

26 July 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner:

We have all been adjusting ourselves to living in a world afflicted with the COVID19 pandemic. Here at St Charles, our style of worship has been adapted to the new realities: six-foot distancing, face masks, with hand sanitizers available at all the doors of our church.

Now the time has come to address the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The current state regulations require a six-foot distance; that also applies to the space between between the priest and the penitent. Our confessionals are too small to allow that six-foot distance, so we have to move to larger rooms. Beginning on Saturday, August 1, we will hear confessions in the Parish Offices. Confession times will be Saturday 3:00 to 3:45 and 4:45 to 5:30pm. Please access this new “confessional area” *not through the Parish Office main entrance but by way of the door on the east side of the rectory, opposite the main entrance to the Corrigan Gym.* It will be clearly marked and there are no steps. It is not necessary to ring the doorbell or knock, simply enter the building. The “confessional offices” will be on your immediate left. Close the door when you enter the confessional; leave the door open when you leave so that the next penitent knows that the priest is available. I know this is less than ideal, but we must offer this Sacrament, even in difficult circumstances and in unfamiliar surroundings. We have waited long enough; I think many of us hoped “the worst would be over by August.” But we know now that is certainly not the case.

The wiring and cameras for livestreaming have been installed in our church but we are awaiting one critical item that is currently backordered. So this week, Monday through Friday, we will continue to offer the livestream Mass at 11:00am. The Sunday Mass will also be livestreamed at 11:00am. But due to the start of “the wedding season,” we can no longer offer the Saturday 11:00am livestream Mass.

You are reminded that we will add the 8:00am to our weekend Mass schedule next Sunday, August 2. Ushers, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, please “check in” at the sacristy before the 8:00am Mass next week.

It is not too soon to start inviting folks to attend this year's Rite of Christian Initiation (RCIA) sessions. RCIA is for those interested in joining the Catholic Church: those not baptized, for those baptized in other Christian churches, or for those baptized Catholic who have not received the Sacraments of First Reconciliation or First Eucharist. Deacon Dan Galla and our new “parochial vicar” (associate pastor) Father Joshua Cochrac will coordinate the RCIA team. RCIA sessions are held weekly, last about ninety minutes, and focus on the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church. No final commitment is required; as Jesus says in the Gospel, just “come and see.” Call the Parish Office to register or for more information (440-884-3030).

Unity Catholic Credit Union has its roots in the St Charles Credit Union, founded in 1942. In recent years, and after a name change, Unity now has absorbed an additional nineteen credit unions. Unity continues to provide welcome and needed financial assistance for its members. Unity sponsors a “fifty dollar give back” car loan wherein borrowers may also assist our parish or school. The parish received a check for \$1,600 and the school received \$1,050. Both checks went to our Education Foundation. In addition, Unity received a \$5,000 matching grant to assist the St Vincent de Paul Society in feeding the hungry. Thank you Unity officers, staff, and members!

Our Summer “Two Step” Raffle has only three weeks to go until the Grand Drawing on Sunday August 16. As of Monday, July 20, ticket returns amounted to \$91,685.

Seller's Appreciation Raffle Number Four July 19 Winner: Paul Delbane

Feeling ambitious? There are still sheets of \$5.00 white, \$2.50 blue, \$5.00 ivory, and \$2.50 pink tickets available at the Parish Office. For every sheet of any color, fill out the Seller's Appreciation Ticket; there are four more Sunday five hundred dollar raffle drawings yet to go. Did you buy/sell a sheet of each color? If you did, you are entered in the Spectacular Mystery Drawing, also to be held on August 16.

The Offertory for July 19 was \$26,845.75. Your continued generosity to St Charles Borromeo Parish is gratefully acknowledged.

