

Pastor's updates

March 11, 2022



Things you may want to know this week

1. Our **Archdiocesan Annual Appeal (AAA)** is off to a good start! We already received over \$15,000 pledges when we just launched the campaign last weekend. This gives me great hope that we will meet our assessment this year. However, we cannot be overly optimistic, and let our guard down. I would like to encourage those who have not made their pledge to please do so this weekend so that the campaign does not drag on. This way, we will have a greater probability of exceeding our participation goal, and focus on the other needs of the parish.
2. **Daylight Savings Time** begins at 2 AM local time on Sunday, March 13. Be sure to adjust your analog timepieces ahead by 1 hour before going to bed Saturday night. Most smartphones, digital watches and home electronics connected to the web will automatically switch to daylight-saving time, making a manual adjustment unnecessary. Remember the rule: "Fall back-Spring Forward."
3. As the war in Ukraine continues to rage, Pope Francis has called upon Catholics throughout the world to pray and fast for peace in this region of the world. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is calling on the dioceses of the United States to offer timely assistance by taking a special collection. Thus, the Archdiocese is proposing that parishes use the already scheduled Catholic Relief Services (CRS) **collection on the March 26-27 weekend to support Ukraine**.
4. Please continue to be watchful of any **malicious emails** apparently from me or parishioners in leadership asking for gift cards or any help. Please do not engage and respond to these phishing emails. Never under any circumstances should you email or text passwords, personal identifiable information (like social security numbers or birthdays) or any other information that may compromise your security. People with nefarious motives will pretend to be other people — particularly people in leadership positions. The Archbishop was not spared of a **cyber-attack**. On Ash Wednesday, while he was leading the livestreamed Rosary, the Archdiocesan website was attacked using a method called DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) which means that criminals used a program to flood the Archdiocese' website with fake traffic to overwhelm the servers in order to make the website stop working. These kinds of attacks are unfortunately becoming more and more common.
5. Starting this Sunday, the Second Sunday of Lent, our **Ministers to the Sick** will be invited to come forward after the last Announcement for a special blessing and commissioning for their mission. We thank these ministers for bringing Christ to our sick brothers and sisters who are physically challenged, and cannot join us in person.
6. Church Heating Updates: Some parishioners are asking how our heating project is going and here is an update. The concrete was poured this week to put the walkway back on the school yard side of the church. We replaced our clogged and broken drain pipes on that side since we had access open to us. The remaining work will be done in the boiler room and upstairs in the choir loft, with the hope to be done the first week of April. Hopefully we can have a warm church to gather in for Easter. Thank you for your patience.
7. Don't forget! It's Women's Guild meeting this Monday.

FAZnotes
(Father Arnold Zamora)
March 11, 2022



Dear St. Robert's parishioners and friends,

A fellow priest shared this in our group chat. So, hear this:

Today, I found myself complaining about the rising cost of fuel and then I remembered I'd never had to run from missiles.

I worried if I needed to stock up on a few staples and then realized I'd never had to send my children to school with their blood type taped on their backs.

I shook my head at the thought of our young men and women headed overseas and then remembered that for the Ukrainians war showed up on their doorsteps.

Then I decided- I won't sit in my house in and brood over the downward turn of the stock market while people are literally facing death.

Instead, I'm going to pray. I know that God will hear from heaven, He will lean down to listen when I pray. The Bible tells me that. I'm going to pray that whatever evil intends that God would turn it around for His glory.

I'm going to pray that good would overcome evil and that it would happen sooner rather than later. I'm going to pray that God would hear the cry of every lost soul facing a war they didn't want and come to their rescue.

I'm praying for the overwhelming, supernatural presence of God Almighty in every corner of the world tonight.

I would like to ask if you'd pray with me. Let's fill the throne room with our voices as we call out for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. May God hear our prayers and turn this whole thing around.

If He can shut the mouths of hungry lions, split an entire sea in half and raise the dead- He can surely save Ukraine.

Praying with you,

Fr. Arnold