

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

"Bother Father"/Open Office Hours

Our third "Bother Father" time is this week!

This is a time that anyone can stop by without an appointment and talk to me about anything you would like. Some things I have thought of are:

- Questions about our faith
- Questions about the sacraments or questions relating to an annulment
- Questions about our parish
- Take time to go to confession
- Discuss a situation that is ongoing in your life
- Receive help and direction relating to prayer
- Questions/concerns relating to All Things New
- And anything else you can think of...

Here are the times to "Bother Father" in August:

Wednesday, August 31, 6:00-8:00pm

And here are some upcoming times in September!

Wednesday, September 7, 9:00-11:00am

Monday, September 12, 2:00-4:00pm

Thursday, September 19, 5:00-7:00pm

Please consider coming to visit!

Parish Meeting

This Sunday, we will have our parish meeting at 5:00pm in the gym.

I have been thinking about how to describe this meeting, especially in the context of All Things New. I believe this is a good analogy.

Remember when the Cardinals are in a race for a playoff spot? Usually, we need some help, meaning certain teams must lose to get our team into the playoffs. However, if the Cardinals do not win the games they are playing, then it will not matter if the other team(s) wins or loses. They will only have themselves to blame for missing the playoffs.

We are looking at the "scoreboard" then, and wondering collectively what will happen with All Things New. This is something that we cannot do much about right now. But we cannot take so much time looking at the scoreboard that we do not take care of the business we need to address in our parish community.

We have made a commitment to our teachers and students that we will support them as we normally do throughout this academic year. As usual, certain things break around the campus and need to be repaired. Further, we have a water loss in the rectory that will be largely covered by insurance, but will have some cost to the parish as well.

The meeting this Sunday, then, is not so much to look at the All Things New process, but to look at what is going on here. We will review our financials from last year and the great things we have been able to do thanks to your generosity. Additionally, we will also take time to reflect on our great community via the recent DMI results that were shared with the parish. Lastly, we will discuss how you can help us continue to meet our obligations and our needs, especially through the 2022-2023 Angel Appeal.

This meeting will also be livestreamed for our parishioners who are unable to join. We encourage everyone to join in person or via the livestream.

Speaking of the Rectory Basement

On Thursday, July 28, we experienced a category 3 water loss in the rectory. This water loss is the most severe, involving raw sewage coming up through the sewer line into the basement of the rectory. At its height, it was up to people's shoes.

Due to the presence of sewage, it was determined that we needed to reach out to a professional mitigation company to properly clean up the basement. Their demolition discovered two additional problems.

First, a sewage pipe in the basement was cracked in several places. This cracked pipe was probably one of the culprits in the sewage leak into the rectory.

Second, as has been known for at least a decade, the basement of the rectory, especially in the quilters room and the Adoration Chapel leaks during a rain storm. Through the restoration process, it was discovered that there was some mold in the basement, which has since been remediated.

The wood flooring and carpet in the quilters' room, Adoration Chapel, bathroom, and landing have all been removed. There is at least a two-foot cut in the drywall in all of the rooms, including the quilters' room, Adoration Chapel, bathroom, Raphael Room, kitchenet, washer room, Christmas storage room, the fireplace room, and all of the hallways connecting these areas. Additionally, the lower cabinets have all been torn out in the kitchenet and thrown away due to water damage.

How soon we can be back in this space is unknown at this time. We have a plumber who is working on getting us a quote to replace the damaged sewer pipe in the bathroom. We are also working to get a waterproofer in to examine the foundation to see what work needs to be done to ensure the foundation will not leak anymore. All of this work needs to be done before new drywall, paint, baseboard, and flooring can be installed into the space.

The remediation of the mold and the replacement of the loss will be covered by our insurance. However, the pipe and waterproofing will be a cost to the parish. The timing is not great with the uncertainty of All Things New, but it has to be done. Whatever happens with the property after this process, it cannot have a wet basement. Thus, I expect the Archdiocese to approve and completely support any needed repair to the foundation of the rectory.

I will continue to update you as we know more about how and when these issues will be addressed.

In Gratitude

First, a belated word of gratitude to all of those who helped to make Deacon Jerry's celebration so special. In particular, I want to thank the Parish Council for their months of preparation for this event from the setup, to getting the food, and organizing the cleanup. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make this day special for a man who has given so much to us.

Also, I want to thank the organizers and the many volunteers who made the Watermelon Festival and Pickleball Tournament such a great success. A special thanks to the organizers of this event, Derek Winters, Matt Maxfield, and Chris Murphey and their families. Thank you also to the bar-b-que crew organized by Keith Klein and many others. We look forward to seeing this event grow in the coming years.

Finally, I want to thank our excellent faculty and families who have gotten us off to such a great school year. The school looked awesome on Open House Sunday and our students have gotten off to a fantastic start. Many hours of preparation by our administration, faculty and staff, and parents have all gone into making sure this school year is special for our students. Thank you for all of your efforts!

I will see you online or in Church! - Fr. John
#SRAstrong