Friday, September 4

Greetings in Christ,

Happy September! The Lord continues to bless us with beautiful weather. Thanks to a lot of work by our whole school community, we were able to begin school back in person on Tuesday. Our principal, teachers, and staff have been working hard to make sure we have a happy, safe, and productive learning environment for our students.

We also had our first outdoor Mass ever on the stage at the Outdoor Learning Center for school. Below is a picture of the outdoor sanctuary. St. Thérèse, our patron saint, watched over us!

Here are the happenings for the week:

**Labor Day**: We will have Mass on Labor Day (Monday) at 9:00 am. As always, you are welcome to participate in person. Please continue to wear your mask and social distance.

**Daily Mass**: We will begin our new daily Mass schedule the week of September 14th. In order to reduce the number of students at Mass, we will have two school Masses: Wednesdays (8:00 am) and Fridays (8:00 am) with half of the students participating in each Mass. Our new daily Mass schedule beginning Tuesday, September 15th will be as follows:

- **Tuesday**: 7:00 am
- **Wednesday**: 8:00 am
- **Thursday**: 7:00 am
- **Friday**: 8:00 am
- **Saturday**: 8:00 am
Bible Study: If you have not signed up for Bible study on the Acts of the Apostles, please do! We will offer the study as a hybrid. Those who feel comfortable meeting in person, we will limit groups to a maximum of four people. Naturally, masks and social distancing will be mandated. For those of you more comfortable remaining at home, we will provide instructions how to meet via Zoom in your small groups. We will be using the new camera in our community room for the talks, which will be livestreamed on our parish website. The cost is $25 and includes a commentary and materials. Below is the link to signup:

https://www.st-therese.org/events/gospel-of-mark-bible-study

Sacristory Courtyard: An eagle scout and his team will be giving our inner courtyard a major overhaul in October (e.g., planting flowers, bringing in trees, new rock, etc.). I contacted the Carmelite Monastery in Lisieux, France about the St. Thérèse statue pictured below. They have one supplier who makes it. It is 4’ tall and is about $3,500 plus shipping. Actually, this is not a bad price for a statue as they can run pretty expensive.

Please contact me if you would like to help contribute to the purchase of this St. Thérèse statue. She will be the focal point of that newly designed space.

Guide Book Directory: We are in the process of updating our parish directory. Please let us know of any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in your family this past year (e.g., change in phone number, address, etc.). Please contact Geri in the church office no later than Wednesday, September 30 at 952-473-4422.

Fall Series: Fr. Luke Marquard and I will offer a three-part series this fall. We received great feedback from our summer series called The Last Things. The series (likely in October) will be called We Believe and will focus on the twelve articles of our faith via the Apostles’ Creed and Nicene Creed (which we profess at Mass). We will shed light on these articles, including their meaning in our modern-day world.
Gym: Workers sanded the new wood floor this week. In the next couple of weeks, the floor will be treated, game lines will be put in, and new padding will be put up. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

Holy Land Pilgrimage: I am in the process of offering a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 18-29, 2021. The Holy Land is one of the most exciting places in the world. Parishioners have already been registering this past week. Brochures are available at the kiosks at both entrances. Information is also available at the following link:

https://www.st-therese.org/events/holy-land-pilgrimage-with-fr-andrie

Lebanon Collection: Archbishop Hebda has asked us to take up a second collection to help alleviate the suffering from the explosion at the Beirut seaport on August 4. Donations will be sent to the Center for Mission at the Archdiocese, who will then forward it to Catholic Relief Services. Checks should be made out to the “Center for Mission” and add “Lebanon Emergency Collection” on the memo line.

Annual Report: We will soon begin the process of beginning our annual report that will include the blessings that happened at St. Therese this past year and how we are doing financially.

2020 Virtual Gala: Our parish Gala will be Friday, September 25 at 7:00 pm. The theme for our gala is Light our Way Lord. We invite you to make plans to join another family or small cluster of families for a watch party! We kick off the evening by inviting you to swing by the parish and pick up a pre-ordered box of refreshments (mixed or wine) before heading to your respective watch parties. A mailing with raffle ticket information has been sent out to you.

Livestreaming will begin at 7:00 pm (parish website and Facebook). Our fund-a-need is enhancing our interior parish lighting, which will not only brighten up the interior of our beautiful spaces, but also reduce our energy costs. Details at st-therese.org or bidpal.net/gala

New Positions: We are in the process of hiring two positions - Facilities Manager and Office and Safe Environment Coordinator. Candidates for the Director of Operations were struggling with the sheer scope of the position. Please pray that we bring in two great people for these positions!
Adoration: We need a few more people for Eucharistic Adoration. While you are welcome to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament any time, the hours most in need right now are on:

- **Tuesdays:** 1-2 pm
- **Thursdays:** 11 am-12 pm, 1-2 pm
- **Fridays:** 9-10 am

Garden: We have had some of the best results from our St. Therese Garden this year. Our garden ministry has donated 3496 pounds of fresh produce to ICA (with 100 watermelons harvested). Thank you to all our volunteers who have helped to make the harvest a success!

Stewardship: *Thank you* to everyone who contributes financially to St. Therese! I invite you to continue supporting our beloved parish as it helps us to serve you and remain connected with you! This can be done in the following ways:

1. Click the donation button on our main parish website. You can contribute as a guest or log in if you have previously created a profile. You can choose the frequency of your gift (one time, weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually).
2. Text-to-Give at 844-997-1008 and follow the instructions.
3. Bring or mail in your stewardship envelope to our parish office.

Parish Office Hours: We will continue with reduced parish hours to help cut back on expenses and are limiting visits to essential pastoral needs. Our parish office hours this week are 10:00 am – 2:00 pm Monday – Thursday. Our parish office will be closed on Fridays for now.

Please continue to pray for our parish community as we settle into the fall and a regular routine. My hope is that you find a place to plug in so you can grow in your faith!

~St. Thérèse, pray for us!

Blessings,
Fr. Andrie

Mr. Silly again.