SUNDAY OBLIGATION RESTORED

Early in the pandemic it seemed wise to avoid any sort of crowd. Get groceries by roadside pickup. Phone or Facetime your friends or family instead of meeting in person. Often, we had no choice: restaurants closed, movie theatres closed, sports events closed. And as for going to Church – between capacity restrictions and COVID dangers, wasn’t it better to watch a TV or streamed mass instead? The Bishops of Canada were in agreement, and dispensed all Catholics from the Sunday obligation, that is, from the obligation to go to mass each Sunday.

But at this stage in the pandemic it seems that people are adjusting – we are, by and large, not so hesitant about being around other people. Masks are still options, and almost everyone has been able to benefit from vaccines. Public health measures have relaxed considerably. ICU numbers are way down. And so the reason for the dispensation is getting kind of weak. The experience of mass is better in person, and so is the ability to receive communion physically rather than spiritually.

And so on March 8 the Archbishop of Edmonton announced that the Sunday Obligation would be restored as of June 4, the Vigil of Pentecost. All this means is that instead of needing no reason to avoid coming to Mass, you need a good reason. The Archbishop lists the following as examples of appropriate reasons to stay home:

- anyone who is sick, symptomatic or recently exposed to the coronavirus
- anyone with serious health risk factors that requires them to avoid public spaces
- anyone who cares for someone who is sick
- anyone who cannot attend Mass, through no fault of their own, because of frailty or old age.

Archbishop Smith concludes his decree with the following words: “May the trials of these two years lead us to a renewed faith in Christ’s Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist, a renewal of Sunday as a family day of prayer and rest, and cultivate within our souls a desire that sees our obligation as the greatest privilege of our faith.”

Amen!
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL

One issue that was raised in the survey was the fact that the Blessed Sacrament chapel is kind of plain. There used to be a crucifix perched on the tabernacle, but it has gone missing. We are considering what to do about this: perhaps a crucifix mounted on the wall over the tabernacle? The Holy Face Association is willing to provide a framed 16" x 20" image (from the Shroud of Turin) that could be hung there instead. If you have a strong opinion on this, please contact Fr. Jim at jim.stenberg@ualberta.ca

CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION?

It appears that the twin parishes of St. Anthony/St. Agnes have a Corpus Christi procession that proceeds from St. Agnes Church on 62nd Ave to St. Anthony Church on Whyte. One of the organizers of the event has offered their expertise in helping us stage a similar event. There appears to be a fair bit of work involved, but I am not sure how much interest there might be in this.

If you would interested in participating in this event – especially if you would be willing to serve on a committee for it – please contact Fr. Jim.

It would be after the 11:00 am mass on June 19. That’s only three weeks away, so I would need to know soon if there is interest. If it turns out that the time table is too tight (to get permissions and insurance and so on) we would just have to be more proactive next year.

WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY MAY 29

Today Catholics are invited to reflect upon the media of social communication (films, radio, television, newspapers, internet) and how these influence our lives.

The media can promote values that lead to a more fully human society. The Church’s ministry is twofold. The media can be used to help promote the Gospel. At the same time, as receivers of the materials presented by the media, the faithful have a duty to support and promote worthwhile presentations on media and reject those which promote values contrary to spiritual growth. - CCCB

AT A GLANCE...

It’s the end of the semester, so most activities are on hold until the fall.

Thursday, 7:00 pm: AA group. (Boardroom)

Go to formed.org to log in to our FORMED account (“Netflix for Catholics”). Enter your email and location (e.g. “st josephs college chapel Edmonton”). No password!

To donate online, go to https://www.ualberta.ca/st-josephs/giving/index.html

For pre-authorized giving, email elsie.liu@ualberta.ca

To check out the website, type the following in your browser: ualberta.ca/stjosephs

Twitter:@sjcuofa
Facebook:SJCUofA

BAPTISM
Contact the SJC Chaplain at least 2 months prior to date of Baptism.

MARRIAGE
Contact the SJC Chaplain at least 1 year prior to date of Marriage.

SACRAMENTS
For other sacraments, please contact the SJC Chaplain.