

Pastor's Notes: The Good We Can Do This Fall**August 30, 2020**

So far 2020 has been a year that has seen many abrupt changes and cancellations. There is so much talk about what we are **not** able to do. However, there is much good that we **are** able to do in our parish, and I would like to focus on that for today's pastor's notes. We've now been able to have three months of public Masses since the pandemic with the health and safety measures in place. By the grace of God, we have not had any known coronavirus exposures or outbreaks at the Basilica. Our local schools have re-opened in various ways and our children are back to learning in a hybrid environment. For all these developments we can rejoice and give thanks. We are also going forward with several ministries and events this fall that will bring us together in prayer and community, both in-person and virtually, and I would like to highlight some of our programs here.

Ministries

Confessions— Beginning Sept. 5, we will again be able to offer confessions a half hour before each weekend Mass (except the 7 am). To meet the social distancing requirements, we will have private confessionals set up in Varallo Parish Hall.

First Friday Adoration— continues Fridays from 12:30-5:30 pm, and beginning Sept. 4, we will resume our all-night Adoration Vigil from 9pm-7am, hosted by our Hispanic community.

Liturgical— Our Altar Guild, Sacristans, Ushers, Cleaners, Altar Servers, Sacred Music, & Live-streaming continue and need support

RCIA—Virtual classes on Sundays at 2:30 pm will start Sept. 6 and will be available to be watched any time after that

Religious Education— In person classes for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be Sundays at 10:15 am starting September 13. Other grades (preK to high school) will have a combination of virtual classes and home activities at other times during the week.

Youth Group— Our DYM Middle & High School Youth Group will be meeting virtually Wednesdays at 6:30 pm starting Sept. 2

Jubilate Deo Youth Schola—Virtual and in-person offerings will be available beginning September

The Deacon's Table— Now meeting virtually Sundays at 5 pm and connecting via Dcn. Tom's email group

Catholic Motherhood— Now meeting at off-campus venues and connecting through email

Married & Engaged Ministry—Now meeting virtually and at off-campus venues and connecting via Facebook group

Catholic Chatt Young Adults—The city-wide Catholic young adults group is still meeting regularly and via Facebook group

Events to look forward to

Fr. Patrick Ryan Cause for Sainthood—The Opening Session of the Inquiry on the Cause for Sainthood will be on Mon., Sept. 28, at 10:30 am with Bishop Stika, including Mid-Morning Prayer, proceedings, and 12 pm Mass, all live-streamed

Fr. Patrick Ryan, Servant of God Parish Awards will be presented at the 9:00 am and 1:30 pm Masses on Sept. 27—live-streamed

Virtual Rosary sponsored by our American Heritage Girls 8 pm Wed., Oct. 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary — live-streamed

Parish Virtual Town Hall Meeting: Catholics and the Elections will be a live-streamed/Zoom meeting on Wed., Oct. 21 at 6pm

State of the Parish Address from the Pastor will be livestreamed Wed., Nov. 4 at 6 pm

Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra will perform works by Jovet, Haydn, and Holst at the Basilica — 7pm Dec. 3 & 4 and 3 pm Dec. 5

Erlanger Moments to Share Candlelight Service for Babies who have died will be held on Wed., Dec. 9, at 7 pm

Special Masses

- **Sept. 8** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary — Sung Mass at 12 pm and opportunity for plenary indulgence
- **Sept. 14** The Exaltation of the Holy Cross—Sung Mass at 12 pm
- **Oct. 22** Pope St. John Paul II/Anniversary of the Basilica's Inauguration — 12 pm Mass and opportunity for plenary indulgence
- **Nov. 2** All Souls—Mass at Mount Olivet Cemetery at 3 pm, in addition to Basilica Masses at 7 am and 12 pm
- **Nov. 9** The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica—Sung Mass at 12 pm
- **Nov. 26** Thanksgiving Day — Multilingual Mass at 10 am (no 12 pm Mass that day)
- **Dec. 11** Our Lady of Guadalupe —Rosary in Spanish at 6:30 pm followed by Spanish Mass at 7 pm (without procession this year)

More information about our ministries and events is on our website and will be published in future bulletins, on Facebook, and on our myParish app. I encourage you to connect with us using these resources and to get involved in our parish this fall as you are able!

Rev. J. David Carter