

St. Nicholas Catholic Church  
712 Little Neck Rd  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5807  
Phone: (757) 340-7231  
Fax: (757) 340-2727



From the Office of the Pastor

July 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It's been awhile since I come to journey with you in writing, especially since the many CHANGES that have been happening in our lives and at St. Nicholas in 2020.

In March when Masses were suspended by our Bishop, His Excellency Bishop Barry Knestout he ordered that the Tabernacle be moved to the main Altar in the church so that the faithful who come to worship and pray will have more space for social distancing. With that direction I have moved our Tabernacle from the chapel and placed it in the main church. I am indeed encouraged now to see many of the faithful are now kneeling during consecration. Thus, if you are able to kneel please do so, and if you are not able you may sit down during the consecration.

**In facing the pandemic situation, we also have changes in the Mass schedule:**

**Weekday Mass times are 10:00 a.m.**

**Saturday: Confession at 4:30p.m., 5:30 p.m. Mass**

**Sunday: Masses at 8:30 a.m. (with livestream) and 11:00 a.m.**

I thank you All for your continued prayers and financial support to our parish family! Your steadfast financial commitment has allowed us to continue operating and ministering to our community without ceasing during the shutdown. It only took a global pandemic and the suspension of public Masses for me to come around to seeing the virtue of parishioners being able to support the parish through online giving. Another investment that has been valuable to us in this situation is the gift of time - time to pray, to reflect on the Scriptures, to serve God, or the Church. When we value our faith, we will support it through our investments of finances, prayer, and the sharing of our time and talents.

In this season of change, I would also like to update you upon the Seton Youth Shelter lease termination as of December 31, 2020. After consultation with our Parish leadership, Finance and Pastoral Councils, Building & Grounds Committee, the Diocese Real Estate Director, and diocesan lawyers, we are in agreement with the decision to not renew this lease. We have heard from some parties with different, even conflicting views, and have weighed the various possibilities and options presented to us. And while there

may perhaps be some unavoidable and calculated risks along the way, I want you to know that the decision was not made hastily.

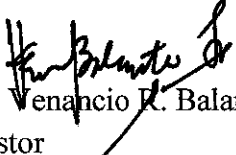
I will continue working with the diocese and parish leadership to do whatever is necessary to adapt. This week we sought bids from two architecture firms to conduct a physical study which will provide us with a better understanding of the building condition and the cost of repairs.

Saint Nicholas Catholic Church has been good neighbors and substantial donors to Seton Youth Shelters for over thirty years. We do wish them well in finding a new location that will continue to support their mission within the community.

In this season of much change in the world, in our lives, and in our parish, let's remember that God is always in control. With Him everything works for the good, including things that cause us pain or suffering. Thus, let us keep strong and vibrant our spiritual lives, our lives of faith, hope and charity; our piety, our prayer, and our spirit of sacrifice. The ultimate secret, the most reliable key to the real success of our life, is to be with God. Let's remember that He was the one who started everything in us, and He will also be the one to complete and perfect things. Let us have the courage to bring to Him in good times and bad, in our successes and in our failures.

May God in His mercy and love continue to shower His blessing upon you and your loved ones. I would also like to thank the Staff of St. Nicholas for all the commitment they shoulder, and carry, with love and diligence.

Your friend on the journey,

  
Fr. Venancio R. Balarote  
Pastor