



ST GREGORY THE GREAT FALL NEWSLETTER 2020

"Let us Return to the Eucharist with Joy"

Dear Parishioners,

Our students have returned gratefully to in-classroom instruction for the fall semester, and this is a great blessing. Surely this is the grandest season of all; the harvest time of year and the season of fruitfulness. We pray that this return may prove to be a fruitful semester for all parish school families. We are reminded of a fruitful offertory during this time of pandemic, what great stewardship! Let me extend my depth of gratitude to the parish community for contributing over 80% of regular offertory giving. This is an extra ordinary level of giving in these times and for which we are most grateful.

The Faith Formation and Confirmation classes will open for virtual learning this month. With the help of parents we anticipate a fruitful year. Ministry leaders are encouraged to contact the office to schedule outdoor meetings on the parish grounds or for help in facilitating zoom meetings. *"Hope in Him, hold firm and take heart."* Psalm 27 October reminds us to recover a new appreciation of prayer in the Rosary, as a contemplative and Christ centered prayer. In this Mission month of October, we pray especially for all Missionaries, peace keeping soldiers and development workers. Caryll Houselander gives this excerpt from her prayer;

*"The Finding in the Temple through Mary seeking her lost Son,
may we be given grace always to seek for the Christ-child,
and always to find Him. Let us find Him in all children and
in all who have a child's needs, the helpless, the sick, the
simple, the aged; in all who serve and are trusting and poor, in
all who are lonely and homeless. Let us too, become as little
children, to find the Divine Child in our own hearts."*

Through the power of prayer we can face any adversity. Last week I met a parishioner who returned to Mass in church because of the message of the Holy Father. Pope Francis affirms the message of Cardinal Sarah, prefect of the Doctrine of the Faith: Calling it necessary and urgent to return to Mass as soon as Covid measures permit. Sarah says "livestreamed Masses are useful but they're no replacement for physical presence." He titles his letter to Bishops of the World; *"Let us return to the Eucharist with Joy"*. Sarah writes: "it is necessary and urgent to return to the normalcy of Christian life which has the Church building as its home and the Eucharist as source and summit of Christian life... for we cannot be without the Christian community. This physical contact with the Lord at Mass is vital, indispensable and irreplaceable." In essence he is saying, in a long letter, if you are returning to recreational activities – restaurants, gyms, you should be willing to return to Mass. If we nourish our bodies at the restaurant, we should nourish our soul at Mass. It should be acknowledged that folks at risk have no obligation. Decisions like this should be taken to prayer.

May God bless all in your families in these turbulent times and keep you safe.
Let us keep each other in prayer.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin, Pastor

