



St. Michael's Catholic Church

June 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

The life of the parish continues, even though under these new circumstances, and I am grateful that we can once again experience our faith community as we celebrate the Eucharist together in the church joined by others over the electronic media.

Since the last update we have few new developments that I would like to share with you:

1. The plan to close St. Michael's preschool on June 26, as run by the parish, was delayed until August 31. The new non-profit group that was created to continue the mission of the preschool was unable, partially to the COVID-19, to obtain on time all the necessary documents and most importantly the license to run the preschool. Since they got all the documentation and have already applied for the license, with the advice of the finance council, both trustees, and the chairman of the parish council, I have agreed to extend for two months to run the preschool under our license.

As part of this decision, talks were held with the board of the new preschool to see the proofs of the advanced application process. Thank you to Bob Newstrom for leading the efforts on the part of the parish.

One important aspect of this decision was that during these two months we cannot continue adding to our current deficit. This became possible due to the State's subsidy for preschools of \$18,250 per month during the COVID-19. We have been approved for the June/July subsidy and anticipate the same for July/August.

There were three major elements in this decision: to keep the preschool in the neighborhood, to have the preschool as a main tenant at the school building to help with the upkeep of the building and to have a better negotiation position in trying to sell the building. We have some parties interested in purchasing the building.

2. Arch Salyards, our maintenance person, has resigned from his position due to better job offer. His departure from this position by the end of this month will be a great loss for us and we wish him all the best. In the meantime, he agreed to help us with some of the maintenance work around the parish and the preschool and continue to cover the boilers with his license. Thank you Arch!
3. The project to install a permanent camera in the church continues and we were assured that the proposals are on the way. Hopefully this week! The livestreaming will then move to St. Michael's YouTube channel.
4. Even though our summers are not that long and hot but there are enough days with high humidity and warm weather that affects the office area of the parish. We have AC on the second floor but nothing on the first floor. Since we have the AC system in the



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rectory building, we will just extend two trunks from the attic to the offices on the first floor.

5. With the current light fixtures and their positioning in the church there is not much that we can do to improve the overall lighting in the church. The simple way was to replace some of the lightbulbs to brighten the sanctuary with more natural, warm color light and placed a bit stronger lightbulb over the pews. You can see the difference comparing the last two Masses on Facebook.
6. I am also looking into organizing our parking lot to paint parking lanes to better utilize the parking space. Before this happens, you will be able to see the proposed parking design on our parish website. As part of the project we would also better mark the entrance and exit into the parking lot from Superior street and in the future possibly create an exit into the Pitt St.

In closing remarks on parish updates I would like to thank all of you for being a part of the parish by supporting it with your prayers, by volunteering in many different ways and by financially supporting it so we can continue to minister in our community and beyond.

Recognizing the difficult situation of many people and particularly the poor and the homeless the parish has made two donations of \$500 each. To CHUM for their homeless ministry and to Life House for their Mental Health & Wellness program for youth.

Let us pray for one another in this challenging time and let us also pray for our new Bishop-elect Michel Mulloy that God will guide him and give him strength to lead our local Church in the Spirit of God.

With prayer,

Fr. Andy, omi