



9900 Thomas Nelson Highway

Lovington, VA 22949

July 5, 2020

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH NEWSLETTER #9.2020 Third Sunday of PUBLIC MASSES!

1) FATHER CARLOS ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear Parishioners,

It is with some sadness that I share with you the news that our Bishop will be transferring me to another parish. I will be leaving for my new assignment on August 16. I am to be the pastor of St. Joseph's church in Martinsville, VA and St. Francis of Assisi in Rocky Mount.

Father Roger Abandano from St. Peter the Apostle in Olney, VA will be your new pastor. He has been serving at St. Peter's since 2015 having come from the Batanes Island in the Philippines.

Transfers of pastors are part of the organization and fabric of our church and while departures can be sad, arrivals are new beginnings and provide opportunities for all of us. I know that all of you will give Father Roger the support he deserves as he becomes your pastor.

I will keep all of you in my prayers during this transition and I ask that you keep myself and Father Roger in your prayers also.

Yours in Christ,

Father Carlos

2) Public Masses at St Mary's continue this Sunday July 5. The following apply and we ask that all follow this guidance.

Sunday Mass times will be 10:00 am (English) and 1:00pm (Spanish). A group of Parishioners has volunteered to participate as Safety Ushers in these masses to keep all of us safe. Please follow their guidance! Note the time change for the Spanish mass!

3) We will allow people into the church on a first come, first in basis. 50% of sanctuary capacity is the maximum. Based on the numbers that are attending that may be amended to accommodate those who may have to travel a long distance and would like to know they can get in. But for now, first come, first in.

4) Parishioners must bring their own face coverings - that must be worn properly over the nose and mouth and mask must not have an exhale port which allows exhale with less restrictions.

5) **Parishioners must arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of mass! No exceptions!**

6) Specific instructions on procedures to be followed during Mass will be given before Mass begins.

7) Parishioners who answer **yes** to any of the following:

- a) Have you or anyone in your household had a fever in the past two (2) weeks?
- b) Do you or anyone in your household have a new cough or new shortness of breath?
- c) Have you come into contact with anyone who is positive with COVID-19 in the past two (2) weeks?

or **do not have a face mask will not be permitted to enter the church.**

8) **THE BISHOP'S DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING SUNDAY MASS WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT AND THE MASS WILL BE LIVESTREAMED FOR THE FAITHFUL WHO DO NOT FEEL COMFORTABLE WITH ATTENDING IN PERSON. THE DISPENSATION WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS OUR CHURCHES ARE NOT FULLY OPEN.**

9) Parishioners in a vulnerable category are encouraged to stay at home (over 65 and/or immune-compromised).

The masses will continue to be livestreamed on the Parish Facebook Page at 10am and 1pm. The link to the facebook page is <https://m.facebook.com/St-Marys-Catholic-Church-164123760290127/>.

10) **Daily Mass and Mass intentions.** Father Carlos would like to dedicate both Sunday Mass and Friday Daily Mass to special intentions. Daily mass will be said on Wednesday at St. Francis and Friday at St.

Mary at 12 noon. If you have an intention for mass please contact Father (757-751-8194) or call the office (434-263-8509) with the name of the person or persons.

11) **Supporting the Parish.** While we have no means to take up a collection the parish still has expenses and bills. So this would be a great time to sign up for eGiving (<https://membership.faithdirect.net/VA947>) if you are capable of giving. The Diocese has also set up a web page (<https://offertory.richmonddiocese.org>) for gifts to the parish online but you do not want to sign up for eGiving. Lastly you can always mail a check to the parish.

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12) **Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Father Carlos will hear confessions on Saturdays from 3-4pm at the church. Please adhere to social distancing requirements. No more than 10 people total in the church at any one time and 6 feet must be maintained between all people. The confession station is in the forward left side of the nave next to the Baptismal Font. Masks are required. Wash your hands before and after or use hand sanitizer. Father is available during these times for private consultations. And you can always call him for a private meeting or reconciliation. 757-751-8194.

13) **Additional Diocesan Information on Reopening.**

We know the desire to participate in the liturgy and receive the Eucharist is incredibly strong. Ways are being explored to address this concern, all the while continuing the care and concern for the physical and spiritual health of all. **We are reminded that the greatest divine law is that we love God and our neighbor; all other laws and individual rights are subordinate to that supreme divine law.**

Please be patient and charitable as we work through these difficult times.

14) **Communications.** As no bulletin is being published during this period, the parish is using FLOCKNOTES and Facebook for regular electronic communication with email, texts and newsletters. This is in addition to the usual telephone and email communication. If you are not registered in FLOCKNOTES and are not receiving regular FLOCKNOTE emails and texts, you can sign up by texting GUADALUPE to 84576 and following the instructions. If you need to do it in Spanish then text GUADALUPE to 202-765-3441. To do it online, go to <https://StMaryCatholicChurch12.flocknote.com/everyone>. Only a name and email is required to register but if you have a text number that is highly recommended to ensure you don't miss any important material. **Recently a number of people have been added to FLOCKNOTES using data from the parish's office records. Much of the data is incomplete so if you want to correct your data follow the above process to sign up on flocknotes. That will correct your data.** The parish has a Facebook Group <https://m.facebook.com/groups/616666051719052/> which you can join by having a Facebook account and then asking to join the group. There are a number of St. Mary Groups on Facebook so make sure you have ours. Our Logo is prominently displayed and there is no other Lovingston St. Mary's. As a member of the group you can post info and ask questions by commenting on posts. When you are asked a question upon requesting to join the group, answer I AM A PARISHIONER. And you will be allowed into the group. Father Carlos has been posting gospel messages on this page. The parish also has a Facebook

Page that is totally public and is only used to stream masses, the link to that page is listed in paragraph 1 above. **Please pass this info to any parishioner you know who is not receiving information from the parish.**

15. **Deacon Julio Reyes**, who served as our seminarian and was supported by our Knights of Columbus Council will be ordained on Saturday July 11 by Bishop Knestout at the cathedral in Richmond. Please pray for Julio and his priesthood. Due to the Pandemic the ordination is by invitation only.

16) **PASTOR'S WORD for the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

For the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' disciples are the ones who commit their lives totally to him. They are the ones his Father welcomes into the divine family. At that time Jesus exclaimed: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father."

Our Lord Jesus Christ invites Jewish Christians and us to come to him, take up his yoke, and find rest with him. His yoke and teachings are straight-forward to accomplish discipleship and put them to practice.

The Lord calls us to be gracious, merciful and compassionate to others? How does his example and love help you to be so in your daily life experience?

This pandemic has changed all our lives. How can Jesus's message apply to you such that you find support and strength in your heart?

How as a Church, society, and nation can we learn from Jesus to be meek and humble and to carry out his gentleness in order to bring peace to one another?

Let us give thanks to the Lord of Heaven and Earth to reveal his mighty love to those who are humble and meek. "O God, who in the degradation of your Son has raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you have bestowed eternal gladness. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen."

God Bless you,

Carlos Lerma, Pastor

Ministry News

First Communion/Confirmation/RCIA

A plan is being developed to hold the sacraments in July. More information to follow

Migrant Worker Ministry

The ministry has ceased visits to the migrant camps until it is safe to do so.

Prison Ministry

The prison ministry is on hiatus until the state will allow visitors to the prison.

Knights of Columbus

John Paul 2nd Council 16535 will meet via ZOOM at 7pm on Tuesday 14 July. The Knights have purchased a large commercial grade barbeque so look for some future delicious barbecue events.

During this Pandemic the Knights are now allowing members to join completely on line. Anyone who like to join via this streamlined and easy process can contact Wayne Parent (wcparent7@aol.com) or Len Thompson (lenthompson@gmail.com) to receive info on how to do this. If you have thought about joining, now is the time. If you have never thought about it, now is the time!

