



St. Nicholas Catholic Church · P.O. Box 133 Carver, MN 55315 · (952) 448-2345 · www.stnicholascarver.org

September 24, 2020

Dear St. Nicholas Parishioners,

My prayer is that you and your loved ones are healthy and safe! These are unprecedented times for us. Our trust in God gives us the confidence to look forward with hope each day.

This letter has multiple purposes:

- To explain my role as Parish Life Administrator.
- An update on what has been accomplished so far.
- Faith Formation this fall at St. Nicholas.
- A sharing of the plan to respond to the Archbishop.
- An invitation to provide your input.

Archbishop's assignment

Archbishop Hebda assigned me as the Parish Life Administrator with the tasks of overseeing the day-to-day temporal and pastoral needs of the parish. In addition, I am to work with the parish leadership team to develop a plan to engage you, in a discernment process concerning the parish's future.

What has been accomplished

Over these past months, I have been meeting with parish leadership, archdiocesan officials, other experts, and members of the parish, including the Prayer Garden, to aid me in getting to know the parish and its history. We have also spoken at length about the future. In addition, there are the mundane tasks for running a parish that include servicing of facilities, paying of bills and organizing the files and information that exist. I am pleased to share with you that on Saturday, August 29, I baptized a child at St. Nicholas as he was presented by his parents and surrounded by family and friends. Please join me in welcoming and praying for our newest member of God's holy family.

Faith Formation

We are excited to announce we will be having a Faith Formation Program here at St. Nicholas at the Parish Center on Wednesday evenings from 6:15-7:15, beginning October 7. All students are welcome from 1st-9th grade. If you would like to have your child join, please fill out the information sheet on the parish website or contact our Faith Formation Coordinator, Barbara Minzel, at 612-310-3612 or by email tubbythepubby2@gmail.com before October 15, 2020. We will be following all Minnesota Department of Health and Archdiocese safety and health guidelines to ensure all children and volunteers can remain safe while attending.

Plan to respond

When I accepted the assignment from the Archbishop as the Parish Life Administrator, I made a commitment to be open and forthright with you sharing information as I am able. I have been asked what the possible options for the future of St. Nicholas Parish as we are without an assigned priest. In my discussions with the



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Archdiocese, I was told that, due to current priest resources and looking ahead, the archdiocese is not able to assign a full-time priest as pastor for St. Nicholas to operate as a stand-alone parish. Because of that, before January 1, 2021, I am to present our recommendations to the Archbishop on the future of St. Nicholas. In my corporate work experience, I have prepared recommendations many times. We should plan to present more than one recommendation. In addition, these recommendations should include a high-level, realistic implementation plan. We can certainly include our stated preferences of one recommendation over others.

While we will not receive an assigned priest, there are still options available for us to consider and recommend to the Archbishop. These include, but are not limited to:

- Share a priest with, one or more, nearby parishes.
- Have an Administrator assigned with a priest as the sacramental minister.
- Merge with another nearby parish.
- Convert the church to a Chapel.
 - A brief definition of a Chapel - a sacred space that is reserved for the celebration of the sacraments (Baptism, Mass, Wedding, Funeral, Reconciliation) and the worship of God (Adoration, Prayer). This is not the primary worship space as a parish church but would be associated with a nearby parish.
- Close the parish and maintain ownership.
- Sell the church and grounds.

Invitation

Parish leadership and I need your input - as this is your parish. Given the restrictions and cautions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, regretfully, we are unable to hold large in-person meetings to gather input. Therefore, to reach out to the largest group possible, we have developed a one-page survey. The survey is included as a separate sheet with this letter. It will also be available online via both the St. Nicholas website and Facebook page. If you are interested in working on a small group to help develop the recommendations and plans please provide your name, phone, and email via the survey. I will be working with Parish leadership to summarize the feedback with a draft report available in October. Please complete and return your survey before Tuesday, October 12. You can return your completed survey by US Mail, or by sealing with a piece of tape, so the return address is on the outside, and place the survey in the collection basket of any nearby Catholic parish. I will collect them from the surrounding parishes.

Your servant in Christ,

Deacon Jim Bauhs

Parish Life Administrator

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