

Dear Parishioners, Relatives and Friends of Holy Ghost Parish,

The words spoken at the Consecration of the Mass resonate deeply in our souls. “This is my Body which will be given up for you. This is the chalice of my Blood...which will be poured out for you.” At every Mass, we bear witness to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the dead. Through the gift of the Eucharist, which the Lord instituted at the Last Supper, we receive His pure and boundless love over and over again. As Catholics, during this Diocesan Year of the Real Presence, we believe that the Eucharist is the Body and Blood of Christ. Such a precious gift deserves our reflection and appreciation. It’s not something we can experience virtually. Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is real and our personal presence is required to receive it.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many changes to our lives, to our routines and even to our Sunday worship. For over a year and some months, we were not able to be personally present for the celebration of Sunday Mass at all. For the last several months, many have been a part of Sunday Mass through live streaming. Now, as the pandemic wanes restrictions are lifting, I invite all the faithful of the Parish to start making their way back to the in person celebration of the Mass before it becomes mandatory again. As helpful as livestreaming was during the difficult months of the pandemic, when it comes to the Mass, nothing compares to being there.

MASKS Fully vaccinated people are no longer required to wear a facemask or stay six (6) feet away from others in most settings, whether outdoors or indoors. The change only applies to fully vaccinated people (those who have received **BOTH vaccinations** and two weeks have passed since the time of the second vaccination).

ALL OTHERS SHOULD WEAR A MASK! There is NO Capacity restrictions in the Church and we are basically back to normal at this point.

THANK you to all those who made the 150th Mass and Celebration a huge success and I think a Great time was had by all who attended both the Bishops Mass and reception afterwards. The Bishop was very impressed with the Program that was done after communion, it was executed very well, and Bishop Schlert felt very at home with us even to take all the individual pictures that were taken after the Mass. It was very touching to hear the correspondence received days before that was read by Ron to those assembled at Mass from our Parish Vocation - Sister Julianna Damhosi. Thank you to Maureen Dresen for all her hard work in preparing this and to all the Committee, Chair Couple Al & Rosemarie Schadle, Ron Koach, for making sure the place looked its best and the List could go on. A Big “THANK YOU” to All.

Sorry to be beating a dead horse however the rest of this is of utter importance:

We also must Be Mindful: Since the outbreak of COVID-19, churches everywhere have been devastated with attendance, lack of income generating parish activities, and weekly financial support. Since we are a very large and formidable parish plant in South Bethlehem, our expenses are much higher than a lot of others. However, our smaller parishes suffer the same reality at a quickened pace. As a result, all parish treasuries collectively continue to spiral downward rapidly due to lack of attendance and financial support.

We, and others, continue to be negatively impacted by lack of attendance and financial support, even to this day, since our expenses are a constant and have had reductions in many areas over a year ago, whether you attend or not. The roof situation isn’t any better as you hear from several contractors: “can’t get any help” This past winter’s heavy snows made the roofs susceptible to more repairs as slates come off with snow slides off the roofs which cause leaks and then touch up painting

in the Church. This reality is evident in our Balance Sheet, which has noticeably diminished in this covid period of time. You are kindly asked to be mindful of this reality, and to do your best to attend and consistently financially support your church, weekly, if you are able. You are asked to pray with us weekly via “Live Streaming” and to regularly forward your financial offerings to your church. Your action will help bolster our Parish until a more permanent remedy is offered to us. Thank you in advance for taking ownership in your Parish! We have a Gorgeous Church and it takes a lot to keep it up! Let us continue to care for each other! We have implemented a form of online giving. Please go to the Parish Webpage to sign up on the on line giving on the Online-giving icon. Alternatively, you can send any donation directly to the church if you are unable to attend in person.

Enclosed is a Lottery Calendar that we hope to help offset some of the repairs and bills. However, it is up to you to help buy one or several calendars but most importantly help sell them. Each ticket is \$20 for a number to coincide with the Pa. Daily Lottery. For this to be a success, we need to sell all 999 of them and we will realize a profit of \$15,000. **LAST MINUTE SELLERS OFFER: WE ARE OFFERING AN INCENTIVE OF Buy or SELL 5 / GET ONE FREE** Deadline for selling tickets is Wednesday June 30th 2021. Other items of interest, the rectory furnace eventually needs to be replaced (\$9,000.00) as well as upgrading the Air Conditioning (\$20,000) in the Main Church. Main Door exterior Restoration \$3,000 (*which is being done at the end of June*) and Main Blue Ceiling touchup from a roof leak \$2,800.00, and the electronic Allen Organ eventually needs replacing. All these items have seen their time and need replacing. That is why all these parish fundraisers need your support. Do You Love your parish? PLEASE HELP US!

Hopefully as we get back to Normal and we can resume our activities: Noodles, Pierogies, Pies, Jams, Jellies, Bus Trips, Eat in Dinners.....and other fundraising activities to help offset our expenses.

Another thing to think about is to Serve Your Church in Life and Death in appreciation for a lifetime of God’s blessings. You can bequeath a specific amount or a percentage of your estate by simply adding a clause to your will. If you are unable to support your Church, as you would like in life, perhaps you can compensate by utilizing your Last Will and Testament.

Our “Grab N Go” Dinner series is going well. Ron and his helpers are putting out some great meals. Updated NEW Menu is enclosed in this Mailing.

If you cannot support our effort, monetarily you can spread the word and help sell tickets, buy dinners, Volunteer your time, etc...

150th Anniversary Committee meeting is on Tuesday June 22nd at 6:30pm in Billinger Hall. The Souvenir Book is a Big part of the agenda as well as other ideas. ALL those interested please attend. We need your help.

Mass is Live streamed on the Holy Ghost Parish Facebook every Saturday at 4pm. Again, Thank You always for your support!
Believe me every little bit counts.

Fr. Dave Kozak, Pastor