

Fr. Bob's Blog

This week I wanted to take a moment to thank you for your many suggestions that have been put in our suggestion box. I want to let you know they are all read and appreciated. Just because you may make a suggestion that does not come to fruition that does not mean it was not carefully considered. That being said, I wanted to address a couple of key topics that were in the box, as well as to give an update on a couple of our capital projects:

1. There was positive feedback about how the community has welcomed each other and how there is a need for a “get together” so we can get to know each other better. The parish leadership is looking at a way to do just that and to perhaps have a “ministry fair” so we can share all the ministries we do and want to do in the future. Related to that there was the suggestion of having name tags for people to wear and having a town hall meeting, which I think is also something that should be done in the coming months as we approach a new calendar year.
2. Someone asked if we be ringing the bells during the consecration and the answer to that is no. That tradition dates back to times when the mass was offered in Latin and the people needed a reminder as to what is happening. While some may enjoy the tradition it is one that is not needed.
3. Some have asked about the collection basket and if we are going to go to ushers using baskets and going pew to pew. As of now that is not in the plans, but all these topics will be discussed at future liturgy team meetings
4. There was question of masking and would we continue to require it at our liturgies moving forward. After prayer and consideration and looking at the recent protocol update given by the Archdiocese ([link provided below](#)) the decision has been made to make masking strongly encouraged but optional at masses beginning next Sunday, September 11. All ministers of communion will continue to wear their mask during the distribution of communion, and the greeters will as well.
5. Several have asked about a chance to tour the facilities, and we are working to arrange that on a Sunday after mass for anyone who wants to do that.

I also wanted to update everyone on a couple of the projects that will begin soon at the parish. In the coming days and weeks we will be replacing the roof on the rectory and the garage next to it and beginning the major renovation of the former convent building. We are very fortunate that the upstairs renovation at the convent

will be primarily covered by insurance. We will also be getting bids to renovate the first floor with the intent of turning it into our parish center which, when completed, will provide office space, meeting space and retreat space for the parish and community.

Finally, on a lighter note: Next week's blog will have my annual NFL picks for division winners, playoff predictions, and Super Bowl winner (spoiler... the Bears are not my pick to win the Super Bowl) so be on the lookout for next weeks Blog

Peace Always,

Fr. Bob

<https://www.archchicago.org/coronavirus/reopening>