Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I’m sorry this message is going out later than usual. Things have been quite busy here at St. Birgitta’s. Scheduling Masses, of course, takes a lot of time but it seems that everything is proceeding smoothly. We had Mass invitations sent out by email last Tuesday, though some of you may have gotten an email after that since spots were opening up. By the way, if you get an email stating that you are on the list for a Mass but you are unable to come, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can get other people in those spots. If you wait too long then I have to rush to find someone to take your place and, in fact, may not find someone in time, leaving the spot vacant. In order to get people in to Mass as much as possible we have to receive your information as soon as possible. Of course, things come up at the last minute (sickness, emergencies, etc.), so that is understandable as well.

I’m very happy to announce that Therese Bischoff received her First Communion today! Congratulations to her and her family. Other students will be receiving their First Communion in the coming weeks and months with their families and friends present. Once the restrictions are lifted on Mass attendance, we will have a special event for all of our First Communicants and a joyful celebration over in the hall.

I will also be baptizing a baby in the traditional rite this afternoon. Congratulations to Kia’mani Mendiola and her family! And there will be further baptisms in the weeks to come!

Next week, Monday through Friday, the priests of the archdiocese will be on retreat. We will be having Mass as usual, but I will not be in the office much. The retreat will be a “virtual” one (the talks will be given over the internet) but we will still be using the time for prayer and restoration. This means that I will only be coming to the office out of absolute necessity and will not be taking any appointments. Please pray for me and for all of the priests of the archdiocese during these difficult times.

This Sunday we are celebrating the great feast of Pentecost. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember the great gifts we received from the Holy Ghost at our confirmations and to reaffirm our trust in His power. Especially in difficult times, it is important to remember: apud Deum omnia possibilia sunt – with God all things are possible!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Clifton