

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

It's time for our weekly parish update, and so I thank you for taking the time to read this email. First, this weekend, in both parishes, we will be resuming the practice of the ushers taking up the collection with the long-handled baskets, rather than the practice we had been doing of only putting out a basket for people to drop collections in at Sunday Mass. However, we will also keep the basket out in the back of the Church for people that wish to drop their donations in it, or who may be coming to Mass just during the week.

Secondly, I ask you to please say a prayer for two of our religious education students, Sam Swartz and Carley Wartman. This evening, we are celebrating a special Mass at which they will be able to make their First Holy Communion, an exciting moment in their lives and in the life of our parish! Of course, their previously scheduled First Communion Mass had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. Congratulations Carley and Sam!

Third, we will continue to live-stream the 8:30am Sunday morning Mass from St. Mary's each Sunday for the time being. However, please note that as the amount of visitors and parishioners returning to the in-person celebration of Sunday Masses increases, it would be prudent for parishioners to consider arriving for Mass a bit early to secure a seat. Overflow seating in the social hall is still available should it be necessary.

Finally, I want to let you know that I restarted my twice-weekly podcasts this week. After taking a brief hiatus over the Fourth of July week, I wanted to return to producing those for you. I will plan to publish a new podcast on the parish website each Wednesday and Friday afternoon.

Thank you, dear parishioners, for your continued faith and fervor during these difficult and uncertain times. And, a big thank you for your continued generosity to our parish! While we did finish the fiscal year slightly in the red, the amount of donations that we received from you is truly remarkable given the economic circumstances. Thank you so much for continuing to remember your parish family during these difficult times. May God bless you, and have a great weekend!

Fr. Steve Laflamme
Pastor