

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

A couple of days before writing these notes, I learned that Fr. Donal O’Keeffe is able to provide assistance at Sunday Masses for at least several more months. At first, Fr. O’Keeffe himself was uncertain but I am happy he and his fellow Legionaries of Christ priests are available for a while. We may have to adjust the Sunday Mass schedule slightly come January since we are not certain we will have the help of weekend priests consistently.

I know some people don’t like to hear about reducing the number of Masses. It’s not something I want to do. A small group of people think I want to close the Stone Church, but that is not true. As long as we, as a parish, have the financial resources and three full-time priests, the Stone Church will not be without Mass. Like many others, I think the Stone Church is beautiful and such older churches are uplifting and spiritually comforting. They speak of tradition. We should keep praying that God will raise up holy vocations. We should also pray for holy priests and for those to be ordained. As much as we are living through difficult times for the Church, we need the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments to bring us God’s grace and the strength to live our faith.

On another note, given all the disturbing news about the Catholic Church in recent weeks, now is not a great time to be focusing on a Capital Campaign, but focus we must. At least, I must begin to present the Renew and Rebuild Campaign to most of the families in the parish next weekend. We have a long way to go and it will not be easy for us to raise another two million dollars. As I always say, we should all try to do the best we can in supporting our parish and living our faith. Some are able to make large pledges and some are not able to help at all, but as long as we remain a caring family of faith, we are blessed.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.