

A Note From The Pastor...



Brothers and Sisters,

Following last weekend's announcement about a final Mass at St. Catherine's - 4PM on Saturday, April 29th, the Feast Day of Saint Catherine of Siena - there are many questions that people have, and more that have not yet come to light (but that will in the coming weeks.)

My intent is to use some of the means of communication at our disposal - including the bulletin - to answer those questions and concerns as they arise, and to convey specifics about the transition. (So look forward to Q&A in the bulletin moving forward.)

For now, a few things to note:

Many of you expressed some immediate questions or concerns this weekend following Masses. I have jotted those questions and concerns down to make sure they are responded to, knowing that it might take a little more time before full clarity is gained.

I've reached out to members of the Parish Leadership Team to meet and discuss what groups/committees need to be formed to help guide us in the next few months, and how those groups might be filled. There are many good thoughts from our people, and we'll work to provide some avenues to channel those ideas and suggestions.

We have begun to communicate to the homebound about this development. We'll work over the next few months to make sure these important members of our community receive a continuity of care beyond April.

The Finance Council meets this Tuesday for our usual monthly meeting, to begin reviewing any adjustments we might make leading up to the transition.

I've spoken with employed staff about their futures, and the diocese's attentiveness to their care post-April, including the opportunity for new positions elsewhere in the Church.

As I mentioned following the Masses this weekend, I walked with another community through their closure fifteen years ago. St. Catherine's is its own unique community, and so not everything that was experienced there can or should be duplicated with us today. Even then, I do remain confident that many of those rituals and plans from then do remain relevant and can be a reassuring aid to this time and season.

While being attentive to the responsibility to the parish goods and celebrations over the next few months, my primary responsibility is to help steward the community's most important resource: YOU! Grieving well, and guiding our parishioners' next steps remains the top focus.

May we all feel the Good Shepherd's closeness to us in the days ahead.

Father Justin