

24 May 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner:

The number “40” has special significance in the Scriptures. Noah's Great Flood lasted forty days; the Hebrews wandered for forty years after fleeing the slavery of Egypt; Jesus spent forty days on retreat in the desert. We have forty days of Lent, then forty days from Easter to today's Solemnity of the Ascension. The Sunday Gospels since Easter have focused on our Lord's final instructions to his disciples—His work was now theirs to do. Then He departed this world but promised to send the Spirit that would be with them and guide them always. Like those first disciples, we are reminded that the work of the Gospel is now our “great commission.” If we do not do it, it will not get done.

St Charles Borromeo Parish returns to publicly celebrated Masses in church this week. You are reminded that, for the common good, face masks will be required in church and that six-foot distancing is mandated. Of course, families may be seated together.

The “obligation” to attend Mass is still lifted. If you have a fever or cough, if you are above the age of sixty, or if you deal with health issues, stay at home. For those attending, please sit in the pews marked with green tape, but not in the red taped. Reminders: no hand-shake, no reception from the cup, no congregational singing. For the time being, Communion must be received in the hand. Please be patient with yourself and with others; together we are all learning and making necessary adjustments.

Here's the schedule for Masses this week:

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25 (national holiday) @ 8:30am

Tuesday thru Friday, May 26 to 29 @ 7:00pm

Saturday, May 30, Vigil Mass @ 4:00pm

Sunday, May 31 @ 10:00am

Livestream Mass daily, May 25 to May 31 @ 11:00am

The Parish Office will be open for service beginning Monday, June 1. To start, we will have “abbreviated hours” from 8:00am to 5:00pm, Monday to Saturday and Sunday 8:00am to 1:00pm. As things pick up around here and evening activities resume, we will gradually add later hours as needs arise.

This Friday's 11:00am livestream Mass will also be the “last Mass” of the school year for our students. Congratulations to the 2020 Eighth Grade Graduation Class as they complete their school careers with us.. Hope to see you in Youth Group. Many thanks to our multi-talented, dedicated, and hard-working principal, Eileen Updegrave, for doing so well with the unique challenges of the last ten weeks. Thank you to our teachers and staff who followed the principal's lead and did an outstanding job with on-line learning and distance education. Eighth Grade graduation exercises will be next Sunday at 12:00Noon.

As mentioned a few weeks back, Carnival 2020 has been canceled. After talking it over with the Carnival Committee and with the Finance Council, we have put together this plan: we will sponsor a Summer Raffle, winners to be drawn on Sunday, August 16.

Prizes: 2020 GMC Terrain (courtesy of Axelrod Buick GMC)
\$4500 Roof (courtesy Second-to-None Roofing)
\$3500 Gift Certificates (your choice) or \$3500 Cash

There will be a June mailing with \$60 worth of Raffle tickets—the same amount as in the last several years. There will be eight \$500 weekly drawings for sellers of tickets, beginning Sunday, June 28. In July, during what would have been Carnival week, there will be a second mailing with another \$60.00 worth of tickets. That letter will request that, if possible, you purchase additional tickets with *what you would have spent* on the Carnival grounds! So we will spread the ticket phase over eight weeks and hope that we can make the whole effort worthwhile. If you can't do it—for whatever reason—no pressure, no problem! Please let me know what you think about this proposed 2020 Summer Raffle plan!

What will Raffle 2020 provide for St Charles?

Halls and Activity Center: Exterior and interior surveillance/security systems
School: additional chromebooks for students
Church: expand Internet coverage, add cameras/equipment to livestream fulltime

The Offertory for Sunday, May 17, was \$19,978.75. Thank you for your continued generosity especially in these most difficult times.

