

Pastor's updates

October 2, 2020



Things you may want to know this week

- 1. The FIRST!** We had our First Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our church since time immemorial. For those who are not familiar and might be wondering what this Rite is all about, it is a worship of the Eucharist outside the mass. Right after our 8:30AM (School) mass this morning, I put the extra sacred host consecrated during the mass into the receptacle of the beautiful monstrance and placed it on the altar for adoration by the faithful. As Wikipedia describes: "It nourishes social love and gives us opportunities for adoration and thanksgiving, for reparation and supplication." While the Eucharist or Blessed Sacrament was exposed for an hour, we also prayed our First Friday novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as part of our First Friday devotion. The rite ended with a Benediction, the incensing of the Eucharist, and the special blessing to the people.
- 2. The FIRST!** We had our first RCIA meeting last Wednesday led by Sr. Sheral, our pastoral associate. We have six (6) candidates joining the program that will culminate at Easter Vigil. The stories and life experiences that they shared last Wednesday were inspiring, powerful and very touching. I was so delighted to meet all of them as well as our enthusiastic and wonderful RCIA team.
- 3. The FIRST!** Our In-betweeners had their first meeting and social gathering in six months today. The group led by George Lynch had food and drinks at the back of the church while observing social distancing. Despite the restrictions it turned out to be a fun evening.
- 4. The FIRST!** Every October for the month of the Rosary the archdiocese sponsors a Rosary Rally in downtown San Francisco to honor Mary, Queen of the Rosary whose feast is on October 7. In the past years, we have been having this Rally in the morning till noon. This year will be the first time to have it in the evening beginning at 6PM with a lighted candle procession going to St. Mary's Cathedral for an outdoor mass at 7PM to end the event.
- 5. The FIRST!** It's the First Weekend of the month. We will have our First Saturday devotion after the 8:30AM mass where we pray the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The First Sunday of this month, October 4, happens to be the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, the co-patron of our Archdiocese. Therefore, the liturgy, including the Readings for this Sunday, will be from the Feast of St. Francis instead of from the regular 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time!
- 6. The FIRST!** Hear the best of the First! We are the first Catholic school to get an approval by the county for an in-person instruction. So, starting October 13, our Kindergarten to Second Grade students will be coming to St. Robert School. By now, there may be other catholic schools who have gotten a similar approval, but we were the first because of the efficiency and immediate but careful action by our school staff, led by our energetic and passion driven principal Dr. Patrick Sullivan. Hear this even more! We are the only school to offer a free Covid-19 testing to students and families. There are already 205 individuals scheduled for October 5th, this Monday. This is something that we all should be proud of. Thank you to Dr. Sullivan and his staff.

Fr. Arnold