



February 21, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The second phase of our project is quickly approaching. In fact, our last Masses in the church will be on Ash Wednesday. Construction will begin in the church in March, but we will have a couple of weeks to finish moving items out of the church and remove the pews. I have had a number of people ask about the pews. We will not be reusing them, so if you want a pew, there are a couple things that need to happen. First, you need to contact the parish office and let us know that you plan to take a pew and give us a couple items of information. Second, you need to remove the pew by the end of the second Sunday of Lent. The only "price" that we are asking is that you remove your own pew.

We expect to be out of the church for nearly a year. We are projecting to move back into the church the first month or so of 2021. We hope it will be sooner but that will be determined as we get closer to the end of the year. This leads to the question of how Masses will be celebrated. We have set up a daily Mass chapel in the northern most modular classroom. This will be where daily Masses (except Fridays during the school year) will be celebrated. Also, Adoration will take place in this chapel during both our Friday Adoration when school is in session and on First Fridays. Our Sunday Masses will take place in the Parish Life Center (gym). Friday Masses will move from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the school year and will take place in the gym. The school kids will setup chairs and kneeling pads for Mass on Friday and those attending the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday will help take them down. The school kids will quickly get set-up down to a science. If everyone helps after the 11 a.m. Mass, then we will only need to put away two chairs/kneeling pads each. During the summer, the plan is to keep the chairs up during the week, so no one has to setup or tear down. This will also be the case over vacation periods such as Spring Break and Christmas Break. I know this will be a pain. When I lived in DC, I attended a parish that was building. We had to setup and tear down chairs each week in the hall we rented, but what I found was that it helped to build community for those who helped. I understand that some are not physically able to help, and everyone will not be able to help each week, but it won't be much work if we all do our best to pitch in.

When we have Mass in the gym, the main doors facing the playground will be open, and we will also have the double-sided doors by the church open (if construction allows us to do so). The main doors to the school will **not** be unlocked. We will not have a cry room but will try and keep the hall and a portion of the classroom across from the gym open for people to take fussy kids. Unfortunately, there is no speaker system in the hallway and, of course, no way to see Mass. We will have an abundance of bathrooms though. The daily Mass chapel in the modular classroom also has a restroom.

As for other sacraments, we have permission to temporarily have funeral Masses at the funeral homes. This is only during the renovation. Our condensed space will also affect our ability to offer funeral meals depending on the timing. We have a couple marriages scheduled during this time and they have already made arrangements to have their weddings at other parishes. Baptisms will still occur following the 11 a.m. Mass, but since we will be tearing down the chairs at that time, we will meet in the classroom across the hall from the gym. This classroom will also serve as the sacristy and storage for items from the church. It is climate controlled which will help some of our more delicate items. Saturday confessions will be heard in the school office, and there is a confessional in the modular classroom for confession on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

During the first phase of our campaign, we installed a new sound system in the gym. This certainly improved our sound and will help us hear better during Mass. It's still a gym, though, and so it won't be perfect especially when the air is running. I know that the renovation will cause inconveniences and cause us to change some of our normal practices, but I am very excited for the project to move forward. I am even excited to have these inconveniences for a while so that when we move back into the church, we can truly celebrate. We are sure to have some hiccups as we make the transition, but I am sure we can all work together to make it happen.

We are planning to have a moving party on **Saturday, February 29 at 10 a.m.** There will be lots to do for people of all abilities. We need to move all the hymnals from the church to the gym and change out the prayer cards in each one. There will also be other items to move and put away. Donuts will be provided!

Thank you for your generosity to the project. We are still in need of people to extend their commitment. Pledge cards for the supplemental campaign can be found in the parish office or at the SCRIP table when it is available. Please consider extending your pledge another year if you are able. Thanks for your support, and I hope we can all be patient when the bumps arise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Aaron Jenkins". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "A" and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. Aaron Jenkins





The Adoration and Daily Mass Chapel is located in the modular building (door #19) on the north end of the property. A small parking area is available to the northeast of the building behind Nolan Hall. There is also parking on Jefferson Blvd., behind the Parish Office and behind the main school building. Please note: there are steps to the modular building on the north side of the door and a ramp on the south side of the door. In order to access the ramp, you must use the sidewalk on the south side of the building.

The doors directly across from the new parking area and on the southside of the school across from the church will be open for weekend Masses. The main doors of the school will **not** be open for weekend Masses.