

Today is Saturday, October 17, 2020. The Church celebrates the memorial of St. Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, the place where the followers of Jesus were first called Christians, who was martyred in the Coliseum in Rome in 107 by being mauled by savage beasts. St. Ignatius, pray for us, that we may prefer obedience to Christ to any earthly comfort.

Thought question: How will I show my love for Christ this weekend?

Owing to your generosity to the capital campaign, we now have a new parking lot. The work was done by O'Leary Asphalt, a highly reputable paving contractor. With proper maintenance, it should last us for many, many years to come.

Let me point out a few changes we have made:

You will notice that we have made all the parking spaces directly in front of the church handicapped only. Over the years, I have received numerous requests to reserve the spaces closest to the church for those with mobility issues.

We have also added a no parking zone behind the parking spaces in front of the rectory. This is to eliminate the safety hazard of people backing out of those spaces with cars parked behind them. We also removed the two bollards in that area which were no longer needed.

We have also increased the no parking zone in front of the rectory door to make it easier for people in wheelchairs to access the ramp onto the sidewalk leading to the church. We have also added a ramp on the other side of the church to enable people to access the church without having to negotiate the curb.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Jerome Smallwood, the chairman of the parish finance council, who oversaw the bidding process for our new parking lot; to Mr. Ken Bitter, a member of the parish finance council who served as project manager for the new parking lot; and to Mr. Hung Le, the parish's plant manager for the past sixteen years, who in countless ways assisted with the completion of this project.

Our next capital campaign project is to install a new boiler in the church. We have almost reached the threshold of being able to pay for this project. Please continue redeeming your pledges to the campaign. We are almost two-thirds of the way to collecting the full amount of money pledged to the campaign. Thank you for continued support.

Our weekly Mass attendance continues to increase slowly. We are around 35% of our pre-pandemic numbers. The archbishop continues to extend the dispensation from attending Sunday Mass in person for those who do not deem it safe yet to return to church. The divine command to observe the Lord's Day still pertains, however. Ways of fulfilling this command include watching Mass online or on television, spending extra time in personal prayer, spending time with family and friends, and undertaking corporal and spiritual works of mercy. In other words, Sunday

should still stand apart from the other days of the week in the time we give to the Lord and to others.

I wish to assure you, however, that we are dutifully observing all the necessary protocols to lessen the risk of spreading the coronavirus at church. Since we returned to in person Masses in June, I am not aware of anyone catching the virus from attending church. Though personally I am at higher risk because of my age and pre-existing conditions, I feel quite safe at church. I mention this to help you make a proper determination for yourself and your family with regard to attending Mass in person.

We are soon to begin the month of November, traditionally dedicated to honoring and praying for the faithful departed. Normally, parishioners would pick up their All Souls envelope in church, write the names of their beloved deceased on the outside of the envelope, place their monetary offering to the church inside the envelope, and drop off the envelope at Sunday Mass or during the week through the rectory mail slot. All Souls envelopes are then placed on the altar for the whole month of November and all Masses are offered for those whose names are written on the envelopes.

Since many of you are not able to come to church, we are mailing All Souls envelopes to every registered parish family to enable you to participate in this very important spiritual work of mercy of praying for the dead. You can return your completed envelope either by mail or in person through the rectory mail slot. The pandemic has limited us in many ways. Let it not prevent us from properly honoring our dead.

Yours in Christ,

Father Walter