



Keeping you up to date...

- 1.) I am delighted with so many positive comments about the summer schedule. It seems to be working rather well and some have already come forward to propose that we keep the schedule year round. It seems reasonable given the population of the parish in the winter and summer months and helps physically as we would spend less on clerical and musical assistance. Three Masses on a weekend, one on Saturday and two on Sunday morning, makes it a lot easier to secure any weekend assistance. **What are your thoughts?** Please offer your views to me phone (480) 948-8380 or email tjhallsten@smgaz.org OR to the Pastoral Council at Pastoralcouncil@smgaz.org.
- 2.) We have also been deliberating our Christmas Mass schedule since the Bishop is not giving us permission this year to have a 2 PM Mass. The Office of Worship has instructed us to be more creative. Short of hiring out a hotel ballroom and bussing people from remote parking lots (their suggestions, not mine), we have decided to have Masses at 4 PM, 6 PM and 9 PM on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Masses at 8 AM and 10 AM. So, plan ahead, knowing that the 4 PM is favorite of favorites, but is designed to accommodate the Christmas Pageant which draws in lots of families. The 6 PM is only two hours later so please consider that Mass and the 9 PM Mass which will feature full choir and instrumentation.
- 3.) Part of our trying to be creative has led me to decide to remove the stage on the south side of the church. Removing it will add some 75 places to sit. A devotional area with candles, the parish book of prayer and statues of Sts. Anthony and Padre Pio will be created in that same area of the church.
- 4.) The reroofing project is still in the works, with plans to begin in the fall. Lynda and the Finance Council have been working with the Finance office of the Diocese to fulfill due diligence. Members have interviewed three finance institutions for financing and have already recommended a local company to manage the reroofing which will entail scraping off the outer cover and the foam underneath to expose the concrete base which will be recovered. Efforts will also be made to curtail the top of the church from being a roosting zone for ravens and pigeons, the last of which have discovered the roof to be tempting on which to peck!
- 5.) As the project comes to a head, we will know more about financing. We expect to get a loan for around \$225,000.00. A few months ago, the Finance Council authorized the parish to pay off our outstanding debt to the diocese for payments in arrears for assessments. This payment of \$23,272, which the diocese agreed to match, makes us debt free now until we incur the loan for the roof. Such is life! We are going to use a large portion of the proceeds from the **Together let us Go Forth / Juntos Sigamos Adelante** diocesan campaign to help repay the loan. Future payments to the parish via this program will automatically be designated to paying the loan. Further, we have received permission from the Bishop to solicit funds to pay against the loan. Somewhere along the line, I'll be mailing such an appeal to you in hopes that you might be able to contribute a little extra without curtailing your normal Sunday contributions or your participation in the diocesan campaign from which we derive 35% return. We are relying on our 35% return to help pay off the roof loan, so it is crucial that those who made a pledge to the diocesan campaign follow through with their commitments.

I hope your summer has been a healthy change of pace and, as always, I very much appreciate your steadfast support of the parish and the generosity in love, service and giving.

Fr. Thomas Hallsten