

Blast Email to Parish – October 15, 2020

Dear St. Ann Parishioners,

Welcome to this week's email update! All kinds of activity is happening, inside and outside the buildings as well as online. Catch up on all of the information below.

INFORMATION ABOUT MASSES

Word of the Week – Attached to this email is a simple 2-page reflection and cartoon that will help you and your family prepare for this Sunday's Mass.

Special Collection This Weekend to benefit world missions. These funds will be used to further the Church's work in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ around the world, as we live out our commitment to being the face of Jesus to all whom we meet. At Masses, there will be a special basket on the baptismal font for your contributions. If you wish to donate online, just go to the parish website, click on the "Online Giving" link, and then you will see an option to contribute to the special collection. Thank you for your generosity!

No Daily Mass October 20-23 – There will be no daily Masses livestreamed Tuesday, October 20 through Friday, October 23, while Fr. Danny is away.

Ushers Needed – We still need you! To serve as ushers at the 8:30 or 11:15 Mass on Sundays. When we have enough people, you'll only be scheduled a few times each month. The work is easy to learn and truly helps our community. Please contact Katie Johnson to volunteer (kjohnson@stannc.com; 804-526-2548).

All Saints Day and All Souls Day – November 1 is All Saints Day, and we will be celebrating the holy day at the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses that weekend. On Monday, November 2, we will celebrate All Souls Day with our traditional outdoor Mass at the St. Ann Cemetery on Beechwood Ave, at 11:00am. The Mass will be livestreamed. Due to pandemic restrictions we will not have our usual potluck gathering after Mass. More information will be available soon.

Please Return Pyxes – If you have borrowed a pyx from St. Ann to take communion to a family member or another person who is unable to attend Mass AND you are no longer using it, we ask that you return it to the sacristy (or give it to Katie Johnson). We do not have very many pyxes available right now and we need to keep some on hand. Thank you!

Christmas?! Already?! – We are starting to make plans for Advent and Christmas in the time of covid, and we want to give everyone plenty of notice. We will have our usually scheduled Masses (4:00, 8:00, and 10:00pm on Christmas Eve and 10:30am on Christmas Day), but because of attendance limitations, we are going to ask folks to sign up ahead of time. More information will be available as we get into November, but we ask you please to talk now with your family about whether you will attend Christmas Mass and which one you would like to attend. The tentative plan is to livestream the 4:00 on Christmas Eve and the 10:30 Mass on Christmas Day, so you will be able to participate virtually, if not in person. We hate to do this – we have made a concerted effort to keep our weekend Masses open and available to all – but we see no other way for everyone to be able to make plans. So just give it some thought and keep your eyes open for more information and instructions. Thank you!

Important Construction Update – Because of delays in acquiring construction materials, work on the trench alongside the curb between the bell tower and the handicapped parking spaces (for the sanitary line for the new kitchen), will continue into the week of Monday, October 19. ***Again, this will prohibit entering the church via the front entrance during the week, but not on the weekend. While the front entrance is closed, please park in the back lot and enter the church through the rear entrance closest to Aldridge Avenue, where the other handicapped parking spaces are.*** Let's give the workers the space they need to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your patience and cooperation!

The Eucharistic Congress is Coming! As the final big celebration of the bicentennial of the Diocese of Richmond, Bishop Knestout is inviting all Catholics to participate in a Eucharistic Congress on November 6-7. All events will be virtual. Put it on your calendar, and learn more here: <https://2020.richmonddiocese.org/participate/eucharistic-congress/>

A basic outline of the schedule:

Friday, November 6

7:30pm Opening of Eucharistic Congress Day 1
8:00pm Keynote Speakers
8:30pm Conclusion of Day 1

Saturday, November 7

8:15am Opening of Eucharistic Congress Day 2
8:30am Mass Livestreamed from St. Peter's in Richmond
9:45am Live interviews and commentary, videos
11:00am Holy Hour livestreamed from the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart
(optional: Holy Hour at participating local church)
11:45am Closing Remarks from Most Reverend Bishop Barry C. Knestout
12:00pm Break
1:00pm Zoom Discussion Rooms Session A (descriptions available soon)
2:00pm Zoom Discussion Rooms Session B (descriptions available soon)

English and Spanish options will be available

Conclusion of Independent Reconciliation Program – The Independent Reconciliation Program announced in February, designed to further healing for and to provide assistance to those who endured child sexual abuse committed by Catholic clergy in the Diocese of Richmond, concluded on October 15. A summary report has been issued and can be viewed at <https://assistance.richmonddiocese.org/>. Please continue to pray for all victim survivors of sexual abuse.

Prayer List – A reminder that we will list names on our bulletin prayer list for three months at a time. In the next few weeks, we will be removing names that have been on the list more than three months, unless you

let us know. Please do so by contacting Katie Johnson (kjohnson@stanncc.com; 804-526-2548). Thank you – and thank you to all who pray with this list of names daily or weekly; it makes a difference!

Looking for a Way to Reach Out? Do you like to talk on the phone? (Or even if you don't!) We are looking for a small group of folks to make phone calls to some of our parishioners who are relatively isolated or homebound during the pandemic. We just want to connect with them and let them know we care. If you are willing to call a small number of people, or if you would like more information, please contact Katie Johnson (kjohnson@stanncc.com; 804-526-2548).

Let's Be Real – The Pandemic is Tough! If we're honest with ourselves, sometimes it's all we can do to make it through each day; everything seems like more work than it used to be: physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual work. And if you're also experiencing some of life's "normal" ups and downs – loss of a loved one, chronic illness, financial stress, loneliness – it's even worse. If you are having a tough time right now, maybe you could use a caring, supportive person to talk to. **Stephen Ministers** are well-trained, compassionate members of our church who would love to help you. Stephen Ministry offers one-on-one, confidential conversation and prayer to help you through life's tough times. Don't go through this alone! For more information, contact Katie Johnson (kjohnson@stanncc.com; 804-526-2548), Laurel Rothenberger (ldrothenberger@comcast.net; 804-898-1684), or Beverly Cornell McGlynn (beverlycornell@gmail.com; 248-556-6746). Please spread the word about Stephen Ministry to your family members and friends who could use a helping hand, too! (They do not have to be members of St. Ann.) Thank you!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

St. Ann's Voter's Resources – Visit St. Ann's web page (www.stanncc.com) for useful voting resources. The U.S. Bishops' office and the Virginia Catholic Conference have been hard at work to provide us with election related faith tools and prayer resources. Our website also includes all the official Virginia.gov links that you will need to find your polling place, check your voter registration status, and preview the two amendments that are on the November ballot. Be sure to visit the U.S. Bishops' "**Civilize It**" website, where you can pledge to use only civil conversation when discussing politics with your loved ones and neighbors. <https://www.wearesaltandlight.org/civilize-it>. Printed copies of the U.S. Bishops' new Introductory letter are available in the church Commons.

Sacramental Preparation will begin soon for children in second grade or older who need to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Before children begin the preparation process, parents are required to attend a parent orientation on Tuesday, October 27th @ 7:00pm (this option is a socially-distanced, in-person gathering in the Worship Space) OR Wednesday, November 4th @ 7:00pm (this option is a virtual gathering). Please see the bulletin for details. Contact Linda Mingos in the office if you have questions about parent orientation or sacramental preparation in general.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Sunday, October 18 – Celebrate Youth Mass (sponsored by our 11th & 12th Graders) will be held during the 11:15 Mass. This is part of our class this weekend and all students are expected to participate. 😊 Sponsoring students should arrive by 10:30am so that they can greet parishioners in the courtyard as they arrive. Masks are required.

Middle School Formation will still happen during our regular time – 4:00-5:30pm on Sunday, and **High School Formation** will still happen during the regular time – 6:30-8:00pm. For both groups, we will be prepping for Trunk or Treat which includes planning for decorating cars and pre-packing candy. If you can donate candy for the event, please have your child bring that candy to class. 😊 If you are planning on adding an additional decorated car to our lineup, please send that information as well or sign up on the SignupGenius (see below).

Saturday, October 24 – 7th Annual Fall Festival is back! Join us from 8:00am-2:00pm to sell your wares— either as a vendor, crafter, or yard saler! Spots are \$25 each and tables, if needed, are \$10. Applications and guidelines can be found at the youth board.

Sunday, October 25 – Trunk or Treat (COVID Style) returns! Join us from **6:00-8:00pm** for safe trick or treating. Special COVID guidelines will be in place to ensure that both fun AND safety can be had by all! Want to decorate a car? Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094aa9aa29a20-trunk2>. Donations for candy will be accepted until the event itself. Every year, no matter how we plan, we always run out! We thank you for your support!

SPECIAL “DRIVE THRU” TRUNK OR TREAT REQUEST – This year, in order to assist with upcoming holiday food baskets, we are asking that folks participating in Trunk or Treat bring one (or more) of the following as their “admission fee”. Cranberry Sauce, Spaghetti Sauce, Pumpkin Pie Filling, Fruit Pie Filling, Turkey Gravy (can), Turkey broth (for stuffing), Tuna, Stuffing Mix, Pasta (bag or box), Corn, Green Beans, Peas, Mac & Cheese, Cereal, Cocoa (~10-12 packets per box), Tea (~18-20 bags per box), Yams, Black Beans, Canned Fruit, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Rice (1 lb. bag/box), Mashed Potatoes (box), Corn Bread/Muffin Mix, or Cookies (package). **We thank you for your support of Youth Ministry and Outreach ministries!**

As we enter the final weeks before our national elections, let us pray that all of our citizens take this opportunity to participate in our civic life. May all who choose to vote be able to do so without undue difficulty, and may the process of voting go smoothly.