

A Pastor's Perspective

November 15, 2020 Bulletin



Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

This week, I offer a few updates and informational items:

Successful Food Drive: Thank you very much to our parishioners who donated many non-perishable food items and/or cash during the recent food drive sponsored and conducted by the Knight of Columbus. Because of their dedication to serving our communities, ten (10) Knights along with eight (8) family members provided a combined total of 34 man-hours to collect your generous donations at all six of our churches (St. Gabriel, Winterport; St. Matthew, Hampden; St. Teresa, Brewer; St. Joseph, Brewer; St. Mary, Bangor; and St. John, Bangor). Over the course of four hours, the food drive yielded over 1,600 pounds of food, as well as \$222 in cash donations. The food and cash were distributed directly to four local community food pantries. Thank you, brother Knights, for your service on behalf of our parish to those in need of food.

Support for our Catholic School Students: Approximately 30 years ago, Al and Mary Ann Schoellerman established the Jennifer Judd Educational Fund in memory of their granddaughter. The purpose of this fund is to support our parish's efforts in providing our Catholic school students with the highest quality education and formation. The Committee that oversees this fund recently had its annual meeting and approved a grant of \$10,000 for the current school year. The funds will allow the school to update various materials to support the student's curriculum and their participation in Mass.

Scaling Back Mass Attendance Numbers (Temporarily): The Diocese of Portland announced on Wednesday, November 11, 2020, that because of the steadily and daily increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases and in accordance with the state of Maine guidelines, Catholic churches in Maine will temporarily permit no more than 50 persons to be in attendance for indoor daily and Sunday Mass. This change goes into effect on Monday, November 16. Therefore, the following numbers will be permitted at each location:

- Bangor: St. John Church – 50 and St. John Hall – 50
- Bangor: St. Mary Church – 50 and St. Mary Hall – 50
- Brewer: St. Joseph Church – 50 (we hope to add another 50 in St. Joseph Hall in the near future)
- Brewer: St. Teresa Church – 50
- Hampden: St. Matthew Church – 50 and St. Matthew Hall – 50 (reserved for Faith Formation families)
- Winterport: St. Gabriel - 45

Many thanks to our Catholic faithful who follow the protocols (by wearing a face mask, maintaining social distancing, and registering for Mass in our regularly sanitized churches). By practicing this form of Christian charity, we help in keeping our brothers and sisters and the larger community safe. Thank you.

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew