Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is a particularly long message this week with a lot of important announcements, so thank you in advance for your patience! You may remember me mentioning that I would be going out of town later in October, and it seems the dates have snuck up on me fast! I will be out of town from this Monday, October 19th through Friday, October 30th. I will only be gone for one weekend (October 24th and 25th) and Msgr. O’Connor will be filling in for me. As for daily Mass, we will have Mass on Monday morning, October 19th, but there will be no daily Mass here again until Monday, November 2nd. As usual, I will offer Mass at home for the scheduled intentions. This also means that for the next two weeks (after tonight), we will not have our usual weeknight Latin Mass. The next weeknight Latin Mass will be the first Friday of November, which will be November 6th. For those who come to daily English Mass in the morning, I recommend going to St. Wenceslaus in Scappoose (their Mass is at 9:00am, just like ours). Make sure to call the office ahead of time to make sure you are on the list. Keep in mind, though, that St. Wenceslaus does not have a morning Mass on Mondays, so on October 26th you will want to look elsewhere.

I will be sending out attendance lists today for weekend Masses for the next two weekends (10/24-25 and 10/31-11/1). Once you receive these lists, if you already know that you cannot be present for one of the Masses, let me know as quickly as possible. I will check my email one last time on Monday morning, and I will send out emails for others to take your spot. After Monday morning if you find out that you cannot come to a Mass that you are on the list to attend, feel free to ask someone else you know to take your spot, or simply do not come on that day.

Monday, November 2nd is All Souls Day. We will be having English Mass at 9:00am **in the church**, followed by a low Latin Mass at 10:00am. We will have a sung Latin Mass at 7:00pm. If you are interested in coming to the English Mass, go ahead and just show up. I do not believe that we will reach fifty people. **As for the Latin Masses, go ahead and email me now if you are interested in coming, making sure to tell me if you want the 10:00am Mass or the 7:00pm Mass.**  Let me know if it will be just you or your whole family. I will give out those spots on a first come, first served basis. I am hoping to have those lists put together and email notifications sent out on Saturday, October 31st.

During the whole month of November we remember and pray in a special way for our departed loved ones. There will be cards left in the vestibule for you to write down the names of your deceased family and friends. These can then be placed in the collection basket. We will place these cards on the altar and all of our Masses throughout the month will be offered up also for these holy souls.

For those of you who came to Mass last weekend, you know that we have begun our Seminarian Appeal. This is one of the ongoing appeals (like the Archbishop’s Appeal) and so you will have an opportunity to take an envelope home. If you like, of course, you can place the envelopes in the basket, but note that the envelopes have prepaid postage. Don’t forget to put “St. Birgitta’s” on the “parish” line! Our parish has always been generous with this appeal, so I just want to thank you in advance for your support – and all of your support in the past. We pray for vocations, and God is responding! This appeal is a great way to support the education of the future priests of our Archdiocese.

Speaking of priests and vocations, those of you who were at Mass this last weekend heard me share some great news, and so I want to relate it for you all here. As you probably know, I am not a priest of the Archdiocese of Portland, but of the Diocese of Monterey in California. I was given permission by my last bishop to come to Portland in part to try to form a new Society of Apostolic Life. Societies begin as what is called an “Association of the Faithful.” Along with Fr. Tim Furlow and Fr. Peter Julia, we are seeking to form a new society for diocesan priests. Our society seeks to build up the priestly life and serve the mission of the Church in a number of ways. We live in community, celebrating a Holy Hour each morning and engaging in other practices to foster the spiritual and community life. We seek in our parishes to evangelize, to catechize and to form strong communities. We also celebrate the Holy Mass according to both forms: the ordinary (Novus Ordo) and extraordinary (Traditional Latin Mass). In this way, we seek to create parishes that welcome all men and women of good will to have deeper faith and a deeper relationship with Christ. We were given permission by our respective bishops in the last couple of weeks to form an association, and this formation will take place in a special Mass with the Archbishop on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00pm at St. Patrick’s Church. As you know, Mass attendance is only limited to 50 people, so we are extremely restricted in terms of our attendance list. However, I am happy to say that the Mass can be viewed online as it will be livestreamed through the St. Patrick’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stpatrickpdx. Fr. Tim has told me to mention that if you are interested in viewing the livestream that you should try to log on some weeknight before then to see if you are able to view a live Mass (they are offered Tuesday through Friday at 6:00pm). We have chosen for our patron Pope St. Leo the Great, whose feast in the modern calendar is on November 10th (the Mass on the 10th will be an English Mass, by the way). We chose St. Leo as our patron because as pope he presided over the Church in very difficult times – the collapse of an empire, barbarian invasions, widespread disarray – but in the midst of it all continued to navigate the Church with faith and courage. Our association, then, will be known as the Society of St. Leo the Great. We are asking for your prayers at this time that God’s Will may be accomplished for this new community. While most associations do not go on to become societies, we have already enjoyed so many graces from God in our community life. We will be brand new, of course, and it will take some time for us to get even our small community where we want it to be. At the moment, Fr. Peter is not living with us, but with time we are hoping he will be able to join our life in common. Also, in time our other members will be learning how to celebrate the Traditional Latin Mass. Once we become “official” next month, we will be looking to get a website together and to seek out those who may be called to our way of life. Thank you so much for your prayers!

I know this is a long message, but just a few more items!

If you would like the Bible study recordings, please let me know. I sent out the most recent recording (#11) on the 10th.

Someone left a Baronius Hand Missal in my office. Let me know if it’s yours and I’ll get it back to you.

I know that we have had a lot of new people coming to Mass lately. If you are interested in registering with the parish, let me know. You are welcome here at St. Birgitta’s!

Lastly, there will be a Rosary this Saturday, October 17th at 11:00am offered by our Archbishop for peace in our city. If you would like to pray along on the livestream, please visit www.facebook.com/archdpdx. Whether or not you view the Rosary live, you are invited to pray wherever you are at 11:00am and join your prayers together for this intention.

Have a wonderful weekend!

God bless,

Fr. Clifton