IMMACULATE HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
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December 19, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

We again are preparing to celebrate the glories of Christmas as we did last year. We will celebrate this year's Christmas though in quite a different mood because of the pandemic which has forced us to relate with God in a completely different way. Christmas day is not a feast for Christians only but for all who have a sense of coming together and share love which is what Jesus brings to us.

Christmas has always been a celebration that brings to church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to mass and receive the sacraments for months or years. Unfortunately this year due to the guidelines and restrictions caused by coid-19 pandemic, we will not be allowed to admit more than 55 people in our church in one celebration.

Christmas Eve Mass will be in December 24th and it will start at 4 pm. December 25th Christmas Day, at 11:00 am in English and 1:00 pm Mass in Vietnamese. In January 1st New Year's Day there will be one bilingual Mass at 4:00 pm. If you are planning to attend any of these Masses we ask you to please call the parish office number 503-287-3724 Ext. 102 and leave your name, the time of the Mass you would like to attend and the number of people you will come with. Christmas Eve Mass, Christmas Day Mass and New Year's Mass will be in the church so we can have them live stream. As the problem for the church heating system has not been solve yet, please put on a heavy jacket if you are planning to join us.

As you might have heard that our dear aged church boiler gave out a month ago. Since then we have not been able to celebrating live stream Mass in the church. The heating system in the church is a gas fired boiler feeding steam to the radiators that in turn heat the church. We are exploring several options to bring heat back to our church including the repair of the existing boiler and piping (approximately $22,000), the replacement of the boiler and repair of the exiting piping (approximately $50,000), or the replacement of the existing boiler with a hot air furnace system (approximately $45,000 to $60,000).

We know how tough life has been since the intrusion of the covid-19 pandemic and we have gone through a lot of life challenges also but with God's grace and protection we will come out strong and full of hope. As a member of Immaculate of Mary Church we are asking you to please consider donating any amount of money you can to help purchase and install a new heating system and finally come together to worship God as one family again.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and let us not forget to pray for the less fortunate, the homebound, the sick at home and in hospital and those who are still struggling with their faith to comprehend the meaning of Christmas. May the blessing of the baby Jesus rest upon you and Happy New Year 2021.

Fr. Paulinus.