

Dear Friends,

There is much to communicate this week!

As I reflect on the recent Mass celebrated on Independence Day in the Mausoleum, I note that celebrating Masses at this holy, yet under utilized space, gathers people from the parish for a day of remembrance, both to give thanks through the celebration of the Eucharist and to visit the burial places of their loved ones. In the future, all civic holiday Masses during warm weather will be held in the Mausoleum at 9:00am. Shifting this daily Mass creates a pilgrim-experience, where we step out of our routine of a set time and location.

Since the last regularly scheduled Sunday Mass was celebrated there, weekday Masses have been celebrated at IHM Church for about ten years. The last Sunday Mass was just over a year ago when we had to move the 9:00am Mass from St. Vincent to 9:30am at IHM! (I wish never to repeat any of that again!) Now the time has come for us to part with this beloved campus. The closing ceremony for Immaculate Heart of Mary Church will be on Saturday, September 7th, time TBD. My hope is that this will be coupled with the parish picnic, usually held on the first Sunday after Labor Day. A display of memorabilia from the IHM past will be in the narthex of St. Mary's during the month of September. More on that next week...

As I announced at Mass this past weekend, we will soon have a concept of the design and an estimate of the cost to finish to HVAC project at St. Mary's. Installation of the new boiler system was completed earlier this past week, thanks to a recent bequest. I found it remarkable that the former main boiler had the date and signature of a previous pastor who blessed it when it was installed: Fr. Thomas Brennan in 1956! Today, we have three new boilers that will work in tandem with one another, so as not to overburden any one unit. Giving us about a 35% efficiency savings, it will pay for itself in no time. As the colder weather approaches, I will bless and sign these new boilers, and include some pictures of the event in a future bulletin. So, we have the "H", now we need the "VAC." I will communicate this cost, and I will be asking directly for your assistance to make this project happen.



Many of you are aware of the green "Parish Improvement" envelope that is in the weekly and special collections envelope packet. (Your contributions to this fund were used to complete the parking lot project.) As of July 1st, I have instructed that all funds received from this collection be diverted from the general operating checking account into the capital fund account. These funds will help us with projects, either building or maintenance. Every contribution will help us chip away at a laundry list of deferred maintenance projects. This is the best use and direction for this money; many of you will be satisfied as you see some actual results from these contributions.

Now a bit of sad news for the parish: our beloved co-director of music, Gabe Condon, is leaving All Saints parish to pursue a new career opportunity. He will become an instructor of classical and jazz guitar at Washington State University and will move to Pullman, Washington with his wife Clarissa at the beginning of August. While we would like to keep Gabe here, this is an opportunity that he cannot pass up. Unfortunately, the distance is too great for him to commute for the weekends! We will miss his pleasant personality, willingness to engage with others, gentleness, kindness, and incredible talent. I will miss working with him and I am grateful for the support he has given me since I arrived. This will be a difficult loss for the parish -- let's not diminish that fact. However, we must wish him well in this new phase of life. A farewell reception will be held for Gabe on Sunday, August 4th, after the 11:30am Mass in the ASA Gym. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend to offer Gabe your best wishes and prayers.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jones