

2020-2021 ST RAPHAEL PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

9/8/2020 via ZOOM

Present: Fr Dan, Susie Allen, Paul Benton, Andy Blank, Joy Brackett, Lacy Cortez, Kate Helm, Marian Johnston, Dan Koys, Pete Makris, Phil McEntee, Laura Mersinger, Sue Sullivan

Absent: Bob Barron

Opening Prayer: Fr Dan

Pastor's Report:

- ◆ Overall, things have been running better than ever expected. Daily and Sunday 10am Mass continue to be streamed with around 1,000 people attending on the weekend masses.
- ◆ The new webpage has opened this week. We will continue to tweak it for a while.
- ◆ We have installed a new filtration system throughout the church which has been successfully used at Children's Hospitals, the White House and Pentagon.
 - 98% of all allergens are filtered out of the air and it efficiently clears airborne bacteria
 - The school and gym will have their own filtration system installed during this upcoming week
 - This has been funded by the parents of the students and due to the generosity of these parents we will then have the entirety of the compound included.
 - We are among the first to have taken this step to ensure the safety and well-being of our children as well as our parishioners and staff.
- ◆ School opened four weeks ago and there have been no reported cases of COVID thus far.
- ◆ The move to the new rectory went well. It's located only four minutes away from the church and church offices.
 - The previous rectory went on the market and was sold within 24 hours at the asking price. Closing is scheduled on September 23rd.
 - A very generous parishioner is paying the difference between the money being received from the sale of the old rectory and the cost of the new one, to also include new, temperature-efficient windows throughout the house.
 - We've had the pleasure of welcoming two seminarians into the new rectory.
 - They will have the opportunity to be a part of parish life and to see first-hand what is involved in the day-to-day operations.
 - Fr Steve Borello, current Director of Vocations, has also joined us by moving into the rectory.
 - He will assist at some of the weekend masses as he is available.
- ◆ There are many changes taking place in the Diocese due to the many retirements earlier this year.
 - Bishop Ronald Hicks will be installed as the new Bishop of the Joliet Diocese at a Mass on September 29th.

- Fr MM is extremely excited at being our newest Associate. He's been adapting to our parish life very well thus far.
- Sydney, who is set to complete her internship from the ECHO program, will take over running the RE Program for 1st-6th graders due to Mark Hoffmeyer's retirement in the spring.
 - We hope to have someone new to assist.
- ◆ Fr Dan will be doing his annual talk about Finances soon
 - The federal stimulus package came and has help offset the many expenses.
- ◆ The parish buildings will remain closed to meetings for the time being.
 - Fr Dan and the staff will readdress the issue again in late October.
 - RE will be done remotely until late October on weekends
 - The first of the year will be key in determining reopening the buildings to groups.
- ◆ The school mass is being moved to 9:30am on Fridays and is for students only
 - Half of the students will attend mass and the other half will watch as it is streamed to their classrooms.
 - Students attending the streamed classroom masses will receive Communion which will be distributed by the teachers.
 - There will be a separate 8am mass on Fridays for those parishioners attending daily mass.
- ◆ Adoration will continue to be held in the church directly after mass on Tuesdays until 1pm and on Thursdays until 6pm.
 - A mass after 7pm is being considered for Thursday evenings.
- ◆ The Tabernacle has been moved into the church and an artist will be completing the stand it sits upon with some type of religious artwork.

School Report:

- ◆ Temperatures are being taken on all children during drop-off
 - This is being done with very restricted contact.
 - There are plans in place for anyone testing positive for COVID
- ◆ There were four different versions created for the Back to School Plans
 - So far, E-Learning has knocked it out of the park
 - Students stay in their homeroom and are spaced throughout the classrooms with masks.
 - There is a maximum of 24 students in any given classroom.
- ◆ There is a waiting list for all grades except the 2nd and 8th grades.
- ◆ The new superintendent has started
- ◆ Plans have begun for this school year's Gala on Feb 6th.
 - The Grand Raffle has already gone live
- ◆ Christmas Sharing is getting started
- ◆ This year's 8th grade Plant Sale recorded the highest earnings for that fund raiser.
- ◆ A total of \$20,000 was raised by the school children's parents for the purification system that is being installed in the school this week.

Ministries Updates:

Staff and Finance Commissions:

- ◆ Marian is representing both the parish staff as well as the Finance Commission.
 - A year-end and To-Date meeting is scheduled later this week
 - Online Giving has been good and has seen an increase in donations.

Liturgy Commission:

- ◆ There is current a Discernment for two new members
- ◆ They will hold their next meeting next week via Zoom

Young Adult Faith Commission:

- ◆ The group has still been meeting on a weekly basis in the parking lot of Colonial.

RE:

- ◆ There is a two-day retreat for Confirmation coming up which will be held at the parish.
- ◆ A second Confirmation Retreat meeting is being held tonight.
- ◆ CREEDS is being held virtually.
 - This year's theme is "What's Next? The Afterlife"
- ◆ There is an eight-part series on The Search which is currently available on FORMED.

Pastoral Care Commission:

- ◆ All hospital calls are on hold
- ◆ Stephen Ministry has three openings for new members
- ◆ Barry has started a new Prayer Ministry in which homebound parishioners pray for immediate needs.

New Business:

- ◆ The parish weekly bulletins are back! Any parishioners interested in receiving one should sign up on the new webpage.
- ◆ School children 4th grade and above require Service Hours. Please keep them in mind for age appropriate assistance. They are happy to help!
- ◆ Susie Allen, Adult Faith Formation Commission Representative and Phil McEntee, RE Ministry Representative are both stepping down and new representatives from their ministries will be discerned by those ministries.
 - Members of the current Pastoral Council should discern the now vacant role of Secretary for this term.
 - This role will be filled at the next meeting to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct 13th.

Upcoming Meeting (2nd Tuesday of the month) via Zoom: October 13th