

JULY 29, 2018 ~ BULLETIN INSERT

First Friday Eucharistic Adoration: The Church encourages us to spend prayerful time before the Blessed Sacrament. But it also wisely forbids the Blessed Sacrament to be exposed on the altar without people in church. Located on the main highway as we are, it is irresponsible to leave the Eucharist exposed without being attended. Therefore, please note that Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction this coming First Friday will only take place if the sign up sheet in the vestibule is filled with two people each hour during which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed throughout the day. If there is not enough interest in continuing this devout practice in our own parish, happily St. Teresa's in Mahanoy City offers Perpetual Adoration. I would encourage you to spend prayerful time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Teresa's. Regardless of the outcome of the sign up for First Friday Adoration, be aware that Mass will still be celebrated at 8:00 a.m. this Friday as scheduled.

Ministers Only: The choir area at the church entrance is specifically set aside for **music ministers only**. Especially since the addition of the 6:00 p.m. Saturday Mass, there is sufficient room for all who come to Mass to have a seat, even if you happen to come after Mass has begun (ushers will gladly help you find a seat). If you come as a group and wish to sit together, it is advised that you come to Mass early. Also, please note that seating for those with limited mobility is set aside in the first pew in front of the pulpit so they can receive Holy Communion without leaving the pew.

Unwelcome News: On Monday, July 16, 2018, Jerry Flavelle, Building Inspector for Diocese of Allentown, visited St. Richard's properties as part of the ongoing inspections for insurance purposes. Following that visit we received a letter from Kelly Bruce, Diocesan Director of Insurance and Real Estate, which reads in part:

“Unfortunately, the Parish never sought permission to open the school, and the site was not inspected for this use. Now that we have inspected the site, we cannot allow the preschool/day care to continue in the current space because it does not meet building codes or diocesan requirements for that use. Some of the issues that Mr. Flavelle identified involved egress, safety features, lack of windows in certain rooms and height of windows in others, and the HVAC in the area. Also, the location of the preschool in the rectory violates the Charter policy titles, “Policy Concerning Children and Young People Under Age 18 in Rectories, Parish Offices and Priest Residences” (on page 42 of the teal Overview of Charter Initiates manual).

If the preschool/day care can be moved to another location that meets building codes and diocesan policy, that may be acceptable. If the preschool/day care cannot be moved, it must be ceased immediately.”

Regretfully then, since we have no other viable option to relocate the preschool, we can no longer offer that program here at St. Richard's. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause those families enrolled in the program, but we are obligated for the safety of the children to follow the building codes and directives of the Protecting God's Children Charter.