

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

### *Welcome Sunday Expands; Parish Soft Updating*

Welcome Sunday Expands. This past summer, our Parish initiated “Welcome Sunday” and began serving coffee, juice and donuts at the 10:00 am Mass on the First Sunday of the month. We have had “Welcome Sunday” for several months now. It has been well received as an opportunity to visit with fellow parishioners and grow in a sense of community. When Fr. Thien and I did our “Meet and Greet” home visits, we heard about a desire to expand this hospitality to the other First Sunday weekend masses.

As you may know, we are blessed at St. Francis to have several groups that assist with hospitality at parish functions, including the Knights, Daughters, Home and School, Men’s Club and Sharing Program. We recently formed a Parish Hospitality Committee to coordinate hospitality with the groups who have been serving here faithfully for years.

The Hospitality Committee has decided to expand “Welcome Sunday” to all five weekend masses beginning January 5-6, 2019: 4 pm, 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon and 6 pm. The committee doesn’t think coffee and donuts will work at afternoon or evening masses and is discussing serving other options. Since January 6 is King’s Day, it seemed a no-brainer to have King Cake at the masses that weekend!

Several details need to be handled before we roll out hospitality at all First Sunday weekend masses. We are looking for volunteers to assist with this expanded initiative. If you are interested in helping out, let our office know (834-0340).

Parish Soft Updating. Our Parish uses the computer program, “Parish Soft,” as the data base for our parishioners’ contact information (name, address, phone number) and contributions. We would like to acquire the email address of all our parishioners so we can email important information and notifications (including the parish bulletin). I promise: We won’t harass you with daily emails like some businesses do. Rather, we will selectively email significant communications and take advantage of modern technology.

We ask all parishioners to go on to our parish website and update their contact information at [https:// church.stfrancisxavier.com/](https://church.stfrancisxavier.com/) and follow the “My Own Church” link. If you would like assistance, we will have helpers available after all masses the weekend of January 5-6.

January 5-6 is shaping up to be a big weekend in our parish. I pray that it will be the start of a great new year of evangelizing the faith and building community at St. Francis.

God bless,

Fr. Joe