

# CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH

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October 21, 2021

Dear Parish Family,

The onset of the pandemic in March of 2020 challenged many aspects of our Parish including worship, faith formation and financial stability. In many ways we had to rethink how we do outreach to our parish families and stay connected. As we emerge from the pandemic, we are presented with a fresh opportunity to intentionally move our parish forward into the future. I wanted to keep you informed of some important decisions for our Parish.

As you are aware, since the beginning of the pandemic, we have been celebrating all public Liturgies at St. Frances Cabrini Church. This included both weekend Masses and daily Masses. Pastoral Council met on September 7<sup>th</sup> and again on October 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the future use of St. Mary Church. It was decided at this meeting to permanently keep all Liturgies at St. Frances Cabrini Church. This decision has also met the approval of our Canonical Pastor, Father John Ettinger. We have also consulted with Bishop Bonnar, who is in agreement and fully supports this decision.

With a declining population in the Conneaut area and in our Parish we have seen a significant reduction in financial support for the mission of the Parish over recent years. This situation has become more evident during the pandemic as our collections have decreased even further. The Council felt that we need to prioritize and be better stewards as we realign our financial resources in accordance with our Parish mission.

To be candid and open, our Parish's ability to keep both church buildings operating and open will become increasingly impossible without compromising our Parish Mission to become the real presence of Christ through our various ministries of prayer, formation, worship and service. In his address to our Parish on September 25<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Bonnar reminded us that the parish church is not about buildings and structures but about the work of Jesus Christ and the community of believers. In my faithful commitment to my ministry as Parish Leader, I assure you I will not sacrifice or compromise our ability to provide ministries over the struggle to keep buildings open.

As part of these changes, the Pastoral Council also has decided to begin a process of a 5 year Parish Plan, in alignment with the diocesan pastoral plan. This planning will involve both short-term and long-term steps to support mission. We will be seeking input from all of you as we develop that plan in the coming year. More information about that will be forth coming.

On a personal note...as you know, I grew up in this parish. My parents were Baptized, and married in St. Mary. I grew up going to Mass at both St. Mary and St. Frances Cabrini. Father Welsh at St. Mary was my inspiration to go into Church ministry. I understand and feel a nostalgic and emotional connection to the past. I know and feel how difficult changes can be. However, the true richness of our legacy is a community of people and families of faith that were and remain committed to doing the work of Jesus Christ.

May God bless each of you and bless our Parish Mission to carry out the work of Jesus Christ.

In Christ's Love,

Nicholas Perkoski  
Parish Leader