

September 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The first of October is just around the corner. It is a beautiful month with brilliant colors of fall foliage, but the nip in the air and the falling leaves remind us that winter is coming. As we stand at October's doorstep, we are also aware that we have been living with the COVID 19 threat for a full six months now! That's half a year. That is two entire seasons – all of spring and all of summer. Furthermore, there is no end in sight. We may have to endure these uncomfortable conditions for another six months – all of autumn and all of winter. Let us pray for perseverance and patience. We do not want to become careless with our precautions and risk becoming ill or making others ill.

October is Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to defend the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. We are called to advocate for the legal protection of the unborn and to oppose the grave evil of abortion. We are called to oppose the death penalty, euthanasia, and assisted suicide. We are called to protect the lives of the poor, the vulnerable, the hungry, and the homeless. Respect Life month is intended to remind us of all of these facets of human life, which is precious.

October is also the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. What better way to improve our habits of prayer and raise our thoughts and aspirations to heavenly realities than to pray the Rosary! Especially in these times when our church activity is limited, the Rosary can be a great help to keep our prayer life focused and nourish our spirits.

Next Sunday (October 4) is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. **Continuing the tradition of blessing animals on this day, you are invited to bring your pet to the Blessing of Pets on Sunday, October 4, 3 p.m. on the front lawn of the Rectory, weather permitting.** The blessing will take place outdoors, obviously, but we will still observe social distancing and wear our masks for safety. Mabel and I look forward to seeing you and invoking the blessing and protection of St. Francis upon all of our animal friends.

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney