

Date: November 16, 2020

To the dear parishioners of St. Henry Church:

Grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! It has been nearly one year since a formal report has been given about the state of our parish from both a pastoral and operational standpoint. There is much good news. So much has transpired in both our parish and the nation with the onset of COVID-19. This has demanded many accommodations to the manner in which we respond to the needs of God's people. We have, first of all, vacated the church for our celebration of the Mass and all liturgies. For months we have been celebrating liturgy in our Fireside Chapel. Also we have moved quickly in developing a plan to build our Madonna Welcome Center. You can follow the progress through our updates on both the parish website and our weekly bulletin. Presently we are on a timeline to finish the project by early April, to coincide with Easter. We broke ground on the feast of the Assumption, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Financially we are well positioned with respect to cash on hand and pledges. God has truly blessed our endeavor!



In this mailing our parish staff have offered narratives relative to their ministries amidst the limitations demanded by COVID-19. First of all Claire, our business manager, is presenting a concise financial statement of both the Parish Operational budget and the Capital Campaign budget. The former has called for creative stewardship with respect to both income and expenses. Other staff reports will relate how we are reaching out to the various parish groups from care ministry to faith formation, from sacramental life to youth ministry. There is also a report from David, our Madonna Center project manager. Please extend your gratitude to our staff for all that they have accomplished.

Sacramental Life: Since this summer we have completed celebrations of 25 Confirmations, 70 First Communions,



25 RCIA programs, several weddings, many funerals, Saturday communal penance services (with private confession/absolution), and several quinceaneras. Fr. Julio and I were given permission by the archbishop to preside under the COVID circumstances at all confirmations. Since we were limited in sacramental services to a few at a time, this took much of the summer to complete.

Our daily and weekend Mass attendance is significantly less than before the pandemic.

Fortunately technology has allowed us to live-stream our Masses (on Facebook and later downloaded on the website) on a regular basis, both in English and Spanish. For those who fear being compromised by attendance in our Fireside Chapel (limited to 40), we have been offering communion in the parking lot as cars line up to receive. For instance, after the 11am Sunday Mass, there are easily 50 cars watching the live stream Mass and then receiving Holy Communion. Admittedly it's not the same as celebrating the Mass in church where we would normally have over 400 at each Mass. Yes, the pandemic has caused folks to reach out to celebrate and pray in creative ways. We all miss seeing our friends and fellow parishioners! So many are isolated and suffering even depression and anxiety. Let us lift one another in prayer.



I am so grateful for all of you who have continued contact with the parish through worship, events and support. It means so much that you make a special effort to stay connected. Thank you, and may God bless you and your family.

**Fr Charles**

Rev. Charles Zach, pastor

#### **Christmas Mass schedule?**

Vigil: 4pm/11pm English, 6:00pm Spanish  
Christmas Day: 8:30am/11am English

## Staff input for Parish letter 2020

### Fr. Julio Torres, Parochial Vicar, Hispanic Ministry

Much has been accommodated due to the pandemic. On Mondays: we have Couples Group Meetings, on Tuesdays we continued our classes of RCIA, on Wednesdays our Biblical Group, on Thursdays the Formation of Hispanic Servers and Leaders, and on Fridays we celebrate Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Mass is offered on Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm.

In **February** we cancelled our well-motivated rehearsals of the Theatrical Representation of the Passion of the Lord scheduled on Holy Week; our RCIA class did experience the Ukrainian-Byzantine Rite Mass in Eugene, and joyfully participated in the Rite of Election at the Cathedral. We celebrated Holy Week but it required a lot of imagination by the servers and leaders.

In **June** we celebrated our first (of many) Spanish Funerals in The Fire Side Chapel. On **July 19**, RCIA celebrated the Reception of the Sacraments (1 catechumen, 16 candidates). We celebrated the funeral Mass of + Mr. Jesus Ramirez, who was a cornerstone in the development of the Hispanic Community. We now have 3 Hispanic members on the Pastoral Council and 3 on the Administrative Council. We created a Hispanic support team to help Emma with the Youth Ministry, a total of 10 people, 5 for the Wednesday classes, and 5 to evangelize the parents in 6 sessions during the year.

**Now**, we are updating a new office for the next Hispanic Ministry leader. In this “second” year with all the servers and leaders we continue on Thursdays our *monthly schedule of formation*. Little by little we continue with our agenda, like in the Celebration of Day of the Death “Día de los Muertos”– ALL SOULS DAY). We are looking forward to the Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Posadas, and Christmas; and the challenges as usual will be to prepare these activities following the pandemic guidelines.

The Servers and leaders of the Hispanic Committee and myself are so thankful to our pastor and the entire parish of St Henry for all the support. Being part of this church is a blessing, and the Hispanic community have found a home in these trying times. Some are limited not just by resources or rights but also in finding a place to keep their faith. Thanking all of you we join you in saying. “We are one, Somos uno.” May God Bless you and keep you safe.

### Madonna Center Construction, David Mastroieni, Project Manager

The project continues to move forward very well with our contractor RA Gray. The footings have been poured and the slab pour - this will be done in one or two pours depending on weather. We had 120 yards of concrete to pour in the slab which took a full day. Also, the entire church/office roof has been replaced.



All of the lead items such as flooring, counter tops, light fixtures, etc. are now on pre-order after submittal review by the architect and their sub-consultants. We need to order these well in advance so that they arrive on schedule. The pandemic has caused a slower turnaround in terms of order and delivery on a number of items for other projects. In addition, the fire sprinkler installation in the church began as well followed by refinishing the church floor!

We are in a good position right now for an April opening of the Madonna Center. This of course is predicated on minimum weather delays - which we will just have to work around. Should you have any questions please contact me at 503-998-1070 or ddmconsulting@msn.com.

**Liturgy and Sacraments, Faith Formation - Sara Wise, Jeanne Chambers, Emma Bavarskas** Sacrament Preparation for Reconciliation and Holy Communion are under way with over 40 elementary age students and 22 teenagers enrolled. A significant number of these students will also be baptized this year so the St. Henry “Village” of support staff is in high gear. We also have over 50 at latest count in our Faith Formation Program and 60 in our Youth Ministry Program. Volunteer Catechists are putting all their creative efforts to work with a combination of remote, in-person and virtual learning all playing a part. The protocols of Covid have changed everything of course,



however, building community and growing spiritually continue! One of the biggest changes is the increased need for communication – We cannot simply plan a meeting or class and let whoever wants to come, show up. As with our Masses, folks must make a plan, sign up, and follow distancing/mask requirements. Our parish web site has been evolving to keep up. I hope you are visiting the website often.



**Sara:** In addition to handling requests for Sacraments, I also manage the weekly meal that St. Henry provides meals to our local low income and houseless neighbors. We serve approximately 50 individuals each week. Personal care items, batteries and socks are regularly offered as well as food. I am grateful for all the ways that parishioners offer their time, talent and treasure around here – it not only makes my job easier, but more fun - so Thank You. Peace, Sara

**Greetings from the front desk, Terri Heitzman** The office is closed. However, we are still very busy. Veronikka is scheduling Mass and Confession attendance on Monday and Wednesday 11am – 2pm. We receive new people into the church weekly and though our community is moving more cautiously, we are still moving. The duties at the front desk have not changed much with the exception of not seeing some of my fellow parishioner friends. Please know I keep you all in my prayers. Some of my duties include:

- Phone calls and emails answered or directed from parishioners and the community.
- Bulletin created and sent
- Input of registrations for classes and new parishioners. Receiving and processing payments.
- Recording of Sacraments and sending this information to the Archdiocese.
- Keeping the Parish Data System and Archdiocese up to date with church information.
- Ordering of supplies (Sanitizer, Masks Wipes, general supplies, etc.)
- Attending weekly staff meetings and keeping the parish calendar.

Pastoral Council meets once a month and started back up in October. Keep Safe, Terri

**From the Desk of Deacon Larry Loumena** The English language RCIA group is underway here at St Henry. We currently have three Inquirers learning about our faith. We are meeting in person on Thursday evenings. We are following the Covid-19 protocols. Adult education is now limited to offering available through the Formed website and other Catholic social media resources. The once vibrant care ministry here at St Henry has been shut down temporarily due to Covid-19. We look forward to the future when in person visits can begin again. Please keep in yours prayers all people who are isolated by this pandemic. We strive to keep all the social media sites and website up to date as a means to communicate what is happening in the parish. We have expanded to up to three satellite rooms for remote viewing of the live stream masses. Be safe, Deacon Larry



**Maintenance: Things that have been happening in Maintenance–Ed Kurtz** - Painting in the Parish Center, Floor polishing in the Parish center, Fall/early winter roof drain and gutter cleaning, Washer/dryer replacement, Parish Center water heater replacement, Moss remediation, Shower valve repairs in JV House, Exploring boiler repair options in the JV House, Exploring floor repair ideas in the Parish Center, Exploring ideas of how to rebuild Bell Tower