

August 6, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

We are coming up on the middle of August, normally an eventful and exciting time of year here at St. Andrew Parish. This year, however, mid-August is much less eventful and much more uncertain. This is the time when the preparation for our Festival would normally be in high gear. But as you know, the Festival at St. Andrew has been canceled this year. So, there are no tents going up, no raffle tickets being sold, no cakes and pies being dropped off. It is easy to understand that canceling the Festival was the right decision, as the coronavirus is still spreading. But we miss this opportunity for fun and socializing with friends and fellow parishioners. When I was on vacation back in June, I visited a parish in Lima, Ohio, and it was at the time they would have been having their annual festival. The pastor suggested in the Sunday bulletin that parishioners might make a donation to the parish equivalent to what they would have spent at the parish festival if it had been held. I thought that was a good idea and so I share it with you. It won't be as fun as buying a silent auction item or taking chances on the raffle or playing games or buying delicious grilled foods – but you can pretend! For the last several years, my dog Mabel has been a festival bench sponsor. She is going to make an equivalent donation to St. Andrew this year also. I hope you will consider doing something similar.

This is also the time of year when we are getting ready for school to start. This year, the opening of school is a matter of great uncertainty and anxiety. Throughout the summer, St. Andrew School has been preparing for school to open with in-school instruction for all students. Extra classroom space has been created in order to accommodate distancing and separation, and various virus mitigation protocols will be in place. We are still intending for such, but we recognize that we may be forced into another option, hence our uncertainty and anxiety! No matter what happens, we have to trust that we are doing everything necessary for the safety and health of our students and staff.

This Saturday, August 15, is the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Of course, it is NOT a holy day of obligation this year, both because it falls on a Saturday, and because the obligation of attending mass on Sundays and holy days has been dispensed until further notice due to the pandemic. But we will still celebrate this feast at 9 a.m. Mass on Saturday. Traditionally, the Feast of the Assumption was the time to bless produce from farms and gardens. This is the time when our gardens are bearing fruit. That should bring some joy and satisfaction in these otherwise uneventful and uncertain days!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney