

July 30, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I have a mixed bag of information for you this week.

First of all, as I am sure everyone knows by now, the entire State of Ohio is under a mandatory mask order, meaning everyone (with very few exceptions) must wear a mask or cloth face covering when out in public, both when inside and even outside when social distancing is not possible. The good news is that our precautions here at St. Andrew are already in conformity with this mandate. And I am pleased that almost everyone coming to church has been carefully complying with the rules by wearing their masks and keeping their distance. So, the State mandate doesn't really change much for us, except one thing: Because the wearing of masks is now required by the governor's order and is no longer voluntary, failure to enforce the rule St. Andrew Parish could put the Pastor in quite a bit of trouble! So, I am really hoping to see 100% compliance with the wearing of masks here at St. Andrew. Most of all, I want everyone to remain healthy.

Second, I want to thank those who have already pledged to this year's Bishop's Annual Appeal. We are already off to a good start. We have received more than \$88,000 in pledges toward our goal of \$210,135. That is about 42% of our goal. This is actually better than I expected and gives me hope that we will actually reach our goal this year, despite the difficult economic circumstances we are in. If we do reach and exceed our goal, I will apply the refund to help complete our video project for live streaming our Masses. I am grateful to The Catholic Foundation for a grant of \$5000 for this project, but it will take a bit more to bring it to completion. Keep those pledges coming!

Last but not least, next weekend, August 8 and 9, is the annual Missionary Appeal. This year, the missionary appeal is for the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, a missionary congregation that serves youth in several African countries where they staff schools and other institutions. Normally, one of the brothers would be present and speak at all the masses, telling of the missionary work done by the congregation and asking for support for their work. A second collection would be taken up, and you would as always be very generous! Unfortunately, the pandemic has changed everything this year. Because of travel restrictions and virus precautions, the Brothers cannot be here in person to tell us about their work and their needs. Instead, they are asking the priests of St. Andrew to make the appeal on their behalf. Fr. Ferguson, Fr. DeVille, and I will do our best. There is some information in the bulletin about the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. I hope you will be generous. We will have special collection baskets for the missionary appeal in church, and you may also donate via online giving, or directly to the parish office by mail.

Thank you for your attention to all of this.

I wish you all a happy August.

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney