

Dear Parishioners,

Advent greetings of hope and expectation! I have some information to catch you up on.

First off, the results of our survey in regard to the number of Masses at St. Paul's as we still struggle with the pandemic. It was quite clear from the results of the survey that, at least for the time being, two Masses on the weekend are more than adequate for our parishioners. If people are still staying away from Mass, there was no indication in the survey that many would return if we added a Mass. And there is still plenty of room in the church for the 5pm Mass on Saturday and, considering the availability of Deacon John Hall, plenty of space at the 10am Mass on Sunday.

To those of you who stay away because you are still not comfortable coming into a confined space with a lot of people, I do encourage you to consider all the precautions we have taken to make our church as safe as possible, and probably safer than other public places you may have to be in just going about the business of life (stores, offices). Most recently our whole facility was deep cleaned and sanitized and we were so happy with the quality of the work that I have now hired the same company to come in every two weeks to do a routine cleaning and sanitizing in addition to our regular cleaning. Face coverings are required in Deacon John Hall and required in the

church for those who have not been vaccinated. At times, it sounds like our air conditioning is going on, but actually it's the noise of our top of the line air purifying system going on to circulate clean air. Come back when you're ready; we miss you!

This year, Reconciliation Monday will be held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Middletown on December 20th from 4pm until 8pm. Several of our Carmelite priests will be available for Confession in preparation for Christmas. I will be hearing Confessions on two Advent Saturdays, December 11th and December 18th in the church confessional from 2pm until 4:30pm. (Masks required) Of course, Confession is also available by appointment.

Please remember to take a copy of the bulletin with you after Mass. Our bulletin is now our primary method of staying in touch with you. It effectively takes the place of announcements at Mass (there will be exceptions). Again, this is another way of our safeguarding our health by limiting the time you spend in a closed environment. The weekly bulletin can also be found in our website, stpaulsbullville.org - and it's in full color online!

May the advent light always shine on you...Joy, love, peace...
May you be blessed with all these and more during the holy season of Advent.

Fraternally in Christ,

Fr. Sean