

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Leesburg, Virginia 20176

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June 22, 2017, The Feast of St. Thomas More, Principal Patron of the Diocese

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

It is hard for me to believe that Fr. Killian and I have been here at St. John's for nearly a year now: this year has gone by quickly, and has been both rewarding and enjoyable! I write, once again, (as I will continue to do from time to time), to provide an update on the Rectory Repairs project; and to let you know of a liturgy schedule change that will become effective in the coming weeks.

With the date for commencement of work on the Rectory Repair Project finally at hand, Fr. Killian and I have moved out of the Rectory this past week...and are now settling into a house we have rented here in Leesburg! We (the Diocese and the parish) have agreed upon the scope of the work to be done...and have been working with an Architect and General Contractor (with their various sub-contractors) to get the ball rolling: and have our plans and permits in place. We anticipate that the repairs and safety improvements will take 8 to 10 months to complete (subject to change due to any unforeseen issues that may be uncovered once we begin to open up walls, etc.).

The scope of the Project has not changed much since we (the parish & Diocese) first began discussing it back in July 2016; but as a reminder to all, in order to bring the house up to Code and make it safer and more livable, we anticipate accomplishing the following items:

1. Asbestos abatement in the building (identified areas in the basement);
2. Ongoing abatement of lead paint that will be disturbed as repairs progress,
3. Replacement of all the plumbing in the house (both supply and waste lines),
4. Upgrade of the main electrical line feeding the house and subsequent replacement and upgrade of the electric panel box for the house,
5. Removal of all the remaining "knob & tube" electrical wiring throughout the house as well as the wiring conduits on the outside of the house; and subsequent rewiring of the entire house,
6. Removal of the boiler and aging radiator system and installation of a Central Air Conditioning and Heating systems throughout the house,
7. Repairs and improvements to three bathrooms in the house (particularly to correct the compromised floor joists, leaks, as well as replacing aging & damaged showers, tubs, sinks, etc.),
8. Repairs to areas of the wood flooring affected by water and termite damage, and by the HVAC installation: and then sanding and refinishing the original wood flooring throughout the house,
9. Repointing of all the exterior brickwork,
10. Repairing & replacing the extensively damaged wood gutters and wood fascia, etc.... on the exterior of the house,
11. Refurbishing all the windows of the house and basement;
12. Extensive repairs to the 3rd floor...in order to make it both usable and livable for future clergy and guests (repairs to include: adding insulation, reframing & replacing drywall, electric work, bathroom renovation, etc.),
13. Painting the interior of the house, and painting of all the woodwork on the exterior of the house.

The Diocese has approved our adding the costs for these repairs to our present loan balance; but as we have been working to increase our Capital Reserves over this past year...we will also be funding some parts of the repairs from these Capital Reserves. I, along with the members of the Parish Finance Council, am pleased with the present

financial position of the parish: which I will be discussing in the near future when we publish the Fiscal Year and Operating Actuals for this past year. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of so many of you, we are lining up to be in a good position to pay down our loan and continue to build up our reserves, even as we make much needed repairs and improvements to our various buildings.

On another note, (and I know this comes as no surprise to any of you!!!), it certainly continues to be the case that Loudoun County is experiencing tremendous population growth: as a result, our parish also continues to experience increased growth and increases in pastoral activities and needs. Over the course of this year we have seen more than 330 new families register here in the parish...which represents a 10% increase in our population in one year. Such an increase in growth is wonderful, and would be doubly so if an increase in assigned clergy personnel came with it...unfortunately not so. During much of the 4 years prior to Fr. Killian and I arriving in July 2016, St. John the Apostle benefited from having 3 resident priests (serving with Fr. Mosimann at various times during these years were: Fr. Andres, Fr. Peffley, Fr. Christensen and Fr. Sunny), along with a Permanent Deacon from January 2015-July 2016: however, since July 2016, it has been just two of us residing & ministering in the parish.

Fr. Killian and I remained hopeful that the Diocese might, if at all possible, assign an additional priest (parochial vicar or resident), or a Permanent Deacon, to the parish this year; but this did not occur with the recent Clergy assignments. In light of this, and after having observed the ongoing life and routines of the parish--with its varied pastoral and ministerial needs, and anticipating continued increase in population and pastoral work, (funerals, nursing home visitation & masses, counseling, weddings, etc.); I have decided to adjust the daily liturgy schedule, in order to provide greater flexibility for both the parish and clergy schedules, by moving back to a single daily mass during the week. If, at some point in the future, the Diocese sees fit to assign another priest to the parish (as parochial vicar or full-time resident), we will revisit this matter: so let us all add that intention to our daily prayers!

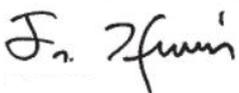
The change in the daily mass schedule will become effective the week of July 9, 2017, when the daily mass schedule will change to the following:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am Mass in the Chapel

Tuesday and Thursday: 12 noon Mass in the Church

All mass intentions affected by these changes will be transferred to the next available open dates in our Mass intention books: if you have scheduled a mass intention that is affected by this change, and do not wish for us to reschedule it to another date, you may come in and we will refund your intention donation. We will continue with this new schedule for a year and then evaluate whether to keep it or to make a further change in the time and location of the daily mass during the week. Thank you for taking the time to read through this letter. I ask for your continued prayers for both Fr. Killian and myself; and please be assured of our continued prayers for all the families of St. John the Apostle parish!

Sincerely in Christ,



Fr. Kevin Larsen, Pastor