

We were blessed with lovely weather and increased church capacity for our First Communion Mass. Check the next page of the bulletin to see the picture of our RE and school children dressed up and excited to receive Jesus for the first time in the Eucharist (the picture was taken before Mass). It was a beautiful Mass and Deacon John Rottman gave an excellent homily. The children also received the Brown Scapular and Miraculous Medal of Our Lady at the end of Mass. I went in to visit the school 2nd graders the next day and while they almost all expressed that they were a little nervous beforehand, after they received Holy Communion, they had different experiences of feeling loved, peaceful, calm...one boy even said he can't wait to go back to Mass to receive Jesus again! Out of the mouths of babes...

We have a new permanent deacon! Deacon Jose Adan Bernabe' was ordained a deacon and is officially assigned to our parish. While he was already heavily involved in the Spanish community at Sunday Mass, baptism and godparent preparation, the Friday Spanish prayer group etc..., he'll be helping at other Masses and services as well. Please be sure to say hello to Deacon Jose and his wife Marcela when you see them and thank them both for responding to the Lord's call to serve in the Church.

Covid updates are good, our capacities have increased to over 250 in the church and we can now gather 250 people at other social gatherings. As you know, the updates are frequent, but they are going in a good direction. However, please be sure to wear your mask in the church, school, and any other event on site until further notice. The Arch's Covid Task Force lets us know how to apply any government updates so please follow those on the parish grounds. We will keep you updated as best we can.

As you remember, the new parish Finance Council was already formed with good members from all three merging parishes (Donna Quirk, Bill O'Hara, Tim Jacobs, and John Fiore). This council is required by Canon Law and is advisory to the pastor and has already met multiple times to help give approval for sale of parish properties and has conducted facilities inspections, approved major investments etc....

Now it is time to begin the process of forming the larger, more directly mission focused, Parish Council. The initial phase of forming the Parish Council will be through a nomination process. This gives you a chance to nominate yourself or someone else with a brief explanation of why that person might be a good candidate for such a council. In next week's bulletin and online you will find an explanation of the role of a Parish Council as well as the nomination form.

After the nomination period is over, there will be an orientation and prayer meeting in the church for all those who accepted their nomination that will be facilitated by me and the Parish Vitality Coordinator for Vicariate II. The target membership for the council would be nine with the ideal of three people being from each of the merging sites.

This council is particularly important to the whole parish and there will be clear agenda items, term limits, expectations of the pastor, as well as the members. While it is advisory to the pastor, I am quite aware that we must try to unite and I am only a priest of Jesus Christ, not Jesus Himself. The Lord must be the one to guide us all as we try to unify as a parish and gradually renew in faith. It is necessary that I listen to you and essential that we all try to listen to the Lord!

Come Holy Spirit,
Fr. Mike

