

The Roman Catholic Parishes of Cape Elizabeth, Scarborough, and South Portland, Maine

Dear Parishioners,

In our second reading this week Peter states, *You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* (1Peter 2:9) During our time of separation, it may be hard to see God's light in our world. But for me, and our staff, we are encouraged by your participation in our taped Mass and we recognize your outreach to each other as Christ's light shared with us.

Each weekend, a few staff members gather to put together a taped Mass for our parish communities. This past week, parishes around the Diocese of Portland were given permission to offer Parking Lot Masses. In order for our parish to offer a Parking Lot Mass, we must agree that Holy Communion will not be distributed, that all parishioners will remain in their cars at all times, that only people who live together should be in the same vehicle, that all churches/facilities will not be open for restroom use, that cars must have one empty parking space between them in the parking lot, and that we will continue to offer the taped Masses in order to reach the greatest number of parishioners.

The pastoral staff looked at how we can use our parking lots, what we need to do to provide clear sound while following strict FCC regulations, and what benefits would be gained by adding a Parking Lot Mass to our weekend offerings. After some discussion, we felt that we would not gain enough from this opportunity to make it worth pursuing at this time. If more restrictions are lifted in the future, we will bring it back up for discussion.

Michelle Dokka did some negotiating with the music licensing and was able to procure a license for a year without paying a fee. This means we will be able to use music at our Masses that is more familiar to all of us. Thank you to Michelle for all of her hard work.

The month of May is traditionally the month to begin the annual Catholic Appeal. The theme for this year's appeal is **Walk Daily with Jesus 2020 Catholic Appeal**. Daily, we are called to renew our commitment to walk with Jesus and our Church. The Catholic Appeal helps our parishioners on their daily walk by providing Hospital Chaplains, Campus Ministers, communications such as Harvest Magazine and the Diocese of Portland's online presence and support for our Faith Formation and Social Justice Activities. Since we won't be able to have the in pew solicitation for your pledge, please use the envelope you received in the Bishop's letter or Harvest Magazine to support the Appeal. For more information you can go to: <https://portlanddiocese.org/Appeal>. Please look into your heart and step out in faith by prayerfully considering a gift in support of the 2020 Catholic Appeal. The 2020 Catholic Appeal goals for our parishes are St. Bartholomew \$43,940, St. John and Holy Cross \$43,382 and St. Maximilian Kolbe \$64,458.

This week, our request to consider the merging of our three parishes to one canonical parish was submitted to Bishop Deeley. Thank you for all that you have done to help in this process. Six

hundred and fifty parishioners completed the survey to help in making recommendations for a name for the new parish. The survey results will be submitted to Bishop Deeley along with all of the minutes and notes concerning the possibility of merging over the years.

Holy Cross School is currently accepting enrollment applications for the 2020-2021 school year. One thing we have been hearing from our parents is how smoothly our school has transitioned to home learning. We are proud of the education the children of our Catholic school have been receiving and we hope you will consider Holy Cross School as an option for your child(ren) or grandchildren when you are planning for next year. They have demonstrated high quality of education both in school and distance learning. For more information about the school please call Casie Hitchcock M-F, 8AM to Noon at 799-6661 or go to their website:

www.holycrossmaine.org

This Sunday we will be celebrating Mother's Day. As a parish, we have celebrated Mother's Day with carnations and a blessing for all of our mothers. The carnations have been a fundraiser for Maine Right to Life. This year, Maine Right to Life is starting an initiative called Stand Tall for Life. Please consider making a Mother's Day donation, in honor of your mother and receive sunflowers to grow at your home. Plant the sunflowers demonstrating respect for life from conception to natural death. You can send a check to Maine Right to Life Committee, PO Box 257, Auburn, ME 04212 or go to www.MaineRightToLife.com

We will be keeping with our tradition of blessing our mothers this weekend at the end of Mass. I want to wish all mothers, grandmothers, aunts or women who are like mothers to us, a very blessed Mother's Day.

Be assured of my prayer support and I ask that you pray for me and all our staff who continue to serve on your behalf.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul F. Stefanko". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Msgr. Paul F. Stefanko