

August 8th 2020

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I hope this correspondence finds you all safe and well.

The Sesquicentennial drawing til the present has sold 180 tickets. I urge you if you can see fit to purchase or sell a ticket. We need to sell 20 more please make a special effort to do so, call the Rectory if you have any questions. In addition, the drawing will be at the Parish Picnic Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup> on the Parish grounds. We have a tent arranged to be put in the driveway between the church and Rectory. Since the Rectory Porch was removed, there are no poles in the Driveway anymore and it makes it easier to put a tent there. Social distancing between the Church Basement and outside and Rest Room Facilities are right there also. There is no charge and FOOD AND BEVERAGES ARE BEING PROVIDED BY THE 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FUND. We will observe all Health code guidelines provided by the City of Bethlehem Health Department. The Drawing will be around 1:30pm – 2:00pm depending on the attendance. We hope this will be a time of fun and relaxation for all.

Parishioners must wear masks while entering, exiting or traveling through the Church grounds. Masks can be removed while the Parishioners are seated.

If live music is being provided, then the musicians must be at least six feet away from the parishioners.

Governor Wolf and Secretary of Health, Dr. Levine's [Worker Safety Order](#) will be followed, including mandatory masking of all employees while at work.

The Bishop's Annual Appeal now known as Because We Are Catholic Appeal helps in this apostolate of fostering vocations and caring for aged and infirm priests. Consider a monetary gift in gratitude for the good shepherds who touched your lives.

As we continue our Easter celebration, let me thank you sincerely for making this Easter a time of faith and devotion for you and your families as you continue to support your parish, although we are not together at this time. As your pastor, in addition to my primary responsibility for the spiritual welfare of the parish community, I am also responsible for the temporal welfare of the parish. As I am sure you can imagine, our parish revenue has dropped considerably, that being the case, I ask that, to the extent that you are not adversely affected materially by the pandemic, you not forget the needs of your parish as we continue to fulfill our obligations. We thank you for your continued financial support of our parish community. Your weekly offerings during this difficult time are a discernable indication of your love and commitment for our parish and your dedication to their mission. I ask you to consider mailing or dropping off your offering at the Rectory using the enclosed envelope or utilizing our ONLINE GIVING by going to the Parish Web Page <http://www.holyghost->

[church.org/](http://church.org/) and clicking the link for “ONLINE GIVING”.

This is not the year that we had planned. Once again, we are reminded by Saint Paul not to “receive the grace of God in vain”. God will bring about some good through this experience. I hope that we will come through the crisis with a renewed faith in Jesus, who taught us that “fear is useless; what is needed is trust”. Let us pray for each other.

We will continue to live stream weekend Mass on the Parish Facebook page on Saturdays 4pm from our own church. My sincere thanks to Msgr. Robert F. Kozel, Dominic Behe, our Organist and Cantor and Frank Matta, Videoing, for making this possible during this time. Also, to Louise Rothrock and Dan Damhosl for the Daily sanitizing of the Church proper.

We continue to have Masses on weekdays Monday thru Friday at 8am. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Fridays from after the 8am Mass till noon. Saturdays at 4pm which is live streamed on the Holy Ghost Facebook Page, and Sundays at 10am. The Church Pews and main isle are marked for social distancing. MASKS MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES! MASKS ARE AN ABSOLUTE MUST to enter the church. If you arrive without one, we will not be able to allow you inside for the safety of others, unless you have an existing health condition prohibiting you from wearing one. Thank you! \*We need to be responsible and respectful in doing what we can to stop the spread of the virus and also allow each individual in attendance feel safe. Let us continue to pray for health care workers, civic and health care leaders who are coordinating responses to the crisis, those infected and those who have passed from the coronavirus. In addition, especially those who face economic uncertainty because of this pandemic. May God graciously look upon their needs and bring us all relief and peace. We can give an example of hope to our brothers and sisters by remaining close to Jesus.

RE: Carlton Ave. Reconstruction/Curb, Sidewalk and Driveway Upgrades. A city contractor has indicated that the closing of the roadway has been scheduled to begin the week of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, weather dependent. Phase 1 will involve closure of Carlton Ave. from Broadway to W. Packer Ave. in order to remove and replace curbing and sidewalks. The work will require approximately 2-3 weeks, weather dependent. This means we will not be able to use the parking lot by the convent during that time!

GARAGE SALE will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2020, between 9:00 AM and 12 Noon. We expect to place many items outside the garage so in the event of rain, the sale will be moved to the following Saturday, September 19th. We will begin accepting items for the sale on August 17th – please call the parish office before you come to make your donation to insure that someone is there to accept the donation. We will accept usable small appliances, toys, board games (no missing pieces), kitchenware, gardening tools, CDs, cookbooks and costume jewelry. We will NOT accept clothing, shoes, blankets, or bedding. Shoppers will have to wear masks to enter the garage.

HOME-MADE PIE SALES will begin in August. There will be Peach Crumb pies on the weekend of August 29 and 30. Shoo fly pies will be sold on the weekend of September 19 and 20. All pies must be ordered in advance. Order forms will be available beginning next weekend. You can pick up pies following Saturday and Sunday Masses.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary T-Shirts and Polo Shirts will be available for Order Pickup as well as for you to purchase the day of the Picnic.**

**Saturday October 10th GERMAN WEEKEND: CANCELLED BECAUSE OF COVID RESTRICTIONS!**

**Saturday November 14th 11am Strudel Making Demonstration in Billinger. Learn the art of how to make Strudel. More info forthcoming in the Parish Bulletin as we get near the event. SEATING WILL BE LIMITED AND SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED AND MASKS MUST BE WORN.**

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THESE PLANS ARE ALL SUBJECT TO BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED DUE TO THE PRESENT PANDEMIC AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDELINES. PLEASE CHECK THE PARISH FACEBOOK PAGE FOR UPDATES IF THIS OCCURS.**

I thank you for your constant support of this parish. I am grateful for all you do to make things happen. In addition, we need VOLUNTEERS all the time. Please do not hesitate to just show up when we need help. It is the Volunteers and their time and hard work that make these occasions happen, and there is ALWAYS room for more to participate. Please help.

**ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM**

**NEXT Saturday, August 15th Holy Day Mass Schedule**

**10:00am—Incarnation of our Lord Church**

**10:30am—Holy Ghost**

**(10:30 am - Livestream from HG on their Facebook page.) All are welcome to tune in.**

**Please note, next Saturday August 15th. There will be blessing of Flowers and Herbs at the Morning Masses at both Parish Churches!**

May the compassionate hand of Jesus watch over you all and your families.

Sincerely,

your pastor and friend,

*Fr Dave Kozak*