



June 23, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Here are some important updates for you:

Church Floor Project

As you all know, the money that we have received back from the 2021-22 Bishop Annual Appeal will be used for our Church Flooring Project in which we will be replacing the tiles currently under the pews and stripping the old coat of wax from the church slate floor (No wax will be put back on the floor). The stripping of the wax will begin on June 27th and will run for several days. Due to delays with material acquisition, we have had to reschedule the tile flooring portion of the project. This will now begin the week of July 18th and go for approximately two weeks. While we do not foresee the need to interrupt the Mass schedule during this time, there will be some interruption in seating arrangements. Pews will have to be removed from the church to remove the old tiles and replace them with the new tiles. We will do one half of the church at a time. So, when you come to church for Mass, your favorite place to sit may not be there until the project is completed. At this time, the weekday Mass schedule will remain the same and funerals will still be able to be held as needed. However, please note that the church will be closed off during the project working times. If any of this changes, we will let you know.

The 2022-2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal (BAA)

We have gone over our goal!!!! Congratulations and thank you to all who have made their pledges! Our goal set by the Diocese was \$128,903.23. As of the writing of this update our total pledges are \$151,446.00, which means \$22,542.77 so far will come back to us for our own use free of the 6% Diocesan Assessment on income. For the monies that receive this year, we would like to make some much needed improvements and repairs for the Convent building, including the replacement of the roof shingles which have aged quite a bit and are leaking in some areas, as well as replacing the single pane windows throughout the convent with more energy efficient tempered glass windows. It is still not too late to give to the BAA. Make your pledge today! Go to our parish website at <https://www.saintmichael-cd.org/about-us/donate/> for more information.

Parish Facility Security

I would like to take this opportunity to explain some things about recent and future Safety and Security measures at St. Michael Parish. We all know that safety and security at parishes and schools can no longer be taken for granted. For the last several years the Diocese of Columbus has encouraged parishes to be more attentive to these matters, especially given documented occurrences of issues around the country and the world. It is very sad, but we must realize that things have changed over the last several decades and business as usual is not in our collective best interests.

In the last 10 years alone there have been many changes to the parish facilities, not least of which was the addition of the Parish Ministry Center. This building includes the addition of Prekindergarten facilities, an Adoration Chapel, parish offices, and meeting spaces. In this period of time, we have already outgrown the added space. This growth has compelled us to utilize space in Marian Hall on both levels for parish and school activities. Since there are more minors in these areas, we have had to take extra precautions for safety.

Some of those precautions include:

- 1) *Limiting access to Marian Hall and the Church during school hours.* During school hours Marian Hall is locked. People seeking entrance are directed to come to the parish office during business hours. We seek to accommodate requests without interfering with the safety protocols. Outside of school hours, access is available through Marian Hall. Please note, however, that there should be no expectation to have 24-hour access to the parish facilities. The church and Marian Hall have been and will continue to be locked up in the evening hours by 8:30pm on weeknights and after the last Mass of the day on weekends and civic holidays with the exception of scheduled events.
- 2) *Security during all activities.* Besides the school, the parish has many youth activities that take place at various times. There are the Scouts, high school and middle school youth group, catechetical opportunities for non-Catholic school members, family events, the Children's Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass, gatherings for senior citizens, etc., that need to be kept in mind in planning for safer environments. Understanding and cooperation by everyone are important for the safety of all.
- 3) *Security for Adoration in the late-night hours.* Aware of the concern for adorers to be safe in the late-night hours, we have provided a combination code for entry into the Parish Ministry Center after business hours. These codes are shared and changed periodically for your safety and that of the parish staff.
- 4) *Security cameras.* Security cameras have been added to various locations throughout the campus (inside and outside) and are monitored. The camera images are also recorded for identifying purposes in case incidents do need to be reported to law enforcement. No sound recordings are included with these images
- 5) *Security during Weekend and Holy Day Masses.* The Diocese continues to monitor the situations around the area regarding possible threats to places of worship by working with the Department of Homeland Security and local Law Enforcement. They regularly communicate to pastors and principals anything of concern, which are general in nature. Because of the current political climate, there is concern that these threats have risen in intensity. To that end, the diocese has encouraged pastors to work closely with our own local law enforcement departments to keep informed and be aware of any possible threats and any preventative measures that can be supported. It has been continually recommended that there be a presence, whenever possible, of special duty law enforcement officers during our Mass times as a precaution.
- 6) *Preparedness and Response.* Also, we have, as instructed, reviewed our own preparedness and responses to emergency situations. It has been important for us to analyze what we are doing to be prepared for the unexpected, as much as possible. That is why we have taken steps to bring about changes in the way ushers/greeters are being trained to be watchful and to implement best practices, while at the same time remaining welcoming to all who visit. Training will continue in this area and additional updates will be provided in the near future. The bottom line is that we all should remain vigilant.

In Christ,

Fr. Anthony A. Dinovo, Jr.

Pastor