

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

World events sometimes change the topic of these notes. I was going to write at length about our Christmas Mass schedule but I want to write something about the massacre in Las Vegas this past week.

Regarding Christmas, let me simply report that the only Christmas Mass in the Stone Church will be at 5PM on Christmas Eve. Our weekend assistant priest will not be here for Masses on Christmas or New Year's weekends. Coupled with the fact that we will have regular Sunday Masses on December 24 plus all of the Christmas Eve Masses and then Christmas Day morning Masses means that we have to cut back. I will write more about this when I can but I simply wanted to let everyone know as soon as possible.

Currently, the killing spree in Las Vegas is on everyone's mind. How could someone do what that crazed shooter did? Relentlessly strafing innocent concert goers with a machine gun is unfathomable. It must have been a horrible scene. At first, it seems like there was nothing but pure evil present at the field where the concert took place. Yet what has become clear from the media coverage of the tragedy is that many people risked their lives to help others. Even at the worst possible and most frightening moments, people were thinking of others. It wasn't every man or woman for himself or herself, but rather some would not leave the wounded and dying alone. There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for another.

Let us unite our prayers to the prayers of everyone who trusts in the power of good over evil. Let us ask the Lord for courage and strength in these anxious times. Even if the Lord does not put an end to death here on Earth, He did promise that we will live forever if we trust in Him and follow in His ways. Never allowing evil to keep us from living according to God's ways is to trust in the promises of Jesus. May the departed rest in peace.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom of the page, below the typed name.