

Pastor's Corner

October 4, 2020 Bulletin



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This week's column is an update on various things that are in the works. These are hope-filled reminders that the parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle Parish continue to fulfill their baptismal call to faithful discipleship, despite the ongoing challenges we face as a Church and society.

The School Board gathered last week to work on our bylaws, to discuss effective student enrollment and retention practices, and to brainstorm ways of helping the larger community "witness the difference" of Catholic education as it is lived at All Saints, especially at this time. At our next meeting, we will take part in diocesan-sponsored training to strengthen board effectiveness in developing and promoting a vision for our Catholic school.

The Pastoral Council met this past week. The following items were on the agenda for discussion:

1. **Advent Reflection Booklets** – A booklet of daily Advent reflections, written by our fellow parishioners, will soon go into production. Thanks to various donors (to be credited at publication and distribution), the booklets will be compiled, printed, and mailed to all households. We hope that these reflections will keep us connected to one another during the Church's annual liturgical season of "waiting and waiting in joyful expectation".
2. **Pastoral Plan** – The parish pastoral plan, first published in 2017, is in the process of being updated. The revised plan will outline our current priorities and timelines, all of which reflect the earlier goals that have been accomplished, the evolving needs of our faith community, and the inevitable delays caused by Covid-19. The plan will be submitted to the Bishop's Office for review and approval, and then the Pastoral Council will make it available to all parishioners through our bulletin and website.
3. **Parish Security and Safety Plan** – An ad hoc committee comprised of parishioners with experience in public safety began to develop such a plan in the fall of 2018, but they had to table their work because of the impact of Covid-19. I am pleased to note that this committee will resume their work later this month, with additional guidance from Mr. Michael Magalski, Director of Professional Responsibility for the Diocese of Portland (and a retired member of the United States Secret Service).

The Finance Council will be meeting again in a few weeks, at which time it will review a draft of financial reports for our parish, school, and cemetery for the fiscal year running from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. In a spirit of transparency, the final report will be published in our parish bulletin and website so that all of you who make our parish ministries possible through your ongoing generosity, can receive this annual accounting of your stewardship.

I close by offering my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who serve on our various councils, commissions, and boards. Their passion for our parish, the generosity of their service, and the wisdom of their advice are extremely valuable to your priests and parish staff.

Peace and blessings,

Msgr. Andrew