

July 26, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

I am writing to update you on how things are going here in the parish. To begin, my sincere appreciation for your continuing support for the parish during these difficult times. Your weekend collection donations, your donations of food and money for Francis House, have enabled our parish to continue to function and to be of special service to the most needy.

Having said that, I am concerned that there has been a drop in the weekend collection recently. As you are aware, we rely on the weekend collections to pay our operating expenses. I know that you have much on your mind as you and your families continue to do your best to meet the challenges of the current crisis. I ask that you please continue to keep the needs of our parish in mind.

We of course are all looking forward to that day when we will again see some sense of normalcy.

The weekend on site Masses are going well. Folks who have been at other parishes for Mass have complimented us on the high standard of safeguards that we have put in place to protect those attending the Masses. We currently have three on site Masses, two in English and one in Spanish. If we see a need for additional Masses, we will add a 5:30 pm. on Sunday evening.

The live stream Mass on Saturday evening will continue indefinitely. We are looking into purchasing mobile equipment for live streaming. This would enable us to also offer the Saturday evening Mass as an "on site" Mass. Of course, all of this planning will be dependent on the activity of the virus.

The replacement of the HVAC (heating and air conditioning) system in the Parish Center is now scheduled for early Fall. The delay is caused by factory shutdowns caused by the pandemic. In the meantime, we will lease a temporary HVAC system.

We are planning to open our parish school for "on site" instruction this Fall. We are able to do this because we have a comparatively small student population and extensive facilities. This combination makes it possible to put stringent social distancing measures in place; something that unfortunately most public schools are not able to do. We will closely monitor any developments with the virus and make any necessary adjustments.

Congratulations to our young parishioners who will be making their Confirmation and First Communion next month. These sacraments were postponed from the Spring because of the virus.

We will be presenting a series of Adult Education programs on Zoom in the next few weeks. Details will be posted on the website. We are also looking for ways to communicate with the Members of our parish who do not have access to a computer.

Finally, our thanks to Brother John Neuffer, a friar in formation, who has been with us these past two months. John has been very helpful working at Francis House and at the weekend Masses. We wish him the best as he returns to studies in Chicago.

Please know that all parishioners continue to be in the prayers of the friars. May God continue to bless you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. John O'Connor, O.F.M.  
Pastor