

September 15, 2020

Hello Our Lady of Loretto Parishioners.

The wise suggestion has been made to send out a monthly printed parish update to keep you apprised of what is occurring at OLL parish, especially during these extraordinary COVID-19 times. These monthly updates will continue until the community can start worshipping inside the church and our normal bulletins distributed.

Priest Changes. As no doubt you have heard, Father Brian Costello pastor at OLL for six years, passed away on July 11th of cancer. On July 15th the Archdiocese named Father Tony Vallecillo as Administrator of the parish. In early August Brother Agapetos was assigned to work full-time at OLL as parochial vicar. Brother Agapetos is a priest-monk from the Order of Bethlehem based in the Holy Land. He will serve at OLL through November 2021.

Status of Masses and Confessions. As of the writing of this update Marin County Health Dept. regulations mandates houses of worship can only have worship outside with a limit of 100. Since mid-June OLL has been offering outdoor weekend Masses in English and Spanish on the school field. Presently we offer Masses at 5pm (English) & 7pm (Spanish) on Saturdays, 8am (Spanish) & 10am (English) on Sundays. We began offering weekly outdoor Masses in early September at 8:30am (English), 6pm (Spanish) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We have extended Confession times to a half hour before each weekend Mass and 6 to 8pm Monday in the Our Lady of Guadalupe piazza with the Blessed Sacrament exposed.

Stain Glass Windows in honor of Father Brian. Donations are being collected for two stain glass windows in the church, one of St. Therese of Lisieux, the other of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, to honor Father Brian. Over \$33,000 has been collected so far. A generous donor has offered a matching fund of \$10,000. If you are interested please send your donations to the parish.

Renovation of Church. Through the Rebuilt Committee the interior of the church has been renovated. There is new carpet, the walls have been painted two shades of blue and the front sanctuary/altar area has light-colored ceramic tiles. On Sunday, October 4, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, we shall be offering small group tours so parishioners can view the changes.

Finances. During these difficult times the finances of OLL are solid due to people generously supporting the parish. The majority of our donations are being received online, the rest through mail and at the outdoor Masses. If you have not done so, please consider giving online through our website.

School. OLL School began on August 19 with 180 students enrolled. Classes are being taught through computer distance learning. When it is safe students will be allowed back in class.