

April 7, 2020

Dear St. Joe's Parishioners,

I wanted to write to you to inform you of some important information. First of all, I want to assure you of my prayers for you during these days. I know it has been difficult for many of you. It is hard to know what the long-term affects of the Covid-19 Virus will be. In many ways our normal lives have been abruptly upended.

Communication during the current times:

We are doing what we can to communicate with you and keep you in touch with the sacraments and your faith community. Here is a guide to staying connected and aware of what is happening in your parish family during this unusual time.

The best way to stay in touch is through our website www.cuyunacatholic.org The website is updated daily with information. The most regular things that are updated are:

1. The recording of the daily Mass and homily
2. The podcasts which Deacon Dan and Fr. Eli are doing most days.

Other things that are also available on the website:

1. Weekly bulletins can be accessed, as well as bulletin articles and homilies
2. There is a link my YouTube channel if you would like to watch daily Mass live. It is streamed on YouTube at the normal Mass time. The recorded Masses are also available afterwards. I will try to update the links for the proper day and post it on our website.
3. Updates about changes or announcements from the Diocese can be found on our website.
4. There is a link to materials that may be helpful to people to enrich their spiritual lives from home.
5. There are updated confessional times. All confessions are being heard at the school in a classroom. We are taking extra precautions (trying to avoid personal contact between parishioners). Confessions are at the regular times or by appointment.

Our office hours have been reduced to Tues. and Thurs. 10-12 noon.

Feel free to call or email if you have further questions. 218-546-6559 crosbycatholic@gmail.com.

Electronic giving is up and running. We appreciate all who continue to support the parish with your finances. We understand not everybody can contribute to the parish, but we invite those who are able to help our parish meet our needs during this time. If you would like utilize electronic giving, visit the parish website for the link to sign up. You can also mail your envelopes to the parish office. Thanks for your continued support.

Feasibility Study Report:

You may recall we have been working our way through a feasibility study. First, I want to start by thanking all of those who participated by attending the meetings, being interviewed, or filling out surveys and comments. It was wonderful to see such a high percentage of people be involved in this project. Hal and Katie Johnson were impressed and pleased with the number of parishioners who

participated with the meetings (50% of all households). It is wonderful to see that people are engaged in the process.

Our Facilities Planning Team and Feasibility Team committee members received and reviewed the report from Hal Johnson and Associates. We want to make it available to our parishioners. Under the current circumstances with the Covid-19 Virus in full swing we want to be careful how we do this.

Here are some of the big takeaways:

1. The consultants we hired felt that, if we completed a capital campaign our parish could raise \$2,500,000-\$3,000,000 to be collected over a 3-year period. This is far short of the total 10 Million that the full project would require. So, we will need to further consider what ought to be done.
2. We found the majority of participants were in favor of moving forward with a capital campaign and would support the campaign financially. Just over 73% said “yes” they would make a financial commitment. About 13.5% said there were uncertain and about 10% said “no”, they would not support the campaign. About 3.5% did not respond.
3. For those who were uncertain or didn’t think we should move forward, the biggest question seemed to be centered around why we couldn’t fix the current church, or what that cost would be. As part of a response to these questions we have hired an engineering firm to complete a study of the current campus and provided us the costs of maintaining the current structure for the next 20 years. We will share the results from the study when they become available.
4. Some people felt that purchasing land for a new church campus meant the parish is already committed to building a new church. This is not the case. We made the purchase to retain this valued site with an understanding that we could sell it if we do not utilize it.

Many other details and even more information is in the report, which may help people understand where we are at.

In the meantime, if you are interested in seeing the report for yourself, we have a limited number of copies available at the office. You may check out one of these copies for a week at a time during normal office hours (Tues. or Thurs. 10-12) or by making other arrangements. When copies are returned, we will quarantine them for several days to that the reports do not have the possibility of transmitting Covid-19.

We will be working to make decisions in response to what the report has shown us. The Covid-19 pandemic presents some unusual circumstances, and we will need to take them into account as we move forward.

Hope to see you soon, and keep in touch.

St. Joseph, Pray for us,

-Fr. Eli