



9900 Thomas Nelson Highway

Lovington, VA 22949

August 16, 2020

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH NEWSLETTER #15.2020

1. Father Carlos Letter to the parishioners upon his departure after five years as our Pastor! GOOD LUCK AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU FATHER!

17 August 2020

Dear Parishioners

I just want to express my gratitude to you for being so kind to me and all of the good things that you have done for me in my time as a pastor. It had been five years, in which I learned from you how to be your pastor and how to serve all of you. There were some moments in which, I didn't make good decisions, and I would like to apologize for that. You are truly a caring and generous people, and for sure, father Roger would be so bless to have you as members of the parish. Please keep me in your prayers, as I am going to begin my new assignment and make sure that you are going to be in my prayers and be missed.

Sincerely, In Christ,

Father Carlos Lerma

Estimados feligreses,

Solo quiero expresar mi gratitud por ser tan amable conmigo y todas las cosas buenas que han hecho por mí en tiempo como pastor. Han sido cinco años, en los que aprendí de ustedes como ser su pastor y como servirles a todos. Hubo algunos momentos en los que no tome buenas decisiones y quiero pedir disculpa por ello. Ustedes son personas verdaderamente bondadosas y generosas, y, sin duda, para el padre Roger va hacer una bendición como miembros de la parroquia. Por favor, manténgame en sus oraciones, ya que voy a comenzar mi nueva asignación y estén seguro que van a estar en mis oraciones y que los voy a extrañar.

Sinceramente, en Cristo,

Padre Carlos Lerma

2) Public Masses at St Mary's continue this Sunday July 12. 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.** Daily Mass will be held on Wednesday and Friday at 12 Noon. Father Roger will say mass on Wednesday.

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.faihtdirect.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.** TBD

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. Prayers: Please pray for Deacon Bob who is recovering at home. Please pray for deacon Dick Nees.

17. There is a flyer attached for a fundraiser to benefit the church. Order a meal before mass and it will be delivered to church for you to pick up after mass. See the flyer for details.

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

Today's Gospel presents to us a lesson, a very necessary one, for all of us it is an inspiration to see Jesus's mighty power in His public life. It is the necessity of perseverance in our prayers of petition. Prayer is an essential part of our Christian life, and the essential part of prayer is that of adoration and thanksgiving, but prayer of petition has a big part in our daily prayers. We have so many spiritual and temporal needs, needs which we cannot provide by ourselves.

We must imitate and learn from this pagan mother. Her love for her child made her ready to undergo every hardship or suffering for the restoration to health of her loved one. When we turn to Christ in our needs is our faith in Him as sincere and unwavering as was this woman's? No doubt it often is, and yet we do not get the desired answer.

How can the faith of the pagan mother encourage you to have faith and trust in Jesus in times of trials and tribulation? What can you learn from her?

How strong is your faith, when you are looking for healing and comfort in your life? How often do you persevere in your prayer life?

Do you notice that the woman's unwavering faith moves Jesus to do her will? How her example helps you to experience Jesus' mighty love and healing?

As the Lord is so kind and compassion to those who have faith and trust in Him. Let's pray for our community and families to seek Jesus 'mercy and healing in our midst. God, who have prepared for those who love good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

God Bless you,

Carlos Lerma, Pastor

Ministry News

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

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 ever thought about joining, now is the time. If you have never thought about it, now is the time!



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