



ST. PAUL CATHEDRAL

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May 9, 2019

“St. Paul Cathedral Parish is a diverse body of Catholic people whom God calls by name, given a mission by Jesus Christ to be a faithful sign, a realistic foretaste and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. As Cathedral Parishioners, we recognize our responsibility to show leadership by example and to provide service to God’s people.”

My Dear Parishioners:

Well, we’re almost to the end of another school year and I wish to offer my and our parish congratulations to all our College/University, High School (Catholic & Public), Grade & Middle School 2019 Graduates. We shall pray for you as you begin a new & more exciting chapter in your lives. (Congratulations to parents too, who might have another tuition bill taken off your shoulders!)

1. Right now, as this is being prepared & sent to you by our most competent crew here at our parish, we are on our annual priests’ retreat at the Palisades Retreat House, named after Bishop Brunette, former Archbishop of Seattle in Federal Way, Washington. It’s a wonderful place overlooking Puget Sound & a welcome break from the usual work & ministry of the parish & Diocese.
2. As you know, tomorrow Father Alatorre begins a well deserved & well earned vacation until Thursday night, May 23rd. During this time he will visit the American Consulate in Mexico (or embassy) to work on his continuing visa to be able to stay working here, so pray for him that all goes well & he returns on time.
3. Our Lenten, Holy week & Easter celebrations were delightful & inspiring due in great part to the dedicated musicians in our Cathedral Parish: Jerry Kaminski, Felip Holbrook, Denny Canales, Heriberto Torres, Mark & Anna (Life Teen) and their respective choir & band members who are so generous in sharing their time & talent with us. Also to our liturgical ministers, acolytes/servers, lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, greeters & refreshment servers for after Mass refreshments, our flower arrangers, workers on the liturgical environment and all who contributed in any way. You are the “soul” of our parish who give us life & dignity in our worship & we thank you!! We are so blessed in having so many generous parishioners willing to share with our parish family & beyond.
4. Special gratitude also to those who teach & empower our teachers of religious instruction; to Emma Mendoza, Director of Religious Education, Shawn Exner for his Life Teen/Spy Edge & Pre Confirmation instruction, to Barbara Calhoun & Jeff Thompson for adult education opportunities.
5. Also to our Parish Advisory Board under the leadership of Sandi Hays and our Parish Finance Board with Rick Pinnell as Chairman, our parish staff & volunteers-too many to enumerate. We owe so much to so many as we strive to guide & lead our Cathedral Parish Family to come closer to Jesus. **THAT IS THE ULTIMATE REASON FOR OUR PARISH, ITS ORGANIZATION & VOLUNTEERS.** And a special thanks to Fathers Alatorre & Mitchell and our parish staff for their behind the scenes daily efforts to keep us in line.
6. We want to congratulate & welcome all those who joined us at the Easter Vigil: the Rogers family; Paul Kari, Charity & Jeremiah; Casey McKinney & Chris Chadwick which leads to appreciation of our fine RCIA leaders.
7. Finally our elevator is (almost) finished. It’s useable but we’re waiting for some finishing touches. Our next project after buying a new copy machine is to air condition & heat our common rooms (dining & fireside) on the 3rd floor to make them usable for special & educational activities. (Also a major thanks to our Resurrection Group-Carol Barany the Aucutts & their dedicated funeral luncheon group-never a

complaint or refusal.) THANK YOU!! We can start returning to our “Cathedral Center” 3rd floor for these luncheons after an inability to use that facility for the past three months or more because of elevator work.

8. We were supposed to enter into a program of Sunday Offertory Collection Increase this month but, because of scheduling mix-ups have put it off until late August. THANKS TO SO MANY OF YOU WHO RESPONDED TO OUR IN HOUSE FINANCIAL DRIVE, YOU RAISED \$417, 022.23 for our elevator (almost 1/4 million dollars) and other capital improvements including our parking lot striping & garage redoing as well as a new copy machine in the office (over \$14,000.00) and soon we hope that air conditioning for the Cathedral Center can be arranged as we already have \$10,000 donations from the estate of Mary Evenson’s Mother.
9. Our Seniors Brunch for 2019 High School Graduates & their parents takes place on Sunday, May 19th at 12:30PM at Bob’s Burgers & Brew. Although it is “on your parish”, we still need to know how many & who will attend-so if you are a graduate or parents of a graduate, please let us know this week.
10. On Friday, May 24th we welcome our Bishop, Priests & Deacons & visitors for the Priestly Ordination of Kurt Hadley at 7:00PM, our newest priest for the Diocese. Please come & give him a warm welcome to our presbyterate.
11. I will be on vacation for 10 days beginning May 27th until June 7th working to perfect “classical English speaking language in Boston and its environs, so please hold all calls for me during that time. Thank you!!
12. We wish to congratulate Edgar Quiroga, our newest to be transitional Deacon (Priesthood Ordination a year from now) on his soon to be Ordination to the Diaconate. All are invited to his Ordination at Holy Family Church on Friday, May 17th at 7:00PM.
13. We are also privileged to host the La Salle High School Baccalaureate Mass here on the last day of May to celebrate the 2019 Graduates (and the Eisenhower 2019 graduating class for their Baccalaureate on Monday evening, June 10th).
14. Our congratulations & prayers also for all those being married in our Cathedral this summer. We are in the middle of the wedding season now! Many happy years together!
15.

We need you! Our Parish Advisory Board has set Saturday, May 18th as our Cathedral CLEANUP DAY-a day to spruce up, polish, clean, weed, scrub & renew our Cathedral inside & out, weed & dress up our courtyard gardens & hopefully clean up our Cathedral Center (3rd floor or our school), now that the elevator is usable. A sign up list with choices of where to work will be available this weekend after all Masses. Please come & help! Thank you!
16. While we thank & appreciate all of our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist who serve so faithfully, we also recognize that some might wish to “step down” so please let Denny know in our office. Also if you are interested in the privilege of serving in this ministry, give him a call. A training session will be offered this summer for new & old ministers alike.
17. We welcome our Bishop to his Cathedral on Pentecost Sunday for CONFIRMATION: 1:00PM for Spanish & 7:00PM for English. We pray for all this year’s candidates who have been preparing for several months under the guidance of Shawn Exner our Life Teen Coordinator.

Thank you again for being who you are & for your continual support & encouragement as we try to pastor our wonderful Cathedral Parish

In Christ,



Rev. Msgr. John A. Ecker-VG
Pastor