



February 4, 2021

Dear Parishioners,

I was recently making a phone call to the cable company and was placed “on hold” for some time. During this time, I began to reflect on the experience of being “on hold.” Being “on hold” is a time of idle waiting during which nothing happens until someone is connected, and they ask, “how can I help you?” Then, you are no longer “on hold.” I began to think about how our lives seem to have been “on hold” for many months now because of the Coronavirus pandemic. We have been waiting and waiting for it to be over, for our lives to go back to “normal,” but we are still waiting, and here it is now almost a year later. It’s as if we were placed “on hold” last March, and we are still waiting.

But as I thought about it some more, I realized that, unlike being “on hold” while waiting for a customer service representative to take a phone call, many things have happened and continue to happen during these months when it seemed and seems that life itself is “on hold.” The life of our parish goes on--differently, of course, but it continues. Babies are baptized, weddings are celebrated, confessions are heard, the sick are anointed, the dying are given last rites, the deceased are given funeral rites, families are comforted, the Word of God is preached, children and adults are prepared to receive the sacraments. Thanks to our heroic faculty and staff, St. Andrew School students are learning and being formed in faith in person in their classrooms. Most important of all, the Mass is being celebrated and the Body and Blood of Christ are being given to the faithful in Holy Communion.

So, while we must wait longer for life to return to normal (and no one knows how long that wait will be) the life and activity of St. Andrew Parish are not “on hold.” We are as busy as ever. The challenges are great, and we must be creative in finding ways to address the spiritual and pastoral needs of parishioners and help them remain connected to a community of faith that supports and encourages them. I also want to assure you that the priests of St. Andrew Parish are ready to serve you. If you or a member of your family are experiencing any pastoral or sacramental need requiring the services of a priest, please contact me and let me know. I will respond as quickly as I can, and I won’t keep you “on hold” indefinitely! Meanwhile, keep your spirits up. Look forward to a better day. Remember, we are all in this together!

Your Pastor,
Msgr. Stephan Moloney