

10 May 2020

Dear St. Charles Parishioner:

The Church calls this the Fifth Sunday of Easter. It is the second Sunday of May, and that means we call it Mothers' Day. All moms, living and deceased, will be remembered at Mass this morning. May is also a month dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Please check our parish website stcharlesonline.org and click [Resources to Honor our Blessed Mother](#) During the month of May. While you are visiting the parish website, please check your registration information by clicking [Update your Contact Information](#). Make sure we have your correct phone number and your current email address. Many thanks!

As mentioned before, we are making many adjustments to the parish calendar. Saturday April 26 was supposed to be Confirmation Day for our eighth graders and Saturday May 2 was this year's First Communion date. We hope to reschedule both events for later in the year. We are also working on some type of a graduation ceremony for our eighth graders. I have spoken with several couples who had April, May and June wedding dates. They, too, are looking at a "fall date" for their Big Day.

The Carnival Committee set May 1 as the date for a "final decision" about our Annual Summer Extravaganza. The month of May is usually spent purchasing prizes, ordering rentals, recruiting volunteers, and printing/ mailing raffle tickets. If we were to make all those expensive preparations and then were not legally permitted to hold large gatherings, all that effort and money would be wasted. *So the decision was made to cancel Carnival 2020.* It is just too risky—for all involved—to take a chance. The latest projections tell us that we will be dealing with COVID 19 for several more months. I could not ask our parishioners to volunteer for "Carnival duty" as this health crisis has no end in sight. After continued discussion, the Carnival Committee has opted to sponsor a raffle. We have had the grand prize, a 2020 GMC Terrain (courtesy of Axelrod GMC Buick) since March. We will also offer a replacement roof (courtesy of Second-to-None Roofing) and \$3,500 worth of gift certificates or cash—your choice. We had planned to use the 2020 Carnival proceeds for security/surveillance systems (exterior and interior) on all levels of both the Parish Hall and Parish Activities Center. We took advantage of this two-month "school and parish shutdown" to have those systems installed; both are now up-and-running. The proposed 2020 Raffle will pay for them. More on this Summer Raffle later as we work out the details.

Our Sunday 10:00am Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word program is a great favorite of mine. Kids leave Mass with a trained catechist and receive a Scripture lesson appropriate to their age and then return to their parents for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Please check our website stcharlesonline.org for our new on-line [Children's Liturgy of the Word](#). You will find a new lesson each week. Thank you to those who are making CLW available electronically!

It came as news to me that our on-line Masses have become popular outside our parish boundaries. I have received notes and e-mails from new "virtual parishioners" in Mississippi, Florida, Colorado, Indiana, and Michigan! In addition to their nice words about what they see streamed to them, all have promised that they would like to come and visit "the real St Charles" if they ever make it to northeast Ohio!

The Offertory Collection for Sunday May 3 was \$41,019.25. Thank you for your continued great generosity to St Charles Borromeo Parish even in these most difficult times.