



St. Nicholas Catholic Church · P.O. Box 133 Carver, MN 55315 · (952) 448-2345 · www.stnicholascarver.org

December 21, 2020

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

My prayer is that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe! Additionally, my prayer is that this Advent is one that draws you closer to Jesus as we contemplate on His first coming and prepare for His second coming.

I want to give you an update on the progress we have made completing the opportunity that the Archbishop has given to us and other activities within the parish.

Providing a recommendation

We created a survey tool to gather input from as many people as practical. This included sending a letter and paper survey to every 'registered and active' household. We also posted the letter and survey on both the St. Nicholas web page and Facebook page. And to invite neighbors to participate we placed six yard signs with the QR code for the survey.



We received over 160 responses that have formed the basis of the input to the Archbishop. This wealth of information has been reviewed and interpreted by a team of approximately 20 parishioners who volunteered to assist in this work. This team is a true gift to the parish as they have met multiple times and spent additional time in prayer and discernment providing very valuable insight, context, and input in the process of developing the recommendation. The body of the recommendation presents the desires, in essence the "what" or "wants" of the parishioners. We include some recommendations on possible implementations but certainly leave the "how" to the decision of the Archbishop. All of the information collected will be included with the recommendation. We are looking at different methods to be able to share the final recommendation with you, particularly considering the COVID-19 protocols. Stay tuned!

Other Activities at St. Nicholas

Mass has been celebrated in St. Nicholas Church on Thanksgiving Day, Sunday December 6 (2nd Sunday of Advent & Feast of St. Nicholas) and will be celebrated on Christmas Day. It truly is joyous to celebrate as a community within St. Nicholas church. If you are interested in reserving a seat for Christmas Day at 10:30am, please contact me via email or phone (contact information with my signature). Due to COVID, reservations are required.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation by individual confessions, was offered on Saturday, Dec. 5. Thanks to Fr. Rolf Tollefson, our Parochial Administrator, for offering the sacrifice of the Mass and the sacrament of reconciliation.



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The Faith Formation Program here at St. Nicholas is active at the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15pm. All students are welcome from 1st- 9th grade. If you would like to have your child join, please contact our Faith Formation Coordinator, Barbara Minzel, at 612-310-3612 or by email tubbythepubby2@gmail.com. We are following all Minnesota Department of Health and Archdiocese safety and health guidelines to ensure all children and volunteers can remain safe while participating.

Invitation

As we continue to work on the recommendation and await the decision of the Archbishop, St. Nicholas continues to operate, albeit at a limited level. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us all to discern God's will for St. Nicholas.

We still have need for your support, certainly by prayer and also financial contributions. I am very grateful to those who continue to send in your contributions to financially support the parish. There are numerous ways for you to provide for the financial needs of St. Nicholas. They include:

- Drop your weekly envelope in the mail slot of the St. Nicholas Office door. (Door closest to the 2-car garage)
- Mail your envelope to St. Nicholas at P.O. Box 133, Carver, MN 55315
- Sign-up for electronic giving – Contact Lynn Arnal at larnal@gachaska.org or (952) 227-4000
- Donate on-line at <https://stnicholascarver.org/donations.php> Click on the DONATE button
- Drop your envelope at the Office of Guardian Angels at 215 West Second Street, Chaska, MN 55318
- Place your St. Nicholas envelope in the collection basket of any neighboring Catholic parish.
- Return your contribution in the provided envelope.

Closing

As always, I am available to you via email or phone. Thank you for your continued prayers. Be assured of my prayers for you. May this Advent season be one of peace and joy.

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon James W. Bauhs
Parish Life Administrator

Deacon.Jim.Bauhs@Gmail.com

(612) 405-0116