

St Edward parish update August 1, 2020

I can hardly believe that August is upon us. I don't know where spring and half of summer went locked up in our houses. I'm sure that when we emerge from this pandemic we will appreciate our freedom to travel and visit with friends much more than ever before. Little things will certainly find a greater place in our hearts.

In two weeks we will welcome Fr. Wolfe to our parish as a full time priest, and having known him for years I realize what a blessing he will be to St. Edward's. He is anxious to begin his work with our community, but only God knows what the fall season will look like for the parish. We are hoping that if Covid-19 numbers stabilize, we will begin to see ministries and activities sprout again. But no one knows what the fall will bring.

Our parking lot has been put on a temporary hold in these months because of the pandemic. We hope that some kind of in-person meetings will begin by October so that the details of the project can be evaluated and approved by all those involved. While no one likes a delay, I guess it is just as well that there is a pause in the process. After all, the money to pay for the project won't arrive for another three years until the We Stand with Christ pledges are completely paid. And from what I hear, you can't pay contractors with pledge forms.

Our Faith Formation staff has been working on programs for the new academic year. Because no one is sure what schools will be like in the upcoming season, we have opted for a completely online teaching program for at least the first half of the academic year. It seemed like the most responsible move to make with so much uncertainty in the air. Information about this will be sent out to families when all programs have been finalized.

We are also in the process of getting caught up on last spring's First Reconciliations and First Communion. With Fr. Wolfe and Fr. Augustine's help, I am confident that we will get back on schedule. Confirmations for the current year will also be scheduled soon, but those require my presence to confirm. So those dates are on hold right now until I get a date for my final chemotherapy treatment. Confirmations will be completed sometime before the end of November.

As you can imagine, parish finances were in a much better place before the shutdown began. Even though we are open again in a limited way, we were closed for several weekends including Easter 2020. Thanks be to God that we saved wisely over the past decade so that there were funds set aside to assist in this urgent time. Many thanks as well to those who signed up for online donations and those who mailed in offerings to help keep us financially stable. But numbers tell a very challenging story. We finished the 2019/2020 fiscal year with \$160,000 less in offertory than we budgeted. On the bright side, we did receive help from the PPP loan to stabilize our employees and, with the parish shut down, our expenses are not as high as we expected. As we go forward with very limited offertory, I am asking families who are able to help to consider a one-time "make-up" offertory gift to assist with keeping our parish finances stable.

I have two more treatments to go, and while they are tiring, their number is dwindling. I look forward to getting back to normal both as a parish and as a person. From where I'm standing now, normal never looked so good. Many blessings to you, and thanks for your love and support of St. Edward's.

Blessings,
Fr. Nick