



Dear Friends,

I hope "corona-life" hasn't been too tough on you this week. It's hard to be told to live apart, keep distance from people, and wear a mask. Most of us don't like being told what to do. What helps is reminding ourselves that we do all this so we and others can remain healthy. I know how bad I would feel if I were to find out that, because I didn't keep the social distance or wear a mask, someone became seriously ill or, worse, died.

This week I'd like to cover a few topics including a change in the Mass schedule, our parish feast day celebration and the current financial situation.

We are about to expand the opening of our parish. Beginning on October 3rd & 4th we will return to the Mass schedule we had last March. So, starting in October Masses will be as follows:

St. Louise church - 5 o'clock on Saturday evening and 9:30 on Sunday Morning
St. Barbara church - 7:30, 10 and 12:30 (Spanish) on Sunday

You will still need to sign up each week for the Mass you wish to attend by using the SignUp Genius link (found on our Holy Guardian Angels website) or calling the Parish Office (708-485-2900). Why? We are still bound to allow only 15-20% of the building's capacity to attend any one service. We also need to have some way to contact each person in case someone attending that Mass tests positive for the virus. We would need to contact everyone who had attended that Mass so they can call their doctor and begin to quarantine.

Some ministries and organizations have asked if they could use the meeting rooms in the parish. We are opening these rooms but with restrictions. Again, we are bound by the number of people allowed in the building at one time and the need to sanitize each room and, perhaps, the whole building, after each use. Because of this, only one group can meet at any given time. This means one group may meet in the morning, another may meet in the afternoon and a third may meet in the evening. To obtain a room for a particular time and date, contact the Parish Office so we can check the Parish calendar to see if the desired room is available. Of course, anyone attending such a meeting must wear a mask and keep the social distance.

As was announced last weekend, we are planning a big celebration for our annual feast-day. The Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels is October 2nd. However, this year that date falls on a Friday when many folks are working. So we are celebrating on October 3rd with a service project during the morning and part of the afternoon. To show our unity as a parish, we are planning a procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Brookfield/La Grange Park from the doors of St. Barbara to the doors of St. Louise with the Mass of the Guardian Angels at 5 o'clock. I hope as many of you as can will participate in some part of this procession and Mass.

Beginning on that same weekend (October 3/4) we will begin a series of Confirmation Masses. Because the bishops of the Archdiocese can't schedule the Confirmation Masses this year, the Archbishop, Cardinal Cupich, has delegated the pastors to confer this sacrament this year. I will be presiding at 5 Confirmation Masses beginning with October 2nd. There are 5 because we can only accommodate a certain number at each Mass. To be able to confirm all the kids eligible for the Sacrament and accommodate their families, we need to celebrate 5 times.

Regarding our finances, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parishioners who have continued to support our parish with their donations during the past 6 months. All members of Holy Guardian Angels bear the responsibility for the care and wellbeing of our parish. I appreciate each and every dollar the community donates, especially from those for whom donating is a sacrifice. You are what keeps our parish going. Bless you for your support.

Our collections have fallen by about 50% since last March. Like everyone else, our bills still need to be paid. With the loss of income, we face ending the fiscal year in June with a \$200,000 deficit. Sadly, we have discovered some repairs that cannot wait until the collections increase. Just this week we have found a hole in the roof of the Brookfield Parish Center so large that you can see the sky! This means we will have to replace the entire roof and do so quickly before the rains and snows of fall and winter do more damage than has already occurred. As it is, we will have to rip out some of the walls in the Music Room where the water has already been flowing down allowing mildew to grow. This will only increase our deficit.

And due to faulty heating in the St. Louise sacristy, most of the white vestments have been ruined, including the \$1,500 funeral chasuble that was a memorial gift and several albs. We have to replace them, especially the memorial chasuble.

These are trying times. I hope we can all work together to see our way through. God bless you all.

Fr. Denis

P.S. Please keep your donations coming. We need every penny right now.