

One Body, Spirit in Christ

Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

Luke 12:39

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the past couple of months, you have probably noticed that there is more security going on here at church than in the past. Obviously, I am using the quote from Luke above out of context, but I do feel like that master of the house some times! Over the fall months, we have had some minor thefts, culminating with the theft of some choir microphones on Christmas Eve. There have also been attempts to break into the building by compromising the doors around the church, which we have thus far successfully thwarted.

We are living in a different time than when this church was founded in the 50s. People do break into churches now, and so we have to be concerned about security. And like the father of any family, that concern ultimately falls to me. I am concerned about the “stuff” we own, most particular the holy things of the Church. I am concerned about the sacredness of the Eucharist, that it not be desecrated. My greatest concern is the safety of all those who are here on our campus, especially the children who go to our school and religious education programs, and the other programs we offer. It’s a big responsibility.

So I hope that you’ll be patient with me. We are making some changes, and sometimes they don’t work out the way we hoped. So let me know if you have concerns – let me know, not the maintenance man, or the person in the parking lot, or the lady behind you in line at Jewel. That said, here are some changes we are making:

- The combination to the “gray door” in back of the church has changed, and it will change from time to time. It will be open during Mass times, but if you need access at other times, please contact the parish office.
- The outside church doors off the piazza will be open for Mass and events in O’Keefe

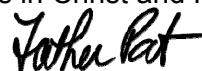
only. The church itself, however, will be open during business hours, but locked when no one is around.

- During business hours and for after-hours appointments with priests or staff, entry is through the school/parish center doors on the far west side of the piazza. That door will soon have a door bell for those times when you are meeting with a priest or staff member after business hours. The prayer groups who meet at night in the Marian room will probably also come in this way.
- We are considering some video surveillance for the building, especially to protect our school and religious education children on our campus.
- We are considering re-keying the gym, possibly with key cards. This is a sensitive entrance because access here provides access to most of the building.

We are trying to provide safety and security without going overboard. The safety of people on our campus is of paramount importance, and I am asking your help with that. If you notice something or someone that doesn’t seem to be right, please let someone on the staff know immediately so that we can address it.

We are grateful to the Clarendon Hills police who help us in many ways and have provided extra patrols lately. We pray that they would be protected in their important work through the intercession of St. Michael, patron of police officers!

Yours in Christ and His Blessed Mother,



Father Pat Mulcahy