

August 2020

Dear Friends in Faith,

These have been unusual days in the life of our parish communities. I am relieved that so far, the pandemic has been relatively contained in our area, and we have been able to carry on a modicum of communal life. Here is an update on some parish matters at this time.

I'm pleased to announce that **Deacon Scott Schwalbe** of Kellogg has been assigned by Bishop Quinn to diaconal ministry at St. Joachim and Immaculate Conception Parishes. He was ordained recently in Winona. Deacon John and I will orient him to our parish life in the months ahead. We welcome him to our parish ministry!

The **Thursday Mass** at St. Joachim will return to 12:05 pm once again, beginning in September; the rest of the schedule will remain unchanged. The full schedule is online at the parish website, along with a video of our weekend Mass, and also our weekly bulletin (and you can also sign up there to receive our bulletin by email). Visit us online at www.saintjoachimchurch.org and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/St-Joachim-Plainview-774622272628955/>

The **Fall Festival** at St. Joachim is cancelled for this year, as is the **Fall Dinner** at Conception. Uncertainty around the pandemic remains high, and planning is difficult for our leadership teams, as well as our commercial sponsors and vendors. We thank all who have contributed to these events in the past, and we look forward to a future opportunity when circumstances permit.

Both parishes welcome your **financial support** in this time of hardship. We realize that many are struggling to make ends meet; but we are grateful for whatever might be possible for you. You can leave your offering in the stationary baskets in church, use the drop-slot in the Parish Center (parking lot entrance), mail it to us, or contribute online via the parish website. Also, a word of thanks to all who have contributed to the Rectory Campaign and construction project. Plans are advancing nicely – we are grateful to all who are participating and assisting – thank you!

Our **Faith Formation** directors are planning the calendar for the year ahead. It will not look like a normal year, with a slimmer calendar than normal, but we will still manage a reasonable program in light of events. In general we will err on the side of safety, the needs and health of our volunteers and families, and the sacramental preparation programs. Details are being announced as I approve the plans.

The movie “**Fatima**” will be released for viewing on-demand (at home) on August 28. It looks well done – learn more at <https://www.fatimathemovie.com>

Blessings to you and your loved ones in these days. May we all remain safe and well!

Peace,
– Father Becker