

November 16, 2016

Feast of St. Margaret of Scotland

Greetings to all of my St. John the Apostle Parishioners:

I write, once again, (as I will do from time to time), to provide an update on the Rectory project; and to let you know of a few changes that are going to occur with regard to our Sunday Liturgies! I apologize, in advance, for the length of this letter.... but there is a lot of information to convey!

Architectural plans have been drawn up for the Rectory (none previously existed), and we have engaged an engineering firm to prepare the "As-built designs" for the HVAC system we intend to put into place, as well as evaluating the structural issues we need to address. Once we are satisfied with these plans, and the scope of the rest of the repairs/improvements that need to be made, we will put the project out to bid with various contractors (who specialize in working in old historic homes): once we have engaged a contractor and have an idea of a time-table: Father Killian and I will move into a short-term rental home for the duration of the project: which is expected to take several months. I will keep you informed as the project progresses. With regard to the cost of these necessary repairs and improvements: these will be added to our existing loan (from the construction of the Church and expansion of the Parish Center), which currently stands at \$3.4 million: we don't have any hard numbers yet...but what we have to do will not be cheap.

With regard to our loan, over the last 4.5 years the pledges from the Capital Campaign were applied to reduce the principal of the loan: bringing it down to \$2.2 million; but then an additional \$1.2 million was borrowed to expand the Parish Center...bringing the balance to \$3.4 million. The Capital Campaign has, essentially, run its course: but before we close it out, we are going to reach out to those who have yet to fulfill their initial pledges (unfulfilled pledges stand at over \$1 million), and we will also reach out to those families who have joined the parish over the last 4 years (since the Church was built) to see if they would consider making a gift/pledge towards paying down the loan: I hope many will be generous! Once the Rectory project is complete, the Diocese will expect us to amortize our loan ( on a ten-year amortization schedule): this will likely be done at the beginning of 2018. With amortization, we will assume an additional \$35,000/month in principal payments: at present our loan is an interest-only construction loan, and the \$15,000/month interest payments are included as an expense in our yearly budget: come 2018 we will have to add principal payments, as an expense, to the yearly budget: thus increasing our monthly payments from \$15,000 to \$50,000. In order to meet this new expense, our offertory income needs to increase, along with fund-raising income, and extra-ordinary donations from generous members of the parish. Going forward, I will be addressing the matter of ongoing stewardship: but more about that later: for now I thank all of you for your generosity: past, present and future!!!

We are on the verge of Advent: the beginning of a new Liturgical Year! As we prepare to enter into this new year, there are a few items related to our Sunday Liturgies that I would like to address with all of you. We are going to make the following adjustments, starting in the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of Advent (12/3-4):

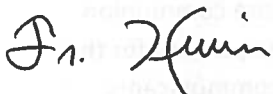
- 1) I believe that we can improve the flow of communion reception by adding more communion stations. We will add 2 additional Communion Stations to every weekend mass, except for the 730am. The new stations will be set halfway down each side aisle...with the communicants

coming out on the side aisle for communion and returning to their pew by going around the body of pews and coming back up the center aisle.

- 2) The Church teaches that the “meaning” of Communion is most clearly signified when given under both *species*— both the Sacred Host and the Precious Blood. In light of this we are going to re-introduce the reception of the Precious Blood; starting, initially, at the 9 and 10:45am masses on Sunday. We will start with 2 “chalice stations” in the Sanctuary area. Those wishing to receive the Precious Blood may proceed to the Ministers of the Cup after the reception of the Host... then returning to their pew.
- 3) The tradition of beginning mass with the ringing of bells is an ancient one, and a beautiful one; which I would like to expand from just our daily masses to Sunday masses as well. When mass is to start, the celebrant will ring the bells that have been installed on the side of the center aisle doors: upon hearing the bells, the congregation will stand, the Lector will give the greeting and announce the opening hymn....and the entrance procession will commence.
- 4) The announcements will be moved to the end of mass: after the closing prayer, all will be invited to sit for the announcements; upon completion, to stand for the blessing and dismissal.
- 5) We will be introducing the “Breaking Bread Missal/Hymnals” at the beginning of Advent...these will replace the current “Vatican II and OCP Journey Song” books. The Breaking Bread Books are on a yearly cycle...and I believe all will find them both easier to use and read. OCP publishes the Breaking Bread....so we will still be able to avail ourselves of their wide body of Hymns, etc....which will cover much that is in the Vatican II and Journey Songs books...and more. After the first year of use we will review any pros/cons related to the Breaking Bread books and then see how we will proceed. The Vatican II and Journey Songs books will go into storage for now... some of the Vatican II books will go into the chapel for use with the Extra-ordinary form mass.
- 6) The taking up of 2<sup>nd</sup> collections will be moved to after communion: once the celebrant returns to his seat...the ushers will take up the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection.
- 7) The Diocese has given the go-ahead for Monte Brothers Sound Systems to install our new sound system, which should be a great improvement over what we have: this work will begin on 11/28 and be completed by 12/3: and will cost \$106,000: which we will pay from our cash reserves.
- 8) We are considering moving the 830am daily mass to the Church: in order to open it to possible wider attendance (now limited due to chapel seating capacity); I am still considering how we might work Extended Adoration if this takes place: please stay tuned for more on this matter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Kevin