

Pastoral Council report January 2021

Faith Formation is continuing online. First Reconciliation is scheduled for Feb. 20

Other programs are on hold or doing online contact because of the pandemic

St. Vincent de Paul continues its tremendous work of loving care for the needy in our area. Feb. 13-14 will be "Undy Sunday" to collect underwear and socks for the needy.

Feb. 6-7 is blessing of throats. Because of the pandemic the diocese has instructed that this be done as a general blessing for the congregation rather than individually.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 17. The diocese sent a notice that the reception of ashes is not necessary to receive the blessing and that it should be done by sprinkling ashes on the heads of those who desire ashes (this is how done in Old testament and still in some parts of the world). I doubted this would be popular and after speaking with my mother and several women, I concluded my doubts were well founded. Instead I will use individual Q-tips to give ashes.

Sat. Feb. 20 we will do the Rite of Election for the Dunwald family at 4:00 Mass. Doug is catholic but his wife and their four children have not been baptized and wish to do so. We will pray for them on their faith journey and present them with a copy of the Creed, which we will all then recite with them.

Feb. 27-28 we will do the Catholic Charities appeal. Requests for help during the pandemic have increased across the diocese. Please consider making a contribution to help our brothers and sisters in their time of need.

The nursing home wants me to be able to resume visits so they are having me vaccinated. That will allow me to resume visits there and to those homebound who feel safe with my coming to their homes. I will still be wearing a mask in accord with the guidelines.

Apr. 3-4 is Easter. We plan to do our normal Holy Week and Easter schedule. Though unless things improve rapidly, there will not be an egg hunt.

Wi-Fi has been upgraded in the church and we are waiting for it to be done in the school. Once it is fully installed there will be new passwords for the rectory and church but the school password should remain the same. The signal in the church is now very strong.

Finances: July 1, 2020 – Jan. 20, 2021

Collections down \$14,704.23

Energy & Major Repair down \$6,184.82

Total decrease \$20,889.05

Expenses decreased \$48,992.54

Stocks up \$41,501.01

Net income including stocks up \$63,339.90

Much of the decrease in expenses was due to parish programs suspended due to pandemic. Hopefully we will be able to resume programs by summer. That will increase expenses but hopefully as people return things will stabilize. There are two major repairs coming up when the weather warms. New roof for church and parking lot will need resurfaced, but major repairs has sufficient funds to cover both.

Council needs to start thinking of how to revive programs when safe and how to evangelize people who have become accustomed to staying home. We will have funds to do programs and activities to engage people in parish life. We must strive for a new normal meeting the needs of our people more fully. Let us pray for the inspiration that only the Holy Spirit can provide.

+Peace+

Fr. Bob