other meetings such as prayer and ministry groups are not permitted in the parish. Very sadly this includes the temporary suspension of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that we've been having from 2 to 5pm on weekdays and the groups that have been using the parish for prayer. It is a heartbreaking situation but as soon as we are safely able we shall bring back these important prayer practices.

*Support for Parish Ministries.* On the weekend of November 14 and 15 we shall have had a special collection for the parish St. Vincent de Paul Society to help with their work in aiding the poor and needy with food and financial aid. If you would like to support St. Vincent de Paul, please send a donation to the parish office with their name on the envelope. Also, in late November and early December, the Christmas Outreach program will be collecting funds to purchase gift cards for grocery and retail for poor families within the parish. If you wish to make a donation to this program please send it to the parish office with "Christmas Outreach" on the envelope. The deadline for donations is December 7<sup>th</sup>.

*School.* Thanks be to God and your prayers the school was able to open full-time for in-person learning on October 13 with over 190 students. Principal Kathleen Kraft, her faculty and staff, have done a fantastic job of following safety protocols, creating separate group student cohorts where groups do not interact. The students I have spoken to are *extremely* happy to be back in school with their classmates.

Blessings in Jesus,

Father Tony Vallecillo, Administrator