

Dear Parishioners,

While it is good to have election day behind us and with it all of those political ads on our televisions, there is still turmoil surrounding the election process that calls for our prayer. While all major media and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have recognized Joe Biden as the President-elect, court challenges by President Trump raise concerns of impropriety that could alter the outcome in some states. Let's pray for a fair and peaceful result for our country and God's blessings on our elected leaders, that they would reflect the Gospel of Jesus Christ and his selfless servant-leadership in the exercise of their offices. This world never will be heaven, but our thoughts, words and actions can make a difference at building the kingdom of God on earth, so let's do our part, beginning with kindness and respect, including and perhaps especially to those with whom we disagree.

Weekend Mass attendance continues to be in the 40-45% of normal range and we are able to fit everyone in so far. Two weeks ago, the 4:00 Vigil Mass and 11:00 Sunday Masses were the best attended with 450 each, followed closely by the 1:00 Spanish Mass with 445 congregants. Last weekend our numbers were down a bit overall, with 11:00 and 1:00 Spanish Masses the best attended with 496 and 475, respectively. We top out at about 600 before overflow in the narthex and canopy area outside are needed. We'll continue to keep an eye on the attendance week to week and expect eventually to have to transition to an overflow in the chapel or parish hall. For those still remaining home for medical reasons, the Bishop's dispensation from the requirement to attend Sunday Mass is in effect until November 27<sup>th</sup>. I'll let you know if it is extended.

May God bless our Veterans as we celebrated our day on Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. I had the privilege of presiding at the 8:30 Mass on the Feast of St. Martin of Tours, patron of soldiers, in the camouflage vestment I used in Afghanistan. Paul Todd is doing an outdoor concert honoring Veterans Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We'll have a stage in the canopy area outside of church where we celebrate the Easter Sunrise Mass. About 200 chairs will be set up and socially distanced for concert goers, so space is limited. Tickets are available in the canopy area after weekend Masses and from the office. In person tickets are \$30 and you can also live-stream the concert into the comfort of your homes with an access code you'll receive for \$15. It sounds like a fun and creative way to hear a Paul Todd concert safely in these Covid-19 times. Proceeds will go toward St. Agnes' Catholic Faith Appeal. We have topped our \$479,000 goal in pledges. Any money

collected over that will go directly to our future capital improvements and new mission development, so I encourage you to donate if you have not already. You can do so through our website's online giving portal.

Please pray for our 87 youth and adults who have had their Confirmation postponed yet again. It was supposed to have taken place with Bishop Dewane last Monday evening in Church, but Tropical Storm ETA forced a postponement. The conferral of the sacrament follows two years of faith formation for our high school sophomores and others from the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA). It's one of the largest groups in the Diocese for Confirmation, a testament to the vibrant faith present in the families of St. Agnes! May God bless you this coming week and may God bless America!

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