

31 May 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner,

This is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the Church. The Pentecost story is certainly dramatic: rushing winds, tongues of fire, bold speeches in many languages! But the real “miracle” was the changed lives of the Apostles and Disciples; formerly timid and afraid, they were fully energized by the power of the Spirit. And they literally went out and changed the world! For the last twenty centuries, there have been many attempts in the Church to try and recapture that early spirit. Perhaps in the days ahead, when Coronavirus and Covid 19 are behind us, we might manifest, as a Church, a bit more of that initial missionary spirit.

St Charles Borromeo Parish again offers, after ten weeks, publicly celebrated Masses: Saturday at 4:00pm and Sunday at 10:00am. If the number of those attending require it, we will add additional Masses to the schedule. For your service and convenience, we will continue to offer a livestream Mass every day, Sunday to Saturday, at 11:00am. The expectation to attend weekly Mass remains lifted; come to church only if you choose to do so. Please, stay at home if age, illness, or preexisting conditions could make you susceptible. There have been three Covid 19 deaths in the parish thus far.

We are working on producing that livestream Mass directly from our Church. We had a lengthy meeting with the tech professionals on Wednesday morning. There will be five small cameras installed, unobtrusively, in the church. There will be a “production station” in what is currently my confessional. This will enable us to livestream Mass on a regular basis, not just in temporary situations. The planned Summer 2020 Two-Step Grand Raffle (many thanks for your prompt and overwhelmingly positive response!) will “pick up the tab” for this great addition to our parish. From your many e-mails, notes, cards, calls, texts, and letters I know that hundreds of you have come to depend upon our daily livestreamed Mass for spiritual nourishment.

The Parish Office will open this Monday, June 1. Office Hours will be Monday to Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm. On Sunday, stop by between 8:00am and 1:00pm. The Office is ready and equipped to serve all needs, including Gift Certificate sales.

I have had a few inquiries asking why I always mention, when livestreaming, “coming to you from St Charles Borromeo Church in Parma Ohio.” The answer is: there are lots of St Charles parishes and I want those tuning in to know which St Charles they are viewing. A few months back, before “the virus,” a family with an infant turned up in our church after the Sunday Noon Mass. They told me they were here to baptize their child. I thought we had no baptisms scheduled for that day. They said they were originally from St Charles, were now from Texas, but wanted family and friends around for the baptism. They told me they had contacted the parish and made all the arrangements “on-line.” I was embarrassed, thinking it was our mistake! So we pulled things together and tried to make it a nice occasion for the family. Speaking to the mother afterwards, she said she had even called “Father Rogers” and confirmed the details. I told her there was no “Father Rogers” here! Turns out, she had actually been dealing with St Charles Borromeo Parish in Boardman (near Youngstown) Ohio. She thought she was contacting St Charles in Parma. While we were baptizing the child here, the priest at St Charles in Boardman, Father Rogers, was wondering why the family from Texas never showed up. I left it to the family to call with an explanation. So that's why you hear from me “St Charles Borromeo Church in Parma Ohio.”

The Offertory for Sunday, May 24 was \$16,496.75. Your continued generosity to St Charles is a much-appreciated blessing!

