



November 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As we head into the second week of November, I have a "mixed bag" of things to share with you.

First of all, congratulations to the newly ordained deacons of the Diocese of Columbus, **especially to St. Andrew's own Deacon Victor Nduaguba and Deacon Dan Dowler**, who will be ordained to the diaconate by Bishop Brennan on Saturday, Nov. 7. We wish them God's blessings upon their diaconal ministry for many years to come.

Second, I want to share that St. Andrew Parish has a temporary priest in residence. Fr. Paul A. Noble, who most recently served as pastor of St. John Neumann Parish in Sunbury, was granted a temporary medical leave by Bishop Brennan. He is living at St. Andrew Parish during this time of healing. I know Father Noble well as we were housemates when I was in residence at St. Matthew Parish in Gahanna while he was the pastor there. Although Fr. Noble is not assigned to service at St. Andrew, you may see him from time to time. Suffice it to say that we are now a very full house at St. Andrew rectory, with three priests, a cat, and a dog!

Third, I want to say a word about our ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus. As COVID-19 cases increase, it is important that we continue to social distance, wash/sanitize hands, and wear masks whenever we come to church or any other gathering. The rules have not changed, and now is not the time to relax our observance of them. In recent weeks, **I have noticed people gathering in the vestibule of the church before or after mass and socializing. In normal times, this would be a good thing to do in the "gathering space."** However, **right now it is still something we should avoid.** Also, now that the weather has turned colder, I want to remind you that **if you plan to attend Mass in person, please dress warmly, because the church doors will remain open before, during and after Mass.** This is important for two reasons: 1) so no one has to touch a door handle to enter or exit the church; and 2) to circulate fresh air which dissipates the virus. It also continues to be imperative that anyone with symptoms such as fever, cough or shortness of breath should stay home and not enter the church. And those in a higher-risk category continue to be strongly cautioned against risking illness by coming to church or any other larger gathering of people. The obligation of attending Sunday Mass continues to be dispensed by the Bishops of Ohio to encourage Catholics to be cautious about coming to Mass "in person." The danger is still present and is increasing, so please make your decisions carefully!

Finally, I believe our new live streaming camera will be up and running soon. It has been installed, but we still need to learn how to operate it. Soon, our "virtual" Mass experience will be greatly enhanced.

That's all the news for now. May God bless you all throughout this week.

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney