

Pastor's updates

February 19, 2021



Things you may want to know this week

1. This Sunday is the **First Sunday of Lent**. We know that Lent, a period of prayer, penance and fasting in preparation for Easter, is 40 days long. The 40 days mirror Christ's fasting in the desert before He began his public ministry. For those of you who are a bit meticulous with the 40 days, checking and counting your calendars, you will discover that there are actually 46 days before Easter. Why is that? Well, I don't want to bore you with its history. The short answer is that Sundays are not included in the computation since Sundays are meant to celebrate Christ's resurrection.
2. This Sunday at the 11:30AM mass, we will have the Rite of Sending for our **RCIA** (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) candidates: **Jamie Crane, Mitch Takeda, Anthony Alcaraz and Omar Ahumada**. The Rite of Sending is followed by the Rite of Election in the afternoon at St. Mary's Cathedral to be presided by our Archbishop Cordileone. Let's pray for these candidates in their spiritual journey.
3. Starting this Saturday, we will resume our regular schedule of **Confessions** every **Saturday at 3:30 PM - 4:15 PM**. Since we are to be masked, please speak loudly so the priests can hear your confession.
4. We now have a better looking and definitely a better sounding **Baby Grand Piano** in our church that we received secondhand at a very good price. Thanks to Kevin Imbimbo, our music director, for facilitating the acquisition of this piano. The old piano went to Hennessy Hall so we will have a better piano for our students and for special events. Both pianos still need to be re-tuned.
5. I finally was able to retrieve my **voice messages** on my office phone. I had over 20 messages dating back to July of last year. Rose Aragon, our secretary, was able to reset the password. If you have called me and left a voice message on that phone, this is the reason why I was not able to respond and I apologize.
6. With social distancing applied, our church was packed at both masses on **Ash Wednesday**. We had to refuse entry to a few parishioners due to the capacity limit but gladly they came back for the ashes. Our students also lined up in the school yard as Dr. Sullivan, Mrs. Lopez and I sprinkled ashes on their heads.
7. If you are **65 years old** and older, you have the opportunity to get vaccinated against COVID-19 at no cost. Go to: <https://myturn.ca.gov>
8. We will be launching our **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal 2021** next week. You will be receiving the AAA packet in the next few days. Last year's AAA campaign was tough due to the pandemic but God has always been gracious and provided for our needs. Due to some personal and anonymous donations and fundraising efforts, our parish only had to take \$7,655.16 out from our Savings to complete our AAA 2020 goal. Otherwise, the amount would have been \$24,655.16. Additional good news is that this year our goal is lower than last year. I humbly ask all of you to support this appeal as I hope and pray for a better participation. It doesn't really matter how big or how small as long as we all participate because it is a reflection of the many parts working together in one body and it shows the greatness of our community. Like the Golden State Warriors mantra: "Strength in numbers."

Fr. Arnold

FAZnotes
(Father Arnold Zamora)
February 19, 2021



Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Roberts,

Looking at the weather forecast, we will have sunny days all week.
Looks like the rain had stopped. But it doesn't mean it isn't coming back.
So as our problems, trials and pain, they come and go.

Heavy rains remind us of challenges in life.
Never ask for a lighter rain, just pray to God for a better umbrella. - That is the attitude!

Enjoy the sunshine but make sure you have the best "umbrella!"

Fr. Arnold