



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! With the last full week of August now here and a new school year beginning tomorrow, a few parish updates and changes as we begin Fall of 2024!

This Fall marks 5 years since our Church renovation! It was September 8, 2019 that we moved back into our Church after spending the summer at Kennett High! Remember that change? Where has the time gone? On the one hand, it seems like just yesterday; on the other hand so much has changed. And things continue to change. With that in mind, as we enter another year of change, I share a few parish updates and changes, grateful to all who assist in the leadership, ministries and work of our parish!

1) Parish Pastoral Council: This week, we begin a new year with 3 new members on our Pastoral Council: Joanna Sirusus, John LaPelusa and Steve Conlon – all of whom responded to the call to serve. Parish Pastoral Councils are in place at every parish to serve as an advisory board and an arm of outreach to the community in advancing the mission and vision of a parish. In recent years, attentive to the growth of our parish, our St. Patrick Pastoral Council has identified a three year plan focused on three priorities, all of which continue and advance this year:

Building confidence in teaching Catholic Faith thru education
 Building parish engagement thru community
 Fostering Spiritual Growth thru Joyful Witness

For more information on these Priorities, Plan or on Pastoral Council, please reach out.

2) A Welcome to **Peacemaker Center:** Next week, we welcome to our parish campus the Peacemaker Center. The Peacemaker Center is a local, Christian group that offers clinical counseling, marriage and family therapy to people of all ages. Founded in 2000, they have an excellent reputation within the Chester County Community, including here within Kennett Square. Over the summer, our parish entered a one year agreement allowing the Peacemaker Center to have use of the 2nd Floor of the Buffington House, 3 ½ days a week for offices and counseling. This agreement makes greater use of our parish space, provides a service to the community and a bit of income for our parish. I look forward to welcoming here this Fall. For more information, on The Peacemaker Center, please visit their website.

3) Finally, **A Call for Prayer:** As many of you are aware, Anne Marie McCarthy, our music director, has been fighting Sarcoma Cancer for some time. During that time, we've accompanied her with prayer especially thru the intercession of St. Cecilia. Recently, in consultation with her doctors, Anne Marie made the decision to undergo surgery to remove her leg and that surgery is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3rd. In light of this, I ask the entire parish to join a 9 day Novena which begins SUNDAY. The Prayer can be found below. We pray specifically for Anne Marie, her family and the medical staff involved with her care. More information, will be provided, as we receive it. For now, we invoke God's grace and prayer for Anne Marie.

Peace, Fr. Rogers

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NOVENA TO ST. CECILIA FOR ANNE MARIE MCCARTHY

Eternal God, you gave us St. Cecilia as a faithful disciple
and powerful protector.

We turn to you through her and seek her intercession for
Anne Marie in this time of need.
Grant her your healing and peace;

May she experience your loving presence, strength and hope.
Grant wisdom to the doctors and caregivers who care for her.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
St. Cecilia, Pray for Us!

Amen.