

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

"The Old Cathedral"

1420 K Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

402-435-2125

May 29, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint Mary's Church:

I wanted to provide the parish with a quick update on what's happening (and what's not happening yet) here at Saint Mary's in relation to the COVID-19 Virus.

The return to Mass has been fairly slow. There was a considerable uptick in attendance from the first week to the second after we opened again. So far, only one Mass—the 12:10 Mass on the Ascension—was so full that we couldn't safely distance any more people.

With the attendance turning out to be much lower than I anticipated, we really haven't had need of the pass system that I devised. However, I anticipate better numbers in June, and I still foresee Masses filling up coupled with a requirement for six-foot distancing. My plan for June is to eliminate the pass system that I devised. Instead of sending out passes, we will simply reserve a spot for those who call ahead and want to make sure they will be able to get in. The door is opening no later than half an hour before Mass; at 10 minutes before Mass, IF we have people waiting to get in, we will begin seating on a first-come, first serve basis—reservation or not. If we fill up, and have more people to accommodate, they will be able to reserve a spot at a later Mass. This is basically the same system, only eliminating the use of passes and simply writing down names to reserve spots on one piece of paper.

We are in need, then, of trained volunteers for each Mass:

One person to cross off names as people come in, making sure that we're not getting too full

One person to direct seating inside the church so that people social-distance properly

Three people after each Mass to disinfect and wipe the pews

Please call the rectory and offer your assistance if you are willing and able to help with any of these.

Another issue for us is First Communion and Confirmation. We can have these celebrations any time this summer as soon as families are comfortable with returning to church. So far, none of our families who would be participating in these events have been back; I assume they are being cautious, and I respect that. I hope to be in contact with families soon to see where they are at about setting a date.

Live-stream Masses will continue, not only for as long as the Mass obligation is suspended, but likely beyond that. We have purchased a web cam, and will soon be able to live stream without having the laptop in the sanctuary. I believe we will be going this route to stay connected with our shut-ins, and not continue the week-delayed taped Mass on cable. And a big thank-you to Father Heaslip for setting up our new web-cam!

We are on the verge of installing a new security system which will alert us to activity in the church building during off-hours. The parish will have to make a choice about keeping the church locked during the day. While there haven't been as many people stopping in for adoration, for those who do, the church is much quieter and, I believe, feels much safer.

Finally: Thank you to the parish for going well past our goal this year for CSA/DDP. This means lots of financial assistance will be coming back to Saint Mary's! Thank you for your generosity, particularly during these difficult times.

I hope you are all doing well, and look forward to seeing all of you here, in person, as soon as it is feasible—and safe—for that to happen.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Douglas Dietrich
Pastor, Saint Mary Church / Lincoln

Income and Expenses April 2020

Expenses

475 Sharon West	PIN	66.17 Black Hills Energy	rec. fuel
300 Century Sales	PIN	122.91 Black Hills Energy	sch. Fuel
5023.78 Paycor	taxes	87.44 Husker Sew-Vac	maint.
16270.57 Paycor	payroll	390 Oak Creek	flowers
745 Sunset Inn	PIN	7469 Pius X	assessmt
117.35 Paycor	office	16.63 QP Ace Hardware	maint.
59.26 LES	PIN	361.05 Vivial/Berry	adv.
147.23 Black Hills Energy	church fuel	128.8 Windstream	ch. Phone
493.72 Bishop of Lincoln	401k	239.93 Windstream	sc. Phone
167.96 Cintas	Maintenance	384.55 Windstream	rec. phone
486.19 Constellation Energy	rectory fuel	107.04 Gloria Gilroy	household
1321.76 Constellation Energy	school fuel	51490.29 Total Expenses	
161.97 Culligan of Lincoln	water		
450 Dallman Drywall	maintenance		
29.02 Gloria Deo	liturgical		
375.62 LES	church electricity	21607 envelopes	
188.9 LES	rectory electricity	1705 plate	
79.53 LES	school electricity	1539 PIN	
326 Big Red Storage	PIN	1443.27 donations	
162.47 Staples	office	226 resale	
274.08 Super Saver	household	26 Southern NE Register	
22.01 Papa John's	household	25 memorial	
128 DMV	PIN	8.4 education fund	
45.02 O'Reilley Auto Parts	PIN	5355 CSA	
64.34 Norton	office	44600 PPP Loan	
19.95 Walgreens	PIN	76534.67 Total Income	
65.07 Mattice Lock & Safe	maintenance		
82 Lee's Chicken	household		
73 Casey's	PIN		
321.75 Q Tec	furnishing/equipment		
24.91 U Stop	PIN		
133.76 DISH	household/cable		
160.76 Zoom.US	office		
73.17 Tico's	hosuehold		
440.79 Cash-Wa	fish fry expenses		
335.57 Cathedral Corporation	office		
701.24 Constellation Energy	fuel--church		
8628.33 Diocese of Lincoln	assessments		
1507.58 John Henry's	maintenance		
1088.57 marco	office		
110 Recycle Link	garbage		
416.25 Star City AHC	maintenance		
19.29 Jim Deckad	maintenance		